

Finding Harry a Home

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Finding Harry a Home

The full colour Storybook is available at

Amazon

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B0GG5CDP24>

Finding Harry a Home - Lets talk about crabs

Some interesting facts about crabs to share with children

Crabs are some of the most diverse and successful creatures on Earth. They are a good example of how very different one animal can be from another. They also show how animals are adapted to living in different habitats.

They wear their skeleton on the outside!

Crabs don't have bones in their bodies like we do. Instead they have a hard shell on the outside called an exoskeleton that protects them.

They can live on land and in the water

Most crabs can breath both on land and underwater but they have to always keep wet which means they can only stay on land for a short time.

Crabs come in many colours

Crabs can be red, blue, green, brown and even purple.

Crabs are not picky eaters.

Crabs are omnivores which means they eat both plants and animals - just like us. In the case of crabs this even includes dead fish and seaweed.

Crabs have super powerful claws

They use their claws (also called pincers) to catch food, fight and protect themselves.

Crabs have all-round "Periscope" Vision

Crabs have compound eyes made of hundreds of tiny lenses. These eyes are mounted on stalks that can move independently, allowing a crab to look in two different directions at once!

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Finding Harry a Home - Lets talk about crabs

Crabs come in many sizes

The biggest crab is the Japanese Spider Crab. Its legs can span up to 3.7 meters - roughly the size of a small car. Despite their intimidating size, they are known for having a relatively gentle nature.

In contrast the smallest crab is the Pea Crab - which really is the size of a pea!

Crabs have teeth in their stomach

Crabs don't have teeth in their mouths. Instead, they have three bony plates in their stomach that grind and mash food after it has been swallowed.

Crabs walk sideways!

Crabs usually walk sideways because their 8 walking legs are attached to the sides of their bodies and the joints only bend easily in that direction. But Hermit crabs like Harry only have 6 walking legs so they usually walk backwards and forwards like we do.

Crabs are older than Dinosaurs

Ancestors of the crabs you see today appeared roughly 200 million years ago during the Jurassic period. This means they survived the mass extinction that wiped out the dinosaurs and basically have remained largely unchanged for millions of years.

Crabs are surprisingly social animals.

They communicate with each other by waving their claws, snapping their pincers, or drumming their legs against the ground. This "crab talk" is used to attract mates or warn rivals to stay away from their territory.

[National Curriculum topics: Living Things and Their Habitats]

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Finding Harry a Home - Re-telling the story

Retelling a story might seem like just a simple way to pass the time, but for a young child it's a great learning opportunity.

When your child explains what happened to Harry the Hermit Crab they are shifting from being a passive listener to an active communicator.

These are the key skills involved:

- **Reading Comprehension:** To retell a story, a child must understand the "big picture." They learn to identify the main plot points and differentiate these from minor details.
- **Building Vocabulary:** Reusing new words they have just heard or read in their own sentences helps add that vocabulary into their daily speech.
- **Sequencing & Logic:** Stories have a beginning, middle and end. Retelling helps children learn how to organize information logically—a skill they will use later in everything from writing essays to solving science problems.
- **Confidence:** Taking the "stage" to tell a story helps children feel more comfortable expressing their own ideas.

But it shouldn't feel like a test!!

It doesn't need to be perfect. Here are a few low-pressure ways to encourage retelling:

- (1) Use the attached Storyline Sheet to act as prompts or ask your child to tell you what they think is happening based on the pictures.
- (2) Use open ended questions about the story: who, why, what, when, which. how
Eg: What was Harry's problem? How did Lily and her friends help to fix it?
- (3) Play the "I Forgot Game": Pretend you've forgotten a key part of the story. "Wait, I don't remember. Why didn't Harry like the bucket?" This empowers the child to become the "teacher."

Above all have fun!!

Finding Harry a Home - StoryLine

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Use the images in order as prompts to retell the story

