A House For Hermit Crab

By: Eric Carle

First Grade

Summary
Hermit Crab has outgrown his shell and must find a new home. He finds a bigger home to move into. He finds new sea creatures to help him make his new plain shell feel more like a home. When his home gets too small for him and his friends, a smaller crab came along to feel right at home with Hermit Crab’s friends.

There are numerous activities that you can use with this book for your child. I hope that you enjoy the book and activities!!

Activity 1 – Crab on the Sand – Social Studies
Activity 2 – Learning the Months of the Year – Math
Activity 3 – Hermit Crab Habitat – Science & Language Arts
Activity 4 – Crab Hand Print – Art
Activity 5 – Songs – Music

By: Diana – Mercer University
Crabs on the Sand

Materials
Cutout of Hermit Crab
Map of 4 Major Oceans
Glue
Blue Construction Paper
Crayons
Sand

Directions:
- Begin the activity by asking your child where the hermit crab lives.
- Example questions could be: does the crab live in the mountain or ocean?
- After discussing that the crab must live in the ocean, show your child the map of the four major oceans.
- Explain that the crabs can live in any of the four major oceans of the world.
- Have your child to point to the oceans and repeat the name after you.
- After your child understands more about why the crab must live in the ocean, tell them that they are going to make a house for hermit crab in the sand.

Activity:
- Give your child a piece of blue construction paper.
- Brush glue over the bottom half of the paper.
- Help to sprinkle sand over the glue while the glue is still wet.
- Shake off the excess sand.
- Give your child the crab cutout and allow them to color the crab.
- After the coloring has been completed, glue the crab to the sand on the construction paper.
- To review the activity, ask your child about the 4 major oceans of the world.
  Allow time for them to say the oceans aloud to you.
Georgia Performance Standard
SS1G3 - The student will locate major topographical features of the earth's surface.

B. Locate the major oceans: Arctic, Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian.
Learning the Months of the Year

Materials
Months of the Year Sheet
Scissors

Directions
- After reading the book *A House for Hermit Crab* by Eric Carle, ask your child if they know the months of the year.
- Begin a discussion about the twelve months in one year
- Explain to your child that the hermit crab met a new friend each month.
- After the discussion, use the Months of the Year worksheet to help your child learn the months.
- Cut the flashcards out by each month.
• Allow your child to color each picture on the flashcard.
• Let your child arrange the cards in order by the months of the year.
• Open the book to each page to help your child.

**Teacher Reference**
Georgia Performance Standard

M1M2 - Students will develop an understanding of the measurement of time.

**B. Begin to understand the relationship of calendar time by knowing the number of days in a week and months in a year.**

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**Hermit Crab’s Habitat**

**Materials**
Picture of Hermit Crab
Construction Paper
Crayons

**Directions**
• Show your child the picture of hermit crab.
• Begin a discussion about the Hermit Crab’s habitat.
• Ask your child questions about where the crab lives and what does the crab need to survive.
• Talk to your child about the need for water, air, food, and shelter.
• Explain that the crab looks for an empty seashell for its home. When the crab gets too big for that seashell, it must look for a bigger seashell.
• Have your child draw their own illustration of the book.
• Use construction paper and crayons for the drawing.
• After your child has completed the drawing, let them retell the story to you.

**Teacher Reference**

*Georgia Performance Standard*

*S1L1* - Students will investigate the characteristics and basic needs of plants and animals.

  B. Identify the basic needs of an animal.

  1. Air
  2. Water
  3. Food
  4. Shelter

*ELA1LSV1* - The student uses oral and visual strategies to communicate. The student

  B. Recalls information presented orally.
Crab Hand-Print Art

Materials:

- White Paper
- Poster paint – orange and black
- Black Marker

Directions:

- For the crab’s body, paint the palm of your child’s hand using the orange paint.
- Take their hand and press on the white paper.
- For the crab’s legs, use the length of their pointer finger.
- Paint eight legs and two antennas using the orange paint.
- Press firmly on the white paper.
- At the end of each leg, make claws using their fingerprint using the orange paint.
- At the end of each antenna, make pointers using two fingerprints using the orange paint.
- For the crab’s eyes, make two small fingerprints using the black paint.
- When the paint dries, circle the crab’s eyes with the marker.
- After the art dries, talk to your child about the number of legs and antennas the crab has.
Music

Listed below are two songs that you could sing with your child while learning about Hermit crabs.

- This song listed below can be used to help your child with Math by counting while you are singing.

  One little crab by the sea so blue, (Hold up one finger)

  Along came another crab, and that made two. (Hold up two fingers)

  Two little crabs swimming in the sea,
Along came another crab, and that made three. (Hold up three fingers)

Three little crabs swimming in the sea,
Along came another crab, and that made four. (Hold up four fingers)
Four little crabs swimming in the sea,
Along came another crab, and that made five. (Hold up five fingers)
Five little crabs just have some fun,
Crawling on the sand in the hot summer sun. (Wiggle Fingers)

● This song can be acted out while singing this with your child. Encourage your child to act out what the words are saying.

We Are Little Orange Crabs (Sing to the tune of “I'm A Little Teapot”)

We are little orange crabs by the sea,
Playing on the sand we're happy as can be.
Watch us crawling this way and that way, too,
And then go swimming in the sea so blue.