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Blue Lobsters Are Real!

By James Smith

Lobsters are supposed to be red right? ... Well, yes and no.

Most live american lobsters are naturally colored an olive green or mottled dark greenish brown. In rare cases, lobsters come in shades of bright blue, white (albino), yellow, black, and red have been reported from time to time. Perhaps the most unusual colors are the "half-and-half" lobsters with a line straight down their backs where the two colors meet.

The major pigment in a lobster's shell, astaxanthin, is actually bright red in its free state; but in the lobster's shell astaxanthin is chemically bound to proteins that change it to a greenish color. When lobsters are cooked, heat breaks down these bonds, freeing the astaxanthin so that it reverts to its normal red color.

So how does a lobster turn bright blue? A genetic defect has been found that causes a blue lobster to produce an excessive amount of protein. The protein wraps around a small, red carotenoid molecule known as as astaxanthin. The two push together, forming a blue complex known as crustacyanin which often gives the lobster shell a bright blue color. About one in a million lobsters are blue, but when cooked, it turns red like the other lobsters.

It has been suggested that more than 'one in a million' lobsters born are blue, but many do not survive because their bright blue shell brings too much attention to themselves, making them a prime target for predators. Scientists also believe that blue lobsters tend to be more aggressive than their normal colored counterparts. Since they don't easily blend in, they have adapted and changed to be more aggressive to protect themselves.

The blue lobster is truly another gift from Mother Nature that most people never see. Many professional lobstermen go through their whole lobstering career without catching or even seeing a blue lobster. Those that do have the privilege of catching one, are amazed and excited as it is seen as a once-in-a-lifetime event and feel a sense of awe when they experience seeing the strikingly beautiful blue lobster for the first time. Those that are caught are not normally eaten, but rather given to aquariums and educational institutions and kept on display in tanks for others to admire.

Blue Lobsters Are Real!

Taxonomy of *Homarus americanus*:

Kingdom: Animalia Phylum: Arthropoda Class: Crustacea Order: Decapoda Suborder: Macrura
reptantia Family: Nephrodidae Genus: *Homarus* Species: *americanus*

This article courtesy of Lobster Delicious at

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<http://www.lobsterdelicious.com/blue-lobster.html>

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The Color Blue: What Does It Mean to You?

By Dylan Miles

Colors are important in our lives. They are all around us; in nature, in our homes, and in the clothes we wear. The color blue means different things on different levels. Blue is natural, practical, and symbolic. We choose to wear specific colors to say something about us. The color blue is often associated with the serenity of the sky, with a sad and depressed mood, or with the music of the Blues. Some countries, like Greece, have blue as their national color and have it on their national flag.

What does blue mean to you?

You probably associate the color blue with the blue of the sky and the ocean, and if you do, then you also associate blue with serenity and peace. It's no wonder! Blue is very much a tranquil color. In fact, it is said that the color blue produces chemicals that calm and soothe the mind and body. For this reason, blue is one of the most popular color choices for bedroom walls, and is often used to paint baby room walls.

Blue is often associated with "feeling blue" or being depressed. But studies show that the color blue inspires productivity in people. People, it is said, work better in blue rooms. And more than that, some fashion experts suggest that wearing blue to a job interview is great because blue makes a statement about loyalty. Blue creates the opposite impression of red, which is a color associated with power and passion. Fashion experts suggests wearing red to a job interview if you want to show power and strength.

Blue is also associated with the music genre, the Blues. In fact, the basic characteristic of the Blues is the "blue note", an irregular music note. The Blues are often sung about lost love and troubles, but in general blue is a positive, calming and serene presence in our lives.

Dylan Miles, journalist, and website builder, lives in Texas. He is the owner and co–editor of

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on which you will find a longer, more detailed version of this article.



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