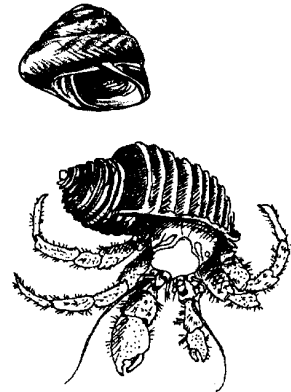


Pagoo Takes a Shell and Keeps It Too*

Key Concepts

1. As a hermit crab grows, it needs to find ever-larger shell “houses” since it does not make its own shell.
2. Many intertidal animals have hard, external skeletons, called exoskeletons.
3. A hermit crab uses its pincers for protection.



Teaching Hints

Read chapter 15 of *Pagoo* with students. Have students outline the steps a hermit crab takes in selecting a new home. Be sure they add their outlines to their Pagoo Field Guides.

Chapter Summary

Pagoo’s continuing growth means he needs another new shell home. He wanders through the tide pool, confident enough to fight for one if necessary. Old Pal warns him that he is inexperienced and that he is half-way out of his shell. Pagoo watches a group of hermit crabs tussle, and a vacant Brown Turban Snail shell rolls in front of him. He climbs in and finds it is too big for him. Then the original hermit crab owner backs into the shell and sits on Pagoo! Pagoo pinches him, and he quickly leaves. Pagoo has a few more fights to protect his new home. He signals the shell is taken by extending his feelers just outside the entrance. With his next molt, Pagoo grows to fit the shell.

Key Words

exoskeleton - any hard, external covering or structure which protects or supports the body, such as the shells of crabs and lobsters

molt - to shed part or all of an outer covering, in this case the hermit crab’s exoskeleton, which is replaced periodically by a new growth