

Lobsters, octopuses and crabs feel pain says U.K.

25th November, 2021



Chefs in the United Kingdom may soon have to change their cooking methods. They will no longer be able to boil seafood alive. The U.K. government is looking at research that accepts that sea life like lobsters, octopuses and crabs

feel pain. The studies could change how people treat and kill these creatures. The research is part of the UK's Animal Welfare Bill. This recognizes that all animals with a spine* are "sentient beings". Being "sentient" means being able to feel things like pain, distress and joy. Researchers at the London School of Economics (LSE) looked at 300 different studies to reach their conclusion that octopuses, squid, cuttlefish, crabs, lobsters and crayfish have feelings.

Dr Jonathan Birch, a professor at the LSE and a researcher on the Foundations of Animal Sentience Project, commented on the research. He said some sea creatures experienced pain and had feelings more than others. He said the research showed strong evidence that octopuses and lobsters are sentient. He said the new law means the fishing, retail and restaurant industries must change the way they treat and kill these creatures. This means the end of inhumane practices like boiling lobsters alive. He also said people should now be trained so they know how to kill these animals humanely. The UK government said it has "some of the strongest protections in the world" for animals.

*NOTE: Octopuses, squid, cuttlefish, crabs, lobsters and crayfish do not have a spine.

Sources: nbcnews.com / cnn.com / metro.co.uk

Writing

Sea creatures should be treated like farm animals. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

chefs / cooking / boil / seafood / research / lobster / crab / octopus / welfare / pain / sea / creatures / feelings / evidence / fishing / retail / restaurants / protection

True / False

- 1) Chefs worldwide will soon have to stop boiling lobsters. T / F
- 2) The research into sea creatures is part of an animal welfare bill. T / F
- 3) The sea-creature research is from the London School of Economics. T / F
- 4) Research suggests that squid do not have feelings. T / F
- 5) A researcher said all sea creatures experienced the same level of pain. T / F
- 6) The retail industry may have to change the way it treats sea creatures. T / F
- 7) A researcher wants people trained to kill sea creatures humanely. T / F
- 8) The U.K. government said it's animal protection laws are weak. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| 1. chefs | a. spoke about |
| 2. methods | b. deal with |
| 3. treat | c. opinion |
| 4. distress | d. instructed |
| 5. conclusion | e. cooks |
| 6. commented on | f. cruel |
| 7. evidence | g. suffering |
| 8. inhumane | h. techniques |
| 9. trained | i. safeguards |
| 10. protections | j. proof |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What do you know about lobsters?
- c) How might restaurants have to change?
- d) Can you be vegetarian and eat fish?
- e) What dishes do you know using lobster?
- f) What do you know about octopuses?
- g) What animal protection laws does your country have?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. change their cooking | a. industries |
| 2. They will no longer be able to boil | b. kill these creatures |
| 3. The U.K. government is looking | c. experienced pain |
| 4. change how people treat and | d. humanely |
| 5. all animals with a | e. at research |
| 6. He said some sea creatures | f. practices |
| 7. evidence that octopuses and | g. methods |
| 8. the fishing, retail and restaurant | h. lobsters are sentient |
| 9. This means the end of inhumane | i. seafood alive |
| 10. they know how to kill these animals | j. spine |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of seafood?
- What seafood do you like to eat?
- What cooking methods do you know about for seafood?
- Which is tastier - octopus or crab?
- Do you think lobsters and crabs have feelings?
- Should people eat sentient creatures?
- Should we all be vegetarian?
- What do you think of boiling seafood alive?

Spelling

- change their cooking mehsotd
- how people treat and kill these cretsurae
- all animals with a pseni
- tnineets beings
- feel things like pain, essdrtsi and joy
- looked at 300 different studies to reach their uocnnilos
- commented on the saceerhr
- the research showed strong eciendve
- relati and restaurant industries
- sacrcepti like boiling lobsters alive
- kill these animals yuenmalh
- the strongest storocnipe in the world

Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. h	3. b	4. g	5. c
6. a	7. j	8. f	9. d	10. i

Role Play

Role A – Octopus

You think octopus is the tastiest seafood. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their seafood. Also, tell the others which is the least tasty of these (and why): mussels, oysters or crab.

Role B – Mussels

You think mussels are the tastiest seafood. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their seafood. Also, tell the others which is the least tasty of these (and why): octopus, oysters or crab.

Role C – Oyster

You think oysters are the tastiest seafood. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their seafood. Also, tell the others which is the least tasty of these (and why): mussels, octopus or crab.

Role D – Crab

You think crab is the tastiest seafood. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their seafood. Also, tell the others which is the least tasty of these (and why): mussels, oysters or octopus.

Speaking – Seafood

Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|------------|-----------|
| • Squid | • Octopus |
| • Lobster | • Mussels |
| • Mackerel | • Oyster |
| • Crab | • Tuna |

Answers – True False

1 F	2 T	3 T	4 F	5 F	6 T	7 T	8 F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.