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Hermit Crab has outgrown his shell. When he moves into a new bigger one, he realizes that it is very plain. He enlists the help of other sea creatures to help him decorate his new home.

Ages: 3 to 7 years

Interest Level:
preschool to 2nd grade

ATOS Reading Level:
3.7

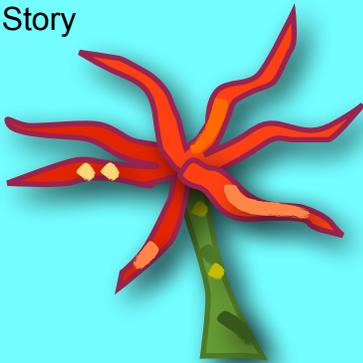
Lexile: 550L

ISBN: 9781481409155

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Genre: Fiction

Classification: Picture Story



A House for Hermit Crab

Have you ever moved? Find out what happens when Hermit Crab moves into his new home.

Topics: growing, time (months of the year; this standard appears in the CA History Social Science Standards for kindergarten)

Math Connections: Use *A House for Hermit Crab* to talk your child about time, patterns, cycles, and routines related to time. Explain that hermit crabs must look for larger shells to move into as they grow. Ask your child why they think hermit crabs need to do this? Ask your child what they have grown out of as they have gotten older. They may respond that they need larger clothes or shoes, a larger bed or chair, or have grown out of toys that they enjoyed when they were younger.

Talk with your child about the order in which the hermit crab decorates his shell. What is the first creature to live on the shell, which is second, and what creatures come later?

At the end of the story, the hermit crab must find a larger shell. Ask your child to predict what the crab will do and what his new home will look like based on the crab's former actions and the information in the story.

Discuss some of the problems the hermit crab encounters in the story and how the problems are solved. For example, how does the crab find a way to see in the dark forest of seaweed or how is the hermit crab able to leave all of the creatures who lived on or near his shell?

Count the number of sea creatures in the story and compare. Are there more snails or sea urchins? How many sea anemones and starfish were there all together?

A House for Hermit Crab provides excellent opportunities to discuss differences and similarities. For example, how are sea anemones and starfish alike? How are they different? Consider similarities and differences in the ways the animals look and move. Which creatures swim? Which creatures crawl? Which creatures are attached to the ocean floor? Ask your child how they would sort the creatures into different groups. Children make sense of the environment as they sort, classify, and compare objects.

Extension Questions:

1. Are you growing? How can you tell?
2. Hermit Crab asked a lot of creatures to help him decorate his house. Who would you ask to help you decorate your house? Why?
3. How many things does hermit crab have on his shell at the end? Let's count!
4. What happened at the beginning of this story? What happened at the end? How are the beginning and the end of the story similar?

Vocabulary for Building Math Concepts	too big, big, January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, December
Vocabulary for Extending Math Concepts	passage of time, one year, month
Vocabulary for Reading Comprehension	snug, gingerly

Early Math Project Resources:

- [Hermit Crab Line Up with answer key](#) (English)
- [Cangrejo ermitaño en fila clave de respuestas](#) (español)
- [Hermit Crab Line Up Clue Cards](#) (English)
- [Cangrejo ermitaño en fila pistas](#) (español)

- [Hermit Crab and Friends Directions](#) (English)
- [Cangrejo ermitaño y Amigos](#) (español)
- [Hermit Crab and Friends Cards](#)

Online Resources:

Official Eric Carle Web Site <http://www.eric-carle.com/home.html>

Spanish Title: Una casa para el cangrejo ermitaño

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Also available in: Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Dutch, Finnish, French, German, and Italian

Related Books: *Even an Octopus Needs a Home* by Irene Kelly, *Even an Ostrich Needs a Nest* by Irene Kelly

Find this book at your local library: https://www.worldcat.org/title/house-for-hermit-crab/oclc/1043426152&referer=brief_results



EARLY MATH PROJECT LITERATURE REVIEW

Age Level	Related Preschool Foundations and CA State Standards
Infant/ Toddler	<p><u>Spatial Relationships</u> The developing understanding of how things move and fit in space; <u>Cause and Effect</u> The developing understanding that one event brings about another.</p>
Preschool/ TK	<p><u>Algebra and Functions 2.0</u> Children begin to recognize simple, repeating patterns; <u>2.1</u> Begin to identify or recognize a simple repeating pattern. <u>Geometry 2.0</u> Children begin to understand positions in space; <u>2.1</u> Identify positions of objects and people in space, such as in/on/under, up/down, inside/outside, beside/between, and in front/behind.</p>
Kindergarten - Grade 3	Not applicable.

