

## On the Trail of the Blue Crab



The blue crab lives in **estuaries** like the Hudson River. In its **life cycle**, this animal **migrates** between very salty water and less salty water. Sometimes blue crabs even swim into **fresh water**.



**Scientists** attach numbered tags to blue crabs to learn about crab migrations. A phone number is printed on each tag. A lucky person who catches a tagged crab can call to report where and when the crab was caught.

Use the Hudson River Miles map to answer the questions below. They use information about crabs tagged in 2005. Show your work.

1. A blue crab with tag #1328 was released on September 14 near Newburgh at **Hudson River Mile** (abbreviated HRM) 56. This crab was **recaptured** on September 23 at HRM 36 near Haverstraw.

(a) How many days did this crab take to swim from Newburgh to Haverstraw? \_\_\_\_\_ days

(b) How many miles did the crab travel?  
\_\_\_\_\_ miles

(c) Using the Hudson River Miles map, tell which direction the crab traveled on its journey from Newburgh to Haverstraw. \_\_\_\_\_

2. On August 10, a crab with tag #1527 was released near the Beacon-Newburgh Bridge at HRM 63. It was recaptured on August 19 at HRM 74 near Poughkeepsie.

(a) How long did it take this crab to go from HRM 63 to HRM 74?  
\_\_\_\_\_ days

(b) How many miles did the crab travel?  
\_\_\_\_\_ miles

(c) In what direction did this crab travel? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Blue crab #1872 was tagged and released on August 17 near Newburgh at HRM 56. It was recaptured on August 24 near Poughkeepsie at HRM 73.

(a) How much time went by from when the crab was tagged to when it was recaptured?  
\_\_\_\_\_ days

(b) How many miles did the crab travel?  
\_\_\_\_\_ miles

(c) In what direction did this crab swim? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Blue crab #450 was tagged and released near the Beacon-Newburgh Bridge at HRM 63 on June 20. On June 26 it was recaptured near Croton at HRM 35.

(a) How long did it take this crab to travel from HRM 63 to HRM 35?  
\_\_\_\_\_ days

(b) How many miles did the crab travel?  
\_\_\_\_\_ miles

(c) In what direction did it swim? \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Challenge question:** Imagine that you caught blue crab #450 again one year later. Do you think it would still have its tag? Why or why not? *Hint: How do crabs grow?*

