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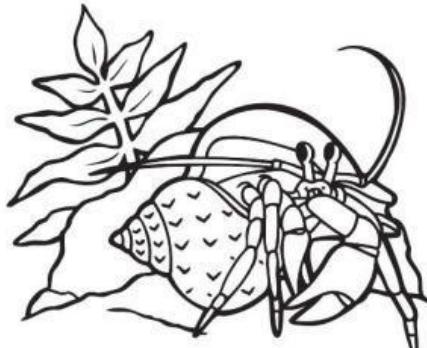
HERMIT CRAB

Have you ever gone to the beach? Have you seen a hermit crab? You might not know what they look like. You might not know where they live.

Hermit crabs are strange-looking animals. They have a round head that is soft. Hermit crabs have long legs that help them to move very fast. The legs have a lot of parts. Some hermit crabs are red while others can be brown or orange. Some hermit crabs are more than one color. Most of the time there are little hairs that stick out of their shells.

The hermit crabs do not have hard shells like other crabs. They have to find empty shells in the ocean to live in. When they grow, they find a new shell that is larger. These shells help to keep them safe. The hermit crab uses his claws to act like a door when it is inside a shell. It also uses its claw to grab food when it is hungry.

Hermit crabs are not like other crabs. They live in others' shells. This makes them special.



STORY QUESTIONS

1. Which compound word above means "to be in something"?
 - a. outside
 - b. hermit
 - c. inside
 - d. empty

2. In the passage, the word *grab* can be changed to . . .
 - a. "take a hold of."
 - b. "throw."
 - c. "toss."
 - d. "play ball."

3. What do hermit crabs do that other crabs do not do?

a. live far out in the ocean	c. swim faster than the other crabs
b. live inside any shell they can find	d. walk slower than any other crab