Hermit Crab Community Lesson

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Learning Outcomes

Grade: First
Subject Area: Living Systems and Processes and Citizenship in the Classroom

Specific Expectation #1
Living Systems and Processes
1.5.a. The student will investigate and understand that animals, including humans, have basic life needs that allow them to survive. Key ideas include

a) animals need air, food, water, shelter, and space (habitat);

Specific Expectation #2:
Civics
1.1.e. The student will apply history and social science skills to practice citizenship in the classroom by

e. contributing one's time and talents to help others in their homes, schools, and communities through jobs;

Materials:

- Canva presentation: https://www.canva.com/design/DAF2KCG3LeE/4agl8CbnXxyCgsbD1rqZLA/edit?utm_content=DAF2KCG3LeE&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=sharebutton
- Puppet show script: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1qqj1v0AyUCRtf0kBG7ERYrfaWvRgve4zZRFW9N6kLDg/edit?usp=sharing

Introduction

(2 minutes)
Hello Everyone! Welcome to 1st grade! Today we are talking about the ocean and a hermit crab as he finds a new home! We are going to learn about how we can use our talent and kindness to create a space we all feel at home in together to have a great school year! Now everybody stand up! We are going to be doing some moving around today, so we are going to need to warm up our bodies first.

Activity: Now I know many of you probably already know each other, but I am sure you are seeing some new faces around the room as well, right? Well, we should get to know each other quickly! This is how the game works. We are all going to walk around the room. I am going to yell out a body part and a number, such as 3 feet. You will then have to find a group of people with that number and connect those parts of your body. I will ask you to share something about yourselves, and we will move on to the next prompt. Sounds good? (Other facilitators help out when the numbers do not line up.)

Prompts: 4 Pinkies!

- Everyone share what your name is!
  5 Elbows!
- What are you most excited for this year?
  3 toes!
- What is something you all have in common?
  6 forearms!
- What is your favorite sea creature and why?
  (However many people there are in the room) knuckles!
- Is everyone excited and ready for the best school year ever!?!?!? (Everyone will cheer and we will give ourselves a round of applause)

Brief description of activities (Optional: Share objectives)

Community Builder

(5-10 minutes)

Opportunity to build connection between student interest/life and the curriculum material

Opportunity to build relationship between self and group/ group members with each other

- I am seaweed
  - It is important for anyone who practices theater to use their imaginations! Oftentimes, actors have to think on their feet to come up with solutions in rehearsals and performances. In this association game, we will transform ourselves into things that we think of when we hear the word "seaweed"
  - In a standing circle, the teaching artist starts by entering the center and saying "I am seaweed" while striking a frozen statue of a tree. The person next to the leader will step forward and say "Seaweed makes me think of _____" The remainder of the circle will do the same, using the last person's suggestion to make a new association. So if person 2 says "Seaweed makes me think of clownfish" the next person says "clownfish makes me think of _____" and so on.
  - If time allows, have the tableau come to life and have them act as their characters!

Play (10 min)- puppet show!

Play in script form!

After play discussion questions:

- As the Hermit crab was going along his journey, what are some of his needs that needed to be met?
    - *Center discussion around food, water, shelter, and space (habitat)*
- What were some things the Hermit crab's friends shared with him to help?

Main activity (Process Drama)

Meditation toward process drama
(20-30 minutes)

1. Becoming a part of the ocean! (5 mins)
    a. *Remember how in our story, the hermit crab needed the help of all those other creatures in the ocean to build his home? Well now we are going to use our imaginations to become the characters in the story to work together to create a home of our own! To refresh your memory, here are the different characters we can choose to be* (shown on slide: hermit crab, sea anemone, starfish, coral, snails, sea urchins, lantern fish) (figure out how many of each we need and take raised hands to sort them into groups)
        i. W*e are going to dim the lights and turn on some music and I invite you all to find your own space around the room to lie down and close your eyes if that feels comfortable. Okay we are going to use our imaginations to pretend to go to sleep because when we wake up we are no longer our classroom, we are in the ocean and we are all going to be different sea creatures in the ocean. So close your eyes or just get comfortable, whatever that means to you and be listening and using your imagination.*
        ii. So think about the ocean and what do you see? Who is in the ocean? Do you see fish or dolphins or whales or even a shark? Do you see the beautiful coral and the sun peering down from above the ocean? Do you see schools of fish? Are you near the top of the ocean or near the floor of the ocean? Who are you? Are you a hermit crab roaming around on the ocean floor? Are you a starfish with your legs out and proud? Or are you a sea anemone, standing tall and gracefully swaying the ocean? Or beautiful coral adding bright colors to make the ocean even more gorgeous? Are you a snail gliding around the sea? Or are you a spikey silly sea urchin floating around the ocean? Or are you a lanternfish

guiding the way through the dark of the sea? Or are you a shell, somebody's home! Okay now take a moment to think on. Now whenever you're ready open your eyes and become your sea creature.

2. Exploring the ocean! (5 mins)
    a. *Now that we have our characters and are alive in the ocean, let's spend some time exploring the space as our characters! How does your character move? Are they slow or fast? Fluid or static? Do they stay low to the ground, or move largely, gliding through the ocean floor? What sea creatures does your character like? Who do they not like? Meet the other creatures in the ocean. What does your character sound like?*
3. *Oh no! Our Hermit crabs have lost their shells and have no home! They have gotten very lost in the sea and don't know where their community is anymore!*
    a. (Slide relaying this information) *How can we help them?*
4. Helping the Hermit Crabs rebuild their home and Community
    a. Helping the hermit crab find a new shell
        i. *Which of the hermit crab's needs are not being met? Have you ever been put into a new home? What was that like? How can we help our hermit crabs find new shells?* (Shell students volunteer and stay with the hermit crabs for the rest of the process drama)
        ii. *Yay! Our hermit crabs now have a new home! Thank you shells. What else do they need to live in the ocean? Can you remember from our story?*
    b. Helping the hermit crabs find new friends
        i. *Right! The hermit crab needs some company to feel comfortable in their new home. What do we need in our spaces (like our classroom) to feel comfortable?*
        ii. *Who in the story gave the hermit crab some company?*
        iii. *Right! The Sea anemone! Sea anemone go find a hermit crab, and this is your line to say to the hermit crabs: "would you be willing to come live in my house…. It needs you" The hermit crabs each have a sea anemone and they agree to be friends and keep each other company. When was the last time you helped out a friend? How can we be good friends to each other and help each other out in our classroom?*
    c. Helping the hermit crab decorate his space and express himself
        i. *What do we think the Hermit Crab needs next? It is important to feel comfortable and at home in your space.*
        ii. *Who in the story helped the hermit crab decorate his shell?*
        iii. *Yes! The starfish and the coral! Can we have our starfish and coral run and find a hermit crab and strike a group pose to decorate! What are some ways that you all like to decorate your spaces and express yourselves? What are ways we can make this classroom a space where*

everyone feels safe expressing themselves? How can we make everyone feel at home? What are ways we can decorate our classroom with kindness?

iv. *What are some other things we think our hermit crab might need?*

d. Helping the hermit crab keep his house clean
   i. *Now that our shell has so many people, it might get a little messy. Which one of our friends can help us keep the shell clean?*
   ii. *That's right! The snails help keep our Hermit Crab's shell nice and clean! Snails, it's time for you to inch on over to the Hermit Crabs and* _____*(*based on what their answers are*). Why is it important to keep our spaces clean? How can we use our cleaning talents to help our friends? What are ways we can keep this classroom clean? Is it easiest to clean alone or as a team?*
   iii. *Show us how you clean the classroom. Do you pick up trash? Do you sweep or wipe down our tables?*
   iv. *Our Hermit Crab looks so nice and clean now! What else do we think the Hermit Crab might need?*
e. Helping the hermit crab stay safe
   i. *Great! Now that we have cleaned up, what is something else we need to survive in the ocean? Feeling safe is another important part of surviving in the ocean. What makes you feel safe? What are some ways we can make our classroom feel safe? Who in the story helps to make the hermit crab stay safe? The Sea Urchin! How did they make them feel safe? How can we make each other feel safe?* Have the Sea urchins go to "protect" the hermit crabs. *In order to feel safe in our classroom, let's come up with some community agreements!* Lead the class in helping them come up with community agreements on butcher paper
f. Helping the hermit crab seek guidance (lanternfish)
   i. *Oh no! We are approaching a seaweed forest!* (lights turn off) *How do we see in the dark? Good thing we have our lanternfish from the forest, turn on your lanternfish light, lanternfish.*
g. Hermit crab is all settled, what's next?
   i. *Hermit Crab Shell is decorated and protected! He has made a home that he can inhabit as long as he grows out of his shell. Remember in our story when Hermit Crab became too big for his shell? Well we built our Hermit Crab Shell, and unfortunately Hermit Crab outgrew his shell over the course of our class period! Oh no! We must keep our decorated shell clean and beautiful so that we can pass it onto the next class!*

Debrief/Closing

(10 minutes)
Supplies:

- Large piece of butcher paper
- Assorted colored markers
- Sunset Lamp
- Aquarium video and ocean music

"Thank you all so much for your participation today! We're going to transition into a little cooldown activity now. We talked a little bit about our class community so we are going to make a class shell! This will be a mural decorated by every single one of you. You can draw whatever you would like but I invite you to think about some of the things we know that the hermit crab needs, the things you need to be successful in the class, and to think about how everyone has their own talents that can be used to help others in our community. This shell is going to go on our wall and will stay there even after you all leave next year. Just like the hermit crab gave up his old home for a new friend, we will do the same once the year is over. So let's make it the best, most welcoming shell we can so our new friends will enjoy the classroom as much as we will this coming year!"

Debrief: Questions to ask while coloring

- *What are some things/talents that either you or your classmates contribute to our classroom community? Give a shoutout to a friend or to yourself!*
- *What are some of your needs that need to be met in the classroom in order for you to feel safe and at home in this classroom?*
- *How do we build a community/home in our classroom, where any new student can enter and feel included?*
- *How do we make this class a space that others will feel comfortable entering and how do we make others around us feel safe when we enter their space?*

Once the mural is finished/class is coming to an end

"[comment on the mural]. You all were such wonderful hermit crabs and starfish and sea anemones and corals today! We will put our class shell up on the board/outside for everyone to see and to remind us that our community is made up of so many beautiful talents and gifts!"