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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.

Which shell will the hermit crab pick? He'll pick the one with numbers that add up to an even number.

Standards Link: Number Sense: Calculate sums; recognize even and odd numbers.

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.

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

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!

Hermit crabs are different from true crabs in one important way. True crabs have a short abdomen that is folded up under the large shell on its back. A hermit crab has a long abdomen that sticks out at the rear end of its body. Because its abdomen does not have a hard covering, it must borrow a shell to protect this part of its body. The abdomen's curled shape fits inside the spiral of a shell.

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!

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.

Extra! Extra!
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 _____!

stinging

predators

food

leftovers

eat

legs

Replace the words missing from this paragraph.

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

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

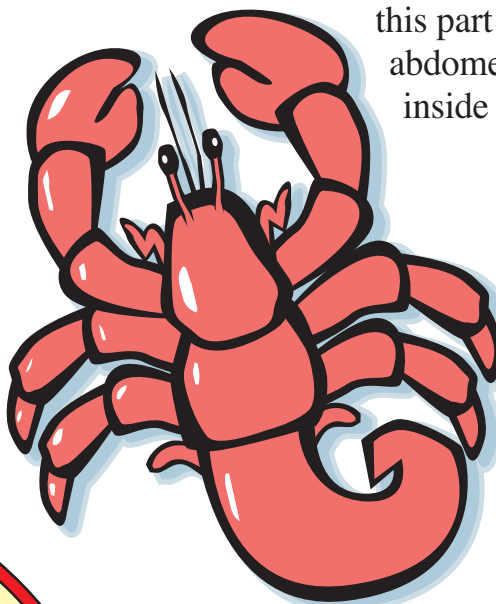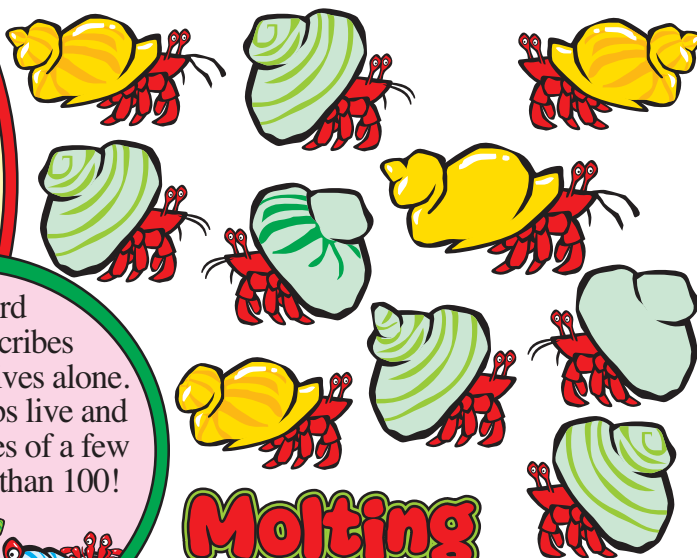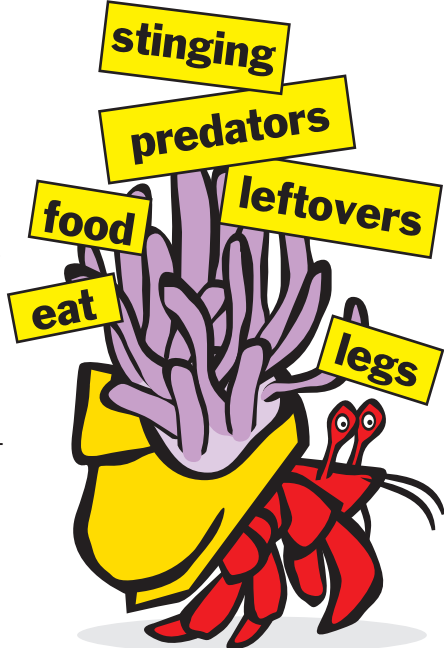**Standards Link:** Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

Proof It!

Are you an eagle-eyed reader? Read the story below and circle the eight errors you find. Then rewrite the story.

Tide Pool Cycles

Creatures in tide pools need water to survive. When the sun evaporates tide-pool water or a tide is lower than normal, the animals must take action to save themselves.

To kep from drying out, sea anemones pull in there tentacles and turn into soft blobs. Sea cucombers sometimes curl into bawlls or cover itself with mud.

Clams and barnacles snap their shells tightly closed, traping water inside that keeps them wett. When the water level in in a tide pool drops, some seaweeds make a slimy mucus that coats their fronds.

_____
_____
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BLACK   YELLOW   MAGENTA   CYAN

What a Character!™
Curiosity is …

… exploring new places and learning the customs of the people who live there.

Kid Scoop
VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word:
ABDOMEN

The word **abdomen** means the part of the body between the chest and the hips.
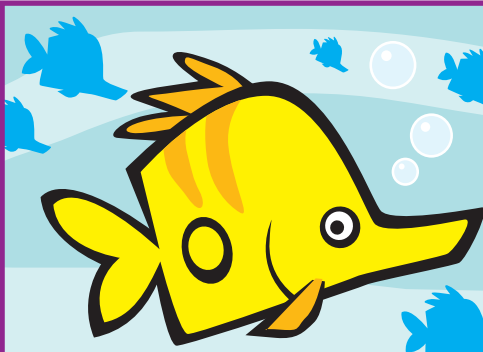
The kangaroo had a pouch in its **abdomen**.

Use the word **abdomen** in a sentence today when talking with your friends, parents or teachers.

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!

Write On!

When I am crabby I …

Finish this story.