

## Objective

By the end of this lesson, the student will have a better understanding of hermit crabs, including their habitat, diet, behavior, and how to care for them. The student will also engage in fun activities that reinforce their learning through creativity and exploration.

## Materials and Prep

- Paper
- Colored pencils or markers
- Access to a computer or smartphone for research (if available)
- Container or box for a hermit crab habitat simulation (optional)

Before the lesson, it's helpful to know some basic facts about hermit crabs, such as their natural habitats, what they eat, and their unique behaviors like shell changing. This will help guide the activities and discussions.

## Activities

- **Research and Presentation:** The student can research interesting facts about hermit crabs online or in books. After gathering information, they can create a short presentation to share what they learned.
- **Art Project - Design a Shell:** Using paper and colored pencils or markers, the student can design their own hermit crab shell. They can draw what it would look like and explain why they chose those colors and patterns.
- **Build a Habitat:** Using a container or box, the student can create a mini habitat for a hermit crab. They can include sand, rocks, and plants (real or drawn) and explain how each item helps the hermit crab survive.
- **Hermit Crab Behavior Role Play:** The student can act out different behaviors of hermit crabs, like exploring their environment, changing shells, and interacting with other crabs. This can be a fun way to learn through movement!

## Talking Points

- "Did you know that hermit crabs are not true crabs? They actually belong to a group called decapods!"
- "Hermit crabs need to change shells as they grow. It's like putting on a new outfit that fits better!"
- "What do you think hermit crabs eat? They love fruits, vegetables, and even some fish!"
- "Hermit crabs are social creatures. They often live in groups and can be very friendly!"
- "Why do you think they have to be careful when changing shells? Other crabs might want to take their old shell!"
- "What kind of home would a hermit crab like? They need a place that is warm and has moisture, just like their natural habitats!"
- "Can you imagine being a hermit crab? What would you do if you found a shiny new shell?"
- "How do you think we can take care of hermit crabs if we have them as pets?"
- "What was your favorite fact you learned about hermit crabs today?"