

The Elusive Blue Lobster Reading Comprehension

Introduction:

Lobsters, with their robust claws and distinctive exoskeletons, are a staple of marine cuisine and a fascinating subject of study. While most lobsters showcase a typical reddish-brown hue, there exists a rare and captivating variant known as the blue lobster. These strikingly colored crustaceans have become a symbol of nature's unpredictability and diversity.

The Rarity of Blue Lobsters:

Blue lobsters are a rare phenomenon, making up only a small fraction of the global lobster population. Estimates suggest that the chances of encountering a blue lobster are approximately 1 in 2 million. This rarity adds to their allure, making them highly sought after by marine enthusiasts, scientists, and collectors alike. Blue lobsters, however, are not the rarest of all lobsters. That distinction goes to the white lobster, which occurs only once in every one hundred million lobsters.

Causes of Blue Coloration:

The vibrant blue coloration of these lobsters is not a result of pigmentation, as in the case of red lobsters, but rather a unique genetic mutation. Blue lobsters carry a genetic anomaly that causes an overproduction of a certain protein. This protein, when combined with a red carotenoid molecule present in their diet, results in the brilliant blue coloration that sets them apart from their counterparts.

Adaptations and Survival:

While the blue color may make these lobsters stand out in the human eye, it poses a potential threat in the wild. In their natural environment, blue lobsters may struggle to camouflage themselves against the predominantly dark ocean floor. This reduced ability to blend in makes them more vulnerable to predators, emphasizing the delicate balance between their striking appearance and the challenges they face for survival.

1. The blue lobster is considered a variant. Which of the following might also be considered a variant?

- a) A chunk of gold.
- b) A \$100 bill.
- c) A ruby
- d) A yellow diamond

2. Which of the following best describes the status of blue lobsters?

- a) They are uncommon.
- b) They are rare.
- c) They are extremely rare.
- d) They are probably about to become extinct.

3. What disadvantages do blue lobsters face in the wild?

- a) Their blue color serves as a warning to other species.
- b) Their blue color makes them more visible to would-be predators.
- c) Their blue color makes them sought after by fishermen.
- d) Their blue color makes them invisible in the blue ocean water.

4. Why are blue lobsters blue?

- a) They have too much of a molecule called red carotenoid.
- b) They have too much pigmentation.
- c) They don't produce enough of a certain protein.
- d) They have a genetic mutation.

5. Which of the following is true?

- a) White lobsters are rare, but blue lobsters are much rarer.
- b) Blue lobsters and white lobsters are found only once in every two million lobsters.
- c) Blue lobsters are rare, but white lobsters are much rarer.

-----Key-----

1. (d)
2. (c)
3. (b)
4. (d)
5. (c)