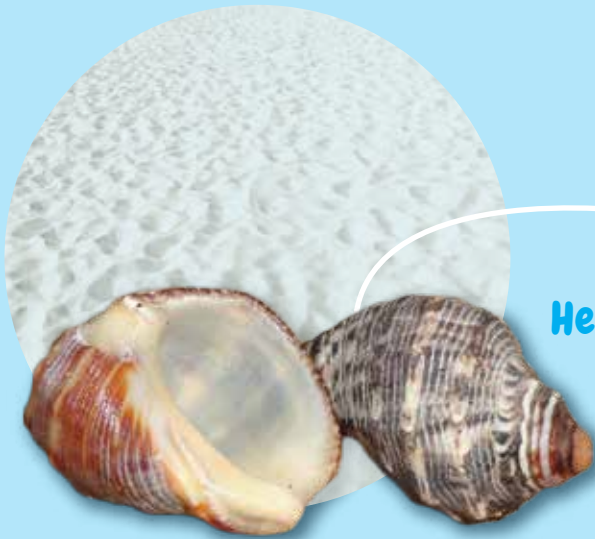


# HENRY THE HERMIT CRAB GOES HOUSE HUNTING



Henry outgrew his shell and had no more wiggle room left.  
He had to go house hunting to find a new home.

Running here, scurrying there  
He sadly found the beach quite bare.



Aaah he saw a shell that would do...  
A pretty whelk with a pinkish hue!  
He wriggled and squeezed but it just wasn't right  
It was just too small and oh so tight.

"Sigh"

Just as he let out one big sigh  
A pretty winkle caught his eye.  
He pushed and pulled with all his might  
Too small and too tight – it just wasn't right.



What a beautiful cowrie  
with the sound of the sea  
Maybe this one is just right for me?  
He took a huge breath and squeezed  
himself tight  
But the serrated narrow opening  
gave him a big fright.



Alas the holiday makers had removed all the shells  
And in their place was a new kind of smell.  
Where shells had once been, they had left something new  
A lovely bottle ..... mmmm a house with a view!



He wriggled and squashed  
but the smell was so bad  
He backed out of there feeling ever so sad.

Henry scurried away through all the plastic  
The situation now was really quite drastic!



Suddenly his dream came true  
There was a pink plough shell with a delicate hue.  
Just the right size and perfect for sure  
His hunt was over and his home secure.



"Home  
Sweet  
Home"



If only humans would take more care  
Why strip the beach and leave it bare?  
No more shells, just plastic instead  
Where oh where will hermit crabs find a  
new bed?





# Five fun facts about hermit crabs

Hermit crabs are **arthropods** because they have jointed legs and a segmented body. They are related to crabs and rock lobsters.



Hermit crabs are **scavengers** and feed on dead plants and animals that they find on the beach.



They use empty shells from dead sea snails to protect their soft abdomen.



As the hermit crab grows bigger, they **outgrow** their shell and need to find a new home.



When they walk they can carry their shell with them because the last two pairs of back legs are used to hold onto the inside of their shell.



# QUESTIONS

**A**

1. Why do hermit crabs have to go “house hunting”?
2. Where do hermit crabs live?
3. Who leaves plastic and bottles on the beach?
4. How many shells did Henry try out before he found the right one?
5. What should you do with your plastic when you leave the beach?

**B**

Match the term with the correct meaning:

Scavenger

animal with jointed legs

Arthropod

animal with a backbone

Invertebrate

animal without a backbone

Vertebrate

animal that eats dead plants and animals

**C**

1. Henry has 3 friends on the shore, each of them has 10 legs, how many legs in total?
2. If Henry tries out 2 shells on Monday, and another 3 shells on Tuesday, how many shells has he tried out in total?
3. Henry and 4 of his friends are scurrying on the rocks, a big octopus eats 2 of Henrys friends. How many friends does Henry have left?

# Draw a picture of Henry in his shell



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