

GUGU THE FRIENDLY GHOST CRAB



Themba

We are three little ghost crabs who live on the beach at Umkomaas, in KwaZulu-Natal.

Hi there,
my name is Gugu,
and my friends' names are
Nandi and Themba.



Gugu

We each have a very
hard shell to protect
our bodies.



Nandi

scritch-scratch
scritch-scratch



I am busy digging
a hole for myself, using my claws to dig
the sand out, and when Nandi and Themba
see this, they each want to make their
own holes too.

"Now we each
have somewhere
safe to live",
we all say.

We can scuttle into our holes
when dangerous things
like:

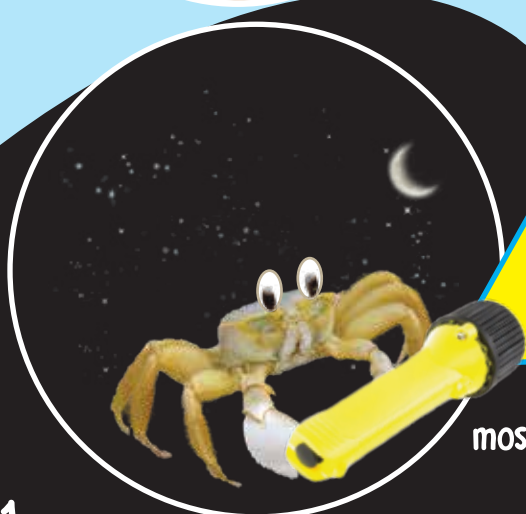
Fishermen
with their
BIG FEET

or

Dogs digging
holes come
too near

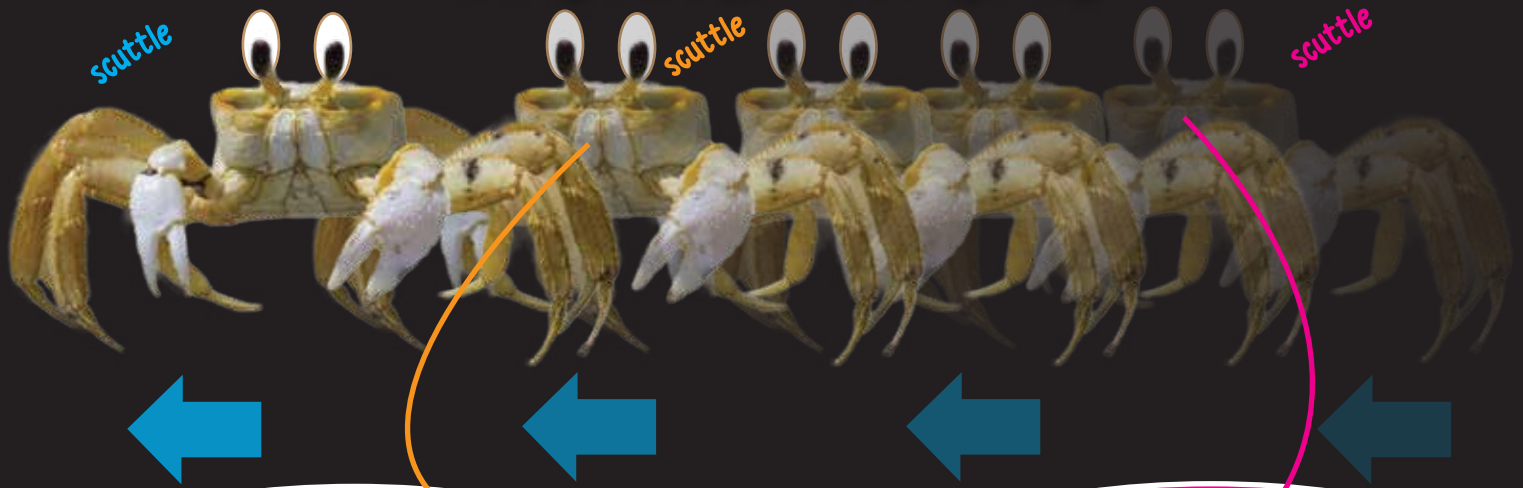


In the evening Themba comes out
of his hole and calls us, "I'm hungry",
he says, "Come on, let's see if we can
find something to eat!"



The three of us, and all our other friends, spend
most of the night using our eyes, which are on stalks at the front of
our shells, to find bits of fish and other food we can eat.

When one of us sees something that looks good, we scuttle to it, always running sideways on our eight legs.



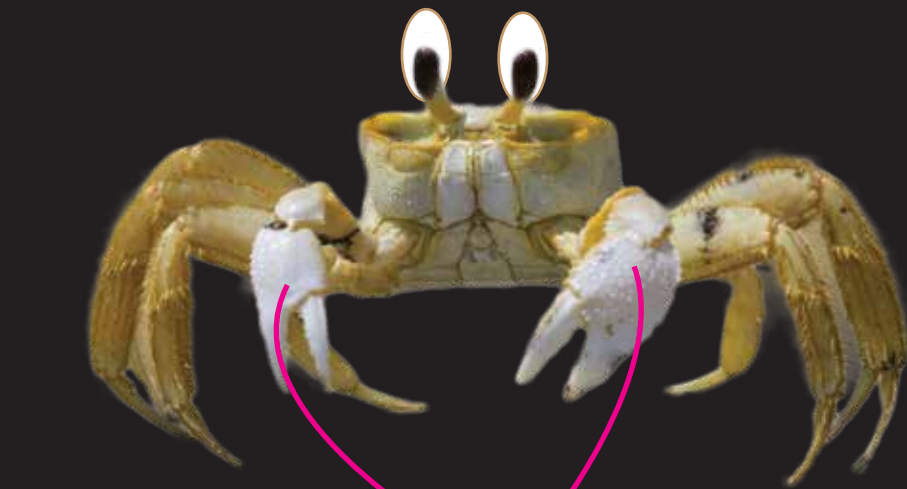
Why can't we run forwards?

Try it!

oops!

We all laugh when she keeps tripping over her 8 legs.

We must run sideways, or we'll keep tripping over our 8 legs".

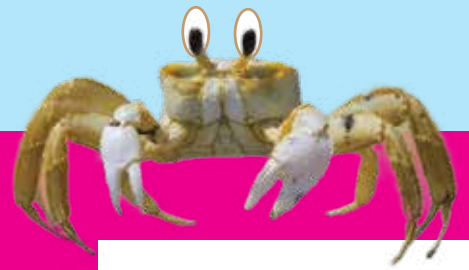


We spend the rest of the night playing and eating. We eat using our two claws or nippers, which look rather like our legs.

When the sun comes up, we go back to our holes to sleep.

zzzz

QUESTIONS



A

- 1) Where do ghost crabs make their holes?
- 2) What protects their bodies?
- 3) How many legs for running do crabs have?
- 4) Where are their eyes?
- 5) What do they eat?

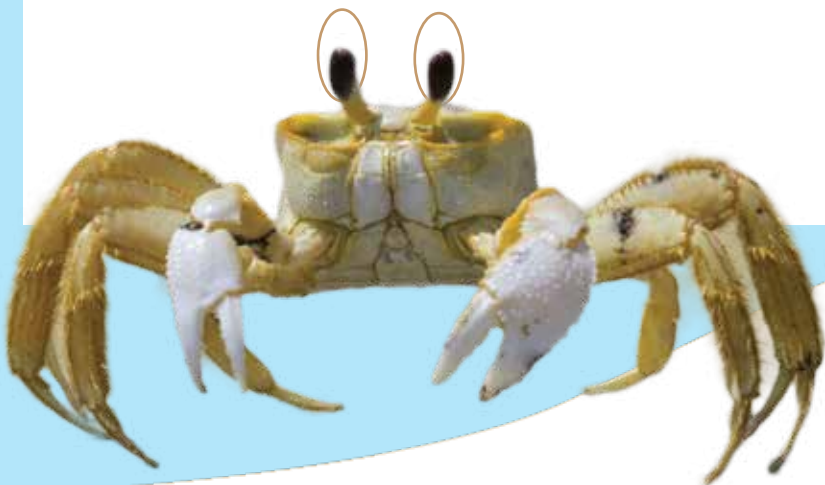
B

- 1) Do you know another word for claws?
- 2) Give another word for scuttle?
- 3) What other kinds of shell could we find on the beach?

C

- 1) If there are 5 ghost crabs on the beach, how many running legs are there altogether?
- 2) How many eyes would 10 ghost crabs have altogether?
- 3) There are 14 ghost crabs on the beach, and seagulls catch 7, how many are left?
- 4) 32 ghost crabs run to their holes, 10 get lost, and 8 are eaten; how many find their holes?

Draw Gugu and her friends



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