

Egg Carton Barnacle



Materials:
Egg carton
Feather
Glue or tape

Procedure:

- Tear the egg carton into individual cups. Each can be a barnacle.
- Use scissors or a pencil to poke out the bottom of the cup.
- Tape or glue the feather to the inside of the barnacle, sticking out the hole you just made.
- You can also color or paint the barnacle. It will be less realistic, but more fun.

Did you know?

Barnacles are crustaceans, meaning they are related to crabs and lobsters. Usually we only see the barnacle's hard shell attached to rocks or logs. But when the tide is high and barnacles are underwater they feed using their feathery feet, or cirri. That's right, they eat with their feet. Barnacles spend all of their adult life upside down, with their heads glued to a rock, pier, boat, or whale.

But they aren't born that way. Barnacles start their life as plankton. Newly hatched baby barnacles, or *nauplius*, resemble one-eyed insects who float around the ocean eating and growing. After about 6 months they turn into a bivalved (2-shelled) *cypris larvae* whose purpose is to find a home. The cypris uses its modified antenna to explore surfaces, searching for a location near other barnacles. When it finds the right spot, cement glands form at the tips of the antennae and the animal attaches itself to the substrate headfirst. It then produces a hard outer shell to protect itself from predators and the elements, transforming into the barnacle we are familiar with.

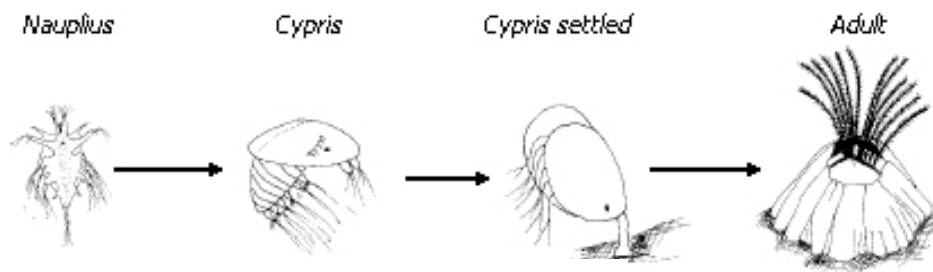


Image from Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada