

Fiddler Crab

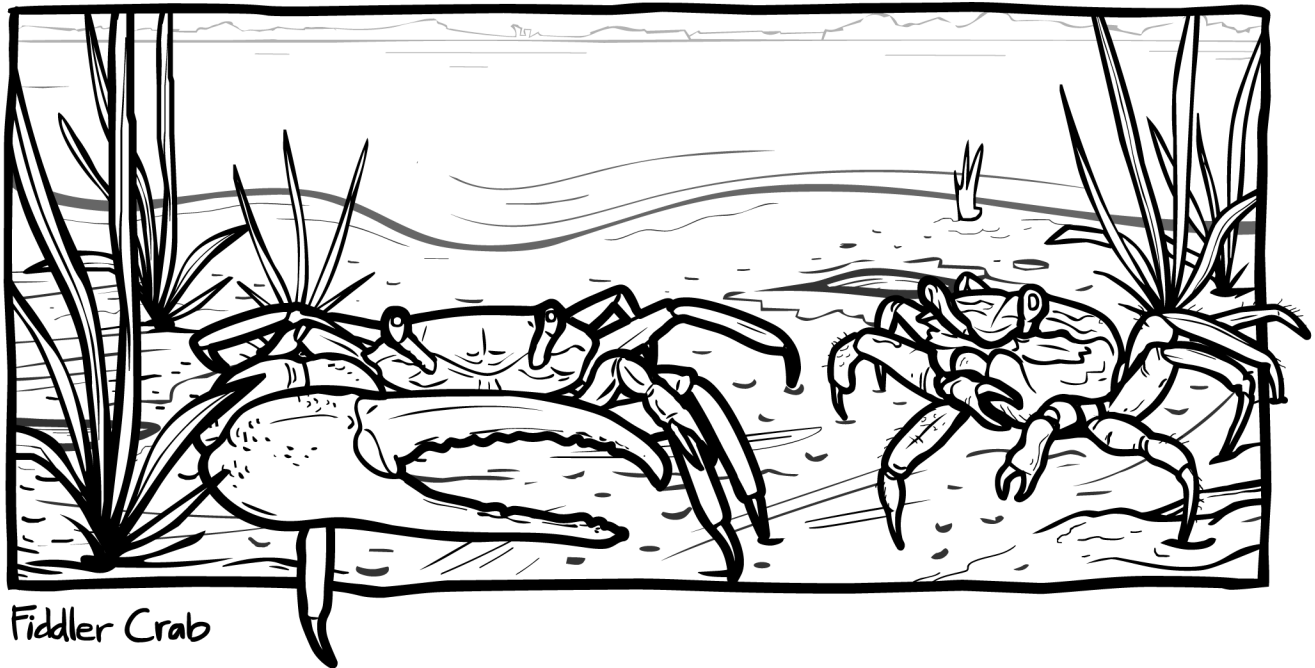
Fiddler Crab *(Uca pugilator)*

Instant ID

- Small crab with a thick, square body up to one inch wide
- White to pale yellow shells
- Eyestalks are sandy or grayish-white
- Males have one very large claw and a small one

Native Niches

- Found on muddy to sandy soils around mangroves and marshes
- Nine other fiddler crab species are found in Florida
- Located along Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic shorelines



Fiddler Crab *(Uca pugilator)*

Favorite Foods

- Feed on algae and decaying (rotting) plant matter
- Dig small holes in sand to find food
- Sometimes eat other fiddler crabs

Critter Characteristics

- Males use their large claw in mating displays and territory fights
- Hide from predators and flooding in burrows
- Can change color to manage their temperature

Population Protection

- Feeding and burrowing helps marshes grow
- Preserving shorelines and mangroves protects fiddler crab habitat