Name: _____ Date: _____

The Hermit Crab Who Swapped Shells

Circle group

Pip was a hermit crab. He lived in a tide pool. His shell was round and shiny. He loved it.

But Pip got big. One day his legs did not fit in the shell.

"I will not give up my shell," Pip said to a snail. "It is the best one."

"A shell that pinches is not a good home," said the snail.

Pip walked on the sand. He saw a big shell with a spiral top. It was empty. Pip felt sad to leave his old shell. He stood still for a long time.

Then he took a deep breath. He slid out of the shiny shell. He slid into the big one. It was roomy and warm. He could stretch all his legs.

A tiny crab came by. The shiny shell fit her just right. "Thank you!" she said.

Pip smiled. He let go of his old shell, and two crabs were glad.

Questions

1. Where did Pip live?

_____

_____

2. Why did Pip's legs not fit in his shell?

_____

_____

3. What did the snail say about a shell that pinches?

_____

_____

4. What did Pip find on the sand?

_____

_____

5. Who got Pip's old shell?

_____

_____

6. Why was Pip sad at first about leaving his old shell?

_____

_____

7. What lesson does the story teach?

_____

_____

Words to know

hermit crab: a small sea animal that lives inside an empty shell
tide pool: a small pool of seawater left on the rocks by the sea
spiral: a shape that winds around and around
roomy: having plenty of space inside
pinches: squeezes tightly in a way that hurts a little

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Hermit Crab Who Swapped Shells

Triangle group

Pip was a hermit crab who lived in a tide pool. His shell was round and shiny, and he loved it very much. But Pip kept growing, and one morning his legs would not fit inside.

"I cannot give up my shell," Pip told a snail. "It is the best one on the beach."

The snail looked at him carefully. "A shell that pinches is not a good home," she said.

Pip walked along the sand with his shell stuck on like a hat. Then he saw a bigger shell with a spiral top, and it was empty. Pip felt sad about leaving his old one, so he stood still for a long time.

At last he took a deep breath. He slid out of the shiny shell and into the big one, which was roomy and warm. He could stretch every leg.

A tiny crab came by. She was very small, and the shiny shell fit her just right. "Thank you!" she said.

Pip smiled. Letting go of the old shell had helped two crabs.

Questions

1. Where did Pip live?

_____

_____

2. Why did Pip's legs not fit in his shell?

_____

_____

3. What did the snail say about a shell that pinches?

_____

_____

4. What did Pip find on the sand?

_____

_____

5. Who got Pip's old shell?

_____

_____

6. Why was Pip sad at first about leaving his old shell?

_____

_____

7. What lesson does the story teach?

_____

_____

Words to know

hermit crab: a small sea animal that lives inside an empty shell
tide pool: a small pool of seawater left on the rocks by the sea
spiral: a shape that winds around and around
roomy: having plenty of space inside
pinches: squeezes tightly in a way that hurts a little

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Hermit Crab Who Swapped Shells

Square group

Pip was a hermit crab who made his home in a rocky tide pool. His shell was round and shiny, and he treasured it more than anything. But Pip kept growing, and one morning his legs would no longer fit inside.

"I cannot possibly give up my shell," Pip told a passing snail. "It is the finest one on the entire beach."

The snail studied him carefully. "A shell that pinches you is not really a good home," she said gently.

Pip wandered along the sand with his shell perched on him like a tiny hat. Then he noticed a much bigger shell with a spiral top, lying empty. Pip felt sorrowful about leaving his old one behind, and he stood very still for a long while.

At last he took a deep breath. He slid out of the shiny shell and into the large one. It was roomy and warm, and he could finally stretch every leg.

A tiny crab scuttled by. She was so small that the shiny shell fit her perfectly. "Thank you so much!" she said.

Pip smiled. Letting go of his old shell had helped two crabs at once.

Questions

1. Where did Pip make his home?

_____

_____

2. Why would Pip's legs no longer fit inside his shell?

_____

_____

3. What did the snail say about a shell that pinches?

_____

_____

4. What did Pip notice lying on the sand?

_____

_____

5. Who ended up with Pip's old shell?

_____

_____

6. Why did Pip feel sorrowful about leaving his old shell?

_____

_____

7. What lesson does the story teach?

_____

_____

Words to know

hermit crab: a small sea animal that lives inside an empty shell
tide pool: a small pool of seawater left on the rocks by the sea
spiral: a shape that winds around and around
roomy: having plenty of space inside
pinches: squeezes tightly in a way that hurts a little

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: The Hermit Crab Who Swapped Shells

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: The Hermit Crab Who Swapped Shells

Easier · 155 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade -0.5

1. In a tide pool.
2. He had grown too big.
3. It is not a good home.
4. A big, empty shell with a spiral top.
5. A tiny crab.
6. He loved it, even though it was too small.
7. Letting go of something old can be good for you and for others.

Triangle: The Hermit Crab Who Swapped Shells

This passage · 176 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.8

1. In a tide pool.
2. He had grown too big.
3. It is not a good home.
4. A bigger, empty shell with a spiral top.
5. A tiny crab.
6. He loved it, even though it was too small for him now.
7. Letting go of something old can be good for you and for others.

Square: The Hermit Crab Who Swapped Shells

Harder · 194 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.4

1. In a rocky tide pool.
2. He had kept growing and was too big.
3. That it is not really a good home.
4. A much bigger, empty shell with a spiral top.
5. A tiny crab.
6. He treasured it, even though it was too small for him now.
7. Letting go of something old can be good for you and for others.