



10 Things You Should Know About... **KRILL**

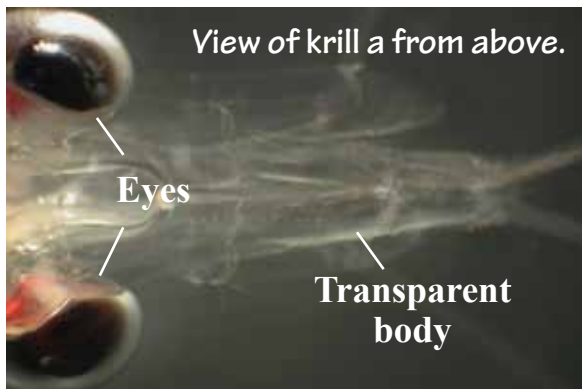
Family Euphausiidae

1 Krill are small shrimp-like crustaceans. There are about 85 kinds.

2 A krill is about 2.4 in. (6 cm) long. That's about the size of a person's little finger. It weighs a little more than a paper clip, about 0.035 oz (1 gram).



3 Like many ocean animals, krill spend the day in the deep and travel closer to the surface at night. This is called "vertical migration." Using an ROV, scientists have observed Antarctic krill (*Euphausia superba*) as deep as 9843 ft. (3000 m) in the waters around the Antarctic Peninsula.



4 Krill have three adaptations that are common in deep-sea animals. They are bioluminescent (glow), transparent, and the bright orange/red flecks on their exoskeleton. These adaptations may help them hide in the sea.

5 There may be 50 to 150 million tonnes of krill just in Antarctica. It is considered the most abundant species on Earth.

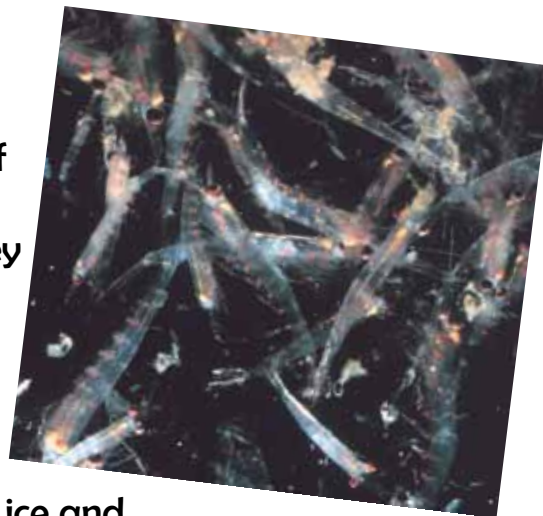
6 Krill are often scattered throughout the sea. However, sometimes they are observed in small swarms. The swarm might be less than 164 ft. (50 m) long

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10 things you should know about... **Krill** *continued*

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6 and 13 ft. (4 m) deep. Scientists have found superswarms of krill in eastern Atlantic. A superswarm of krill can be more than one-half mile (1 km) long and an average of 98 ft. (30 m) deep. Swarms often contain krill just as they begin to resemble adults.



7 Krill generally eat plankton (microscopic plants and animals). Antarctic krill eat phytoplankton (microscopic plants). During the winter krill also eat algae under the pack ice and detritus from the ocean floor.

8 Several times throughout breeding season, krill lay up to 10,000 eggs at a time. The eggs are laid in water 328 ft (100 m) or less. The eggs sink for about 10 days before they begin hatching. They might sink to 6562 ft. (2000 m) before hatching. Krill go through several stages before they look like adult krill.

9 Krill is harvested by people. Most people don't like strong taste of fresh krill. It is usually processed and used in different products for people, as well as animals, to eat. It is also used in beauty and health products.

Superswarms, millions of tons...might be misleading about how much people can take. It may seem as if there is plenty of krill, however, it is essential we understand what kind of an impact we are making on ecosystems, like Antarctica, when we harvest krill.

10 Krill is the most important food source in several ecosystems including the antarctic and arctic. In Antarctica krill is eaten by: crabeater seals, chinstrap penguins, macaroni penguins, gentoo penguins, Adelie penguins, fin whales, blue whales, humpback whales, minke whales, squid, all kinds of fish, and more.



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