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Hermit Crabs

The Inside Story

Anybody Home?

This growing hermit crab is feeling cramped. He has outgrown his borrowed shell home and is looking for a new home. When he finds an empty shell, he uses his claws to check out the size. If the size is right, he cleans the shell carefully and quickly pulls his abdomen out of the old shell and sticks it into the new one!

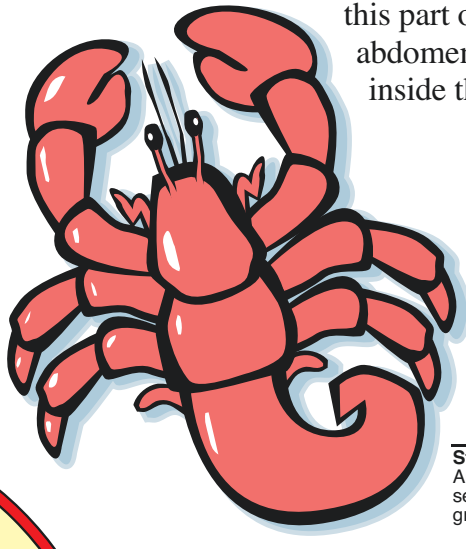
Standards Link: Life Science: Students know animals inhabit different kinds of environments.

Small legs to hold body at shell opening.

Abdomen

Antennae, used to feel, smell and taste things.

Eyestalks



Draw a line from each body part to its description.

Front claws

Walking legs, two on each side.

Standards Link: Life Science: Animals have structures that serve different functions in growth, survival and reproduction.

Find the Hermit Crab Twins!

4 + 13 + 8

11 + 6 + 2

9 + 5 + 3

6 + 4 + 2

3 + 9 + 5

The word **hermit** describes someone who lives alone. Yet, hermit crabs live and travel in colonies of a few dozen to more than 100!

Hermit's Baby Book

Which picture goes with each sentence telling about how a hermit crab grows?

1. Mother hermit crab carries eggs inside shell.
2. Mother hermit crab releases eggs that are ready to hatch into the ocean.
3. The hermit crab larva has large bulging eyes and a long shrimp-like body.
4. After its third molt, the hermit crab looks more like an adult hermit crab and will move closer to the shore and find a shell home.

Molting

Both as a larva and an adult, a hermit crab grows by molting. A hermit crab has a hard outer covering called an exoskeleton. This hard covering doesn't grow like human skin. Instead, it must be shed when a new, larger exoskeleton is ready. The new exoskeleton is soft at first, and the hermit crab must stay in its shell until it hardens.

LET GO LEGS!

If a predator tries to grab a hermit crab, the crab must pull into its shell quickly. If a predator manages to catch a claw, the crab can break it off, leaving the predator holding the claw and nothing else. The hermit crab will grow a new claw to replace the missing one!

Standards Link: Life Science: Students know sequential stages of life cycles are different for different animals

House for Sale

Read some of the Houses for Sale ads in the newspaper. Then, create a House for Sale ad for a hermit crab!

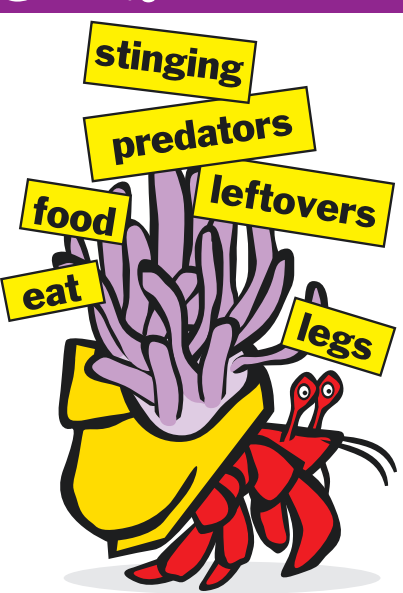
Standards Links: Writing Applications: Write brief expository descriptions.

Hermit Crab Buddies

Some hermit crabs carry sea anemones on their shells. The sea anemone's _____ tentacles keep _____ away. In return, the anemone, an animal without _____, gets carried to new _____ supplies. Sometimes the anemone gets to _____ the hermit crab's _____!

Replace the words missing from this paragraph.

Standards Link: Life Science: Animals have structures that serve different functions in survival.



stinging

predators

food

eat

leftovers

legs

Double Double Word Search

LARVA
TENTACLES
HERMIT
ANEMONE
CRAB
MOLTING
ABDOMEN
SHELL
HOME
SKIN
SHED
CLAW
ALONE
HATCH
PREDATOR

Find the words in the puzzle, then in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

S	N	E	M	O	D	B	A	E	R
O	E	F	C	L	A	W	N	M	O
L	A	L	Y	R	G	M	E	O	T
H	L	O	C	D	N	A	M	H	A
C	A	E	S	A	I	L	O	E	D
T	R	U	H	H	T	O	N	R	E
A	V	C	E	S	L	N	E	M	R
H	A	R	D	K	O	E	E	I	P
J	N	I	K	S	M	W	R	T	A

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE Kid Scoop® LESSON LIBRARY

Community Adviser

Imagine you have been selected to advise on the growth of your neighborhood. Look through the newspaper for news articles showing things that your community is concerned about. Make a list of ways you think you could help your community.

Standards Link: Social Science: Students understand the ways in which individuals and groups interact to solve problems in a community.

What's the difference between a fish and a piano?

ANSWER: You can't tuna fish!



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