

From the age of the dinosaurs

The horseshoe crab really isn't a crab; it is more closely related to spiders. It has changed very little since the Triassic age, 200 million years ago. The horseshoe crab's five pairs of legs and its mouth are sheltered beneath its large, dome-shaped shell. Its long, spike-shaped tail isn't a weapon; it uses its tail to right itself if it gets tipped over. Females grow larger than males, with a shell diameter of a foot. The horseshoe crab feeds by plowing through sand on the sea bottom to find worms and small shellfish. The horseshoe crab must shed its shell as it grows, and the delicate shells are often found on beaches around Biscayne Bay.

