

Pets in the classroom lesson plan  
Pre-K  
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**Overview:**

I use *A House for a Hermit Crab* in an Eric Carle author study, but it is also a great accompanying text for a unit about oceans and sea creatures. Based on experience children enjoy Eric Carle's colorful illustrations and animal characters. Teacher and students will take a picture walk using the text *A House for a Hermit Crab* by Eric Carle. Before reading the story and beginning the lesson students will participate in a turn and talk with their neighbor and discuss what they **Know** and **Want** to learn about hermit crabs. This chart will be revisited after the task of the lesson is complete by all students where they can discuss in a whole group setting about they **Learned**.

**Objective:**

Students will retell important facts from a text heard or read.

**Materials:**

- *A House for Hermit Crab* by Eric Carle
- Oak tag, one sheet per student
- Marker
- Crayons
- Glue
- Colored pencils
- Scissors
- Clipart images of coral, seaweed, lantern fish, sea anemone, starfish, snails, sea urchins, pebbles, sponges, barnacles, clown fish, sand dollars, electric eels, etc., at least one of each creature per student
- KWL Chart

**Teacher Prep:**

1. Draw a picture of Hermit Crab on a sheet of 8 1/2" X 11" paper. Make the picture large and use a dark marker so the lines show well.
2. Make a class set of copies of the drawing on the sheets of oak tag.
3. Cut apart the clipart images so students can handle one image at a time.
4. Prepare KWL chart

**Steps:**

Before beginning the task, teacher and students will take a picture walk using the desired text. After completing the picture walk, students will discuss with their turn and talk partner what they Know and Want to learn about hermit crabs. Student thoughts and ideas will be filled into the chart under the designated topic. The chart will be revisited after the lesson is completed to fill it with what students have learned about hermit crabs.

First: Have students write their name on their piece of oak tag (teachers will assist students who need extra support with this task). Encourage students to color in their hermit crabs to their liking using the art materials provided.

Next: Allow students to choose a sea creature from the clip art sea creatures prepared earlier.

Then: Reread *A Home for Hermit Crab* aloud to the class, asking students to glue the corresponding sea creatures onto their oak-tag hermit crabs as you read. (Sequencing standard for common core)

Last: If students have extra sea creatures, have them add them at the end of the story. Encourage students to play the part of the author and allow them to add on to the story or possibly change the ending of the story using their sea creatures.