



Pasta Hermit Crabs



NEW WORD

(5 min)

Switch: Switch means to change from one thing to another. Hermit crabs need to switch their shells as they grow. Do you ever have to switch your clothes as you grow? I remember when I grew I didn't fit my favorite shirt anymore so I had to stop wearing it and switch to another shirt.

Say: "Hermit crabs switch out their shells, just like you did. But there are lots of other things they enjoy doing as well. Today, you get to make your own hermit crabs, and you can switch your crab into different shells that you will paint!"

Refer to the picture gallery on the web page and take your students through the photographs of hermit crabs.

BIG QUESTION

STORY TIME

(10 min)



CAN HERMIT CRABS GO UNDERWATER?

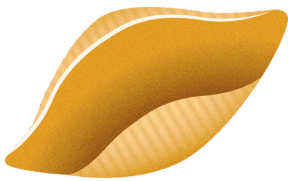
Say: "Let's read the story for the day to find an answer to the question. It is titled "Ann-Nem-Oh-Nee finds Adventure." Let students explore the pictures and enjoy the adventure.

STEM TIME

(30-60 min)

Materials:

- Large shell pasta
- Large container or box
- Any craft materials (Paint, eyes, pipe cleaners, crayons, air dry clay etc)
- Bits of bark and natural materials from outside



MAKE HERMIT CRABS AND SWITCH SHELLS

Instructions: Students use their imagination and easily available materials to create their hermit crabs and build them a home.

1. Talk to students about shells. Say: **“Shells are homes for soft bodied animals. Hermit crabs might have hard claws but their body is soft and needs protection.”**
2. Show students the large pasta shells. Tell them they can use their imagination and any easily available materials to create their own hermit crab. Avoid showing students a reference image of a completed crafted hermit crab, as they may then feel there is only one ‘right’ way. Anyway they choose to decorate their shell will be wonderful.
3. Give each student a pasta shell. Set out the art supplies for the students to choose from. First, the students will paint and decorate the shells. Next, the students will use pipe cleaners or air dry clay to create a hermit crab body.
4. Say: **“Hermit crabs love exploring. They are curious. They like to crawl around, searching for food and new shells to live in. Sometimes they’ll even climb on things like rocks or pieces of wood. They enjoy burrowing into the sand or hiding in small crevices to feel safe.”** Set up a large container (perhaps the same one they used earlier) outside. Students tell you about their hermit crabs and add materials to the habitat. Talk to students about what the hermit crabs can do. Let them express their ideas and take the lead in crafting this mini play world. Students may want to switch their hermit crab shells with other students to play pretend like real hermit crabs.

