

ANSWER KEY

Horseshoe Crabs - Fill in the Blank

Name: _____

Date: _____

Fill in the blank(s) with a word from the word bank

1. Instead of a bone structure, horseshoe crabs have something called an exoskeleton.
2. Horseshoe crabs have been around for over 300 million years, making them prehistoric.
3. Horseshoe crabs don't breathe air like us, which means they use gills to breathe.
4. Horseshoe crabs have a spiny tail called a telson.
5. During a full moon and a new moon horseshoe crabs come on shore to mate.
6. Horseshoe crab blood is valuable to scientists because it is able to detect endotoxins.
7. When horseshoe crabs first hatch they are the size of a dime.
8. Horseshoe crabs must molt in order to grow.
9. LAL or Limulus Amebocyte Lysate is the component in a horseshoe crab's blood that makes it valuable.
10. Horseshoe crabs don't have jaws so they have to use their legs to break up their food and put it in their mouths.
11. Horseshoe crabs have 9 eyes and excellent vision.
12. Horseshoe crabs are more closely related to spiders and scorpions than crabs.
13. Horseshoe crabs can swim upside down !

