

Handprint Hermit Crab

OBJECTIVES

Super Six Connection: At Headfirst, we know our grit muscles are never-quit muscles. Just like our hermit crab friends who need grit & determination to be successful in finding a shell to call their home, we remember that practice is perfect as we complete this project!

Development and Learning: Today we're going to learn about some very special organisms that call the ocean home! What do you already know about hermit crabs? Hermit crabs are crustaceans that live on the ocean floor. They have hard, external skin covering their bodies except on their abdomen, or lower portion. Thus, they need to find a shell to protect their soft spot. As Hermit crabs grow, they need to find a new shell to fit. Hermit crabs need to be optimistic that they'll find the just right shell for them throughout their lives!

MATERIALS

1. White Cardstock 8.5x11" (3 per camper)
2. Paper Plate
3. Disposable cup
4. Googly Eyes
5. Red pipe cleaner
6. Tempera paint
7. Foam Paint Brush
8. Table covers
9. Scissors
10. Paper towels
11. Smocks
12. Sharpened pencil
13. Scotch Tape
14. Assorted markers

RELATED READING

1. [A House for Hermit Crab by Eric Carle](#)



SET UP & PREP

- Prepare your workspace for painting to prevent spills.
- Cover the table, fill a water cup, and prepare plate with paint. Rest the paint brush on a paper towel.

INTRODUCTION

- Today's project highlights an important science concept that happens in habitats around the world. The relationship between two living things when both of them benefit, or get something positive out of it, is called SYMBIOSIS. There are many examples of symbiosis relating to hermit crabs, one example is the relationship between the sea anemone and the hermit crab. Sea anemones often attach themselves to hermit crabs' shells to protect and camouflage the hermit crab from predators. In return, the sea anemone may share the hermit crab's meals and be mobile.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Campers need two sheets of white cardstock, one pair of scissors, one red pipe cleaner, and one pencil.
2. Campers will use the foam paint brush to paint their left hand with red tempera paint. Campers will gently press their painted hand onto one of the sheets of cardstock and then wash their hand.
3. Draw a large (6" diameter) circle on the other sheet of cardstock with a pencil. This will be the hermit crab's shell. Then, use the pencil to create a spiral.
4. Cut out the circular shell.
5. Paint the shell with as many colors as you'd like.
6. Cut 4" segment of the pipe cleaner and fold it in half to create the hermit crab's eyes. Then, apply the googly eyes on both ends of the pipe cleaner.
7. Once the handprint is dried, cut it out.
8. Once the shell is also dry, attach the thumb of the handprint to the back of the shell using tape so that the fingers are pointing downwards as legs.
9. Tape the pipe cleaner to the back of the handprint so the eyes stick out on top. Now, your handprint hermit crab is complete!

DEBRIEF

- Amazing job creating your handprint hermit crabs! We learned so much about aquatic habitats and symbiosis.
- If you were a hermit crab, what other creatures would you like to live on or near your shell and why?
- Are there any other types of symbiosis in nature that you can think of?
- Today we learned that the ocean is an INCREDIBLE home to so many awesome organisms.