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The Crab Question

Why do crabs walk sideways?

In this episode we discover that crabs are crustaceans, like lobsters and prawns. They have hard outer shells, no bones and eyes on stalks that allow them see all around. Crabs also have ten legs that grow out the side of their bodies and their front two legs have pincers. Their legs have joints which are like knees. Human knees point forward so it is easiest for people to walk forwards. But most crabs leg joints point sideways so it is easiest for them to walk sideways. And that's why crabs walk sideways.

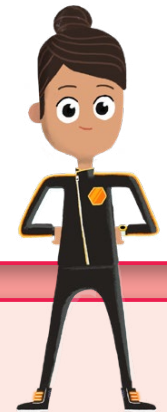
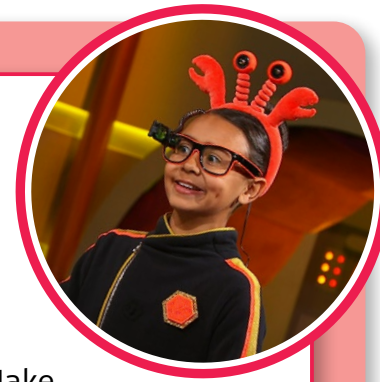
Wonder some more ...

1. What are crustaceans?
2. Can crabs walk forwards and backwards?
3. Can they swim?
4. Do crabs lay eggs?
5. How do crabs use their pincers (claws)?
6. Why do hermit crabs live in a shell?



Time to explore...

- **CODE A ROBOT:** Support the development of children's digital literacy skills and mathematical understandings by coding a simple robot (e.g. Lego Boost or Blue-Bot) to walk sideways like a crab. Make the robot look like a crab by attaching ten pipe cleaner legs with Tac. Then use a coding mat to help children program the robot move left and right.
- **MAKE A 3D CRAB:** Explore how crabs have legs that can bend at the joints, like spiders. Build a crab exoskeleton (shell) using an empty egg carton cup and attach ten coloured cardboard legs, by placing a split pin at the top and halfway down each crab leg. Attach two goggly 'stalk eyes' on short straws with Tac and scaffold learning about how crabs have 360-degree vision.



Willow

Read and wonder...

- *Crabbing with Dad* (2016) by Paul Seden
- *Rock Pool Secrets* (2017) by Narelle Oliver
- *Australian Sea Life* (2019) by Matt Chun

Link to EYLF Learning Outcomes including 5.1, 5.3, 5.4 and 5.5.



Early Education