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The story begins with a mama lobster as she carries her eggs until they hatch. It then shows how the baby lobsters grow through their larval stages, face challenges in their ocean environment, and eventually find shelter on the ocean floor.

**Ages:** 5 to 8 years

**ATOS Reading Level:** n/a

**Lexile:** n/a

**ISBN:** 9781649090812

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# The Little Lobster

**How does a lobster change and grow in the ocean?**

**What is STEAM?** Learning through Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics. Through STEAM, children problem solve, innovate, create, and collaborate.

**STEAM Topics in This Book:** life science, animal growth, observations, comparisons, structure and function, ocean habitats, life cycle

**Activities To Do Together:** *The Little Lobster* invites children to explore how living things grow and change over time. Through observing the lobster's life cycle, body parts, and ocean habitat, children build important life science and observational skills.

Before reading the book:

- Look closely at the cover together, ask your child, "What do you notice?" and "What type of animal do you think is on the cover? Where do you think it lives? Explain why."

While reading the book:

- Ask, "What do you notice about how the lobster changes?" Talk about the lobster's life cycle and larval stages with your child.
- Notice where the lobster lives during different times of its life. Ask your child, "What do you see in the ocean habitat?"

When you have finished reading the book:

- Together, look at photos of your child when they were younger. Ask your child, "How have you changed as you grew?" and "What stayed the same?"
- Ask your child to draw a lobster and label the body parts from the story. Encourage your child to predict what each part does, such as how the lobster's claws help it eat and protect itself.
- Ask your child what other sea animal they would like to learn about. Use a book or computer to research it and find out about its life cycle.
- Go on a nature walk and look for animals, insects, or birds together. Did you see adult animals with their babies? How do they look alike? How are they different?

**Questions for STEAM Thinking:**

1. How does a lobster change as it grows?
2. Think about the body parts that lobsters have such as claws, hard shells, and antennae. What do you think is the purpose of each of these parts?
3. Why do you think the fisherman released the mother lobster back into the ocean? Why might happen if fishermen didn't release mother lobsters?
4. The lobster changed from egg, to larva, to young lobster. Can you think of other animals or insects that go through similar changes as they grow?
5. How can people help keep the ocean clean and safe for sea animals?

**Early Math Project Resources:**

Visit [The Little Lobster](http://countplayexplore.org/book/the-little-lobster) (countplayexplore.org/book/the-little-lobster) to find activities and related California Learning Foundations, Mathematics Standards provided by the California Department of Education, and/or Next Generation Science Standards for this book.

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**Vocabulary**

**STEAM words found in the story:** antennae, berried, claws, currents, hatch, hind, larval lobsters, life cycle, marine, maxillipeds, molting, ocean, organs, percent, preening, swimmerets, thousands, vibrations

**Related STEAM words:** crustacean, environment, habitat, observation

**Words to build reading comprehension:** aimlessly, appendages, cradled, devour, flutter, illegal, juvenile, rapidly, shield, stream, transparent

**Related Books:** *Worm Weather* by Jean Taft; *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle; *My Brother the Duck* by Pat Zietlow Miller

Click this link to the [World Catalog](http://WorldCatalog) or enter bit.ly/46w7Vgv to find *The Little Lobster* in the public library.