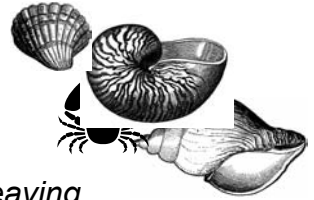


Hermit Crab Scramble



A Group Game

The objective of this game is to promote responsible behaviours namely leaving shells on the beach. Crabs including Hermit Crabs often use shells as protection. People removing shells from the Marine Sanctuary can affect the survival of crabs and other animals.

Shells, seaweeds, sand, rocks and all living things must not be taken from a Marine National Park or Marine Sanctuary.



Instructions: Note: The game operates on a similar principle to musical chairs.

- 1) Leader who directs the activity – usually the teacher (who can also double as “the human”)
- 2) Two Seagulls
- 3) Divide the remainder of the group into shells and crabs. Making sure there are 2 fewer shells than crabs.
- 4) Arrange the “shells” in a large circle and the crabs in the middle.
- 5) The “shells” stand with their legs apart (simulating protection), the crabs scuttle within the circle.
- 6) The leader blows a whistle and the crabs race to find a “shell” and place their legs inside the feet of the shell. (The shells can also be washed around by a wave, for added activity.)
- 7) After a given time the seagulls swoop in and eat the unprotected crabs.
- 8) The procedure is then repeated with two “shells” removed each round by a human shell collector.

Learning from the Game:

In itself it is a fun game, but the most important aspect is the teacher directed discussion highlighting what happens to the hermit crab population as there are fewer and fewer shells. Emphasis should be placed on developing an understanding of why shells should be left on the beach.