

**HERMIT
CRAB
OR
NZ
HERMIT
CRAB**



BY MILLY QUELCH

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INTRODUCTION

HERMIT CRABS ARE A CRUSTACEAN THAT BELONGS TO THE PAGURIDAE FAMILY. PAGURUS NOVAEZEALANDIAE IS THE SCIENTIFIC NAME FOR THE HERMIT CRAB ENDEMIC TO NEW ZEALAND. THERE ARE OVER 34 SPECIES OF HERMIT CRABS ACROSS THE ROCKY SHORES OF NEW ZEALAND. MOST OF THE SPECIES OF HERMIT CRABS IN NEW ZEALAND LIVE ON THE COASTLINE OF THE SOUTH ISLAND, BUT YOU CAN STILL FIND NZ HERMIT CRABS IN THE NORTH ISLAND AS WELL.

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WHEN YOU WATCH THIS VIDEO YOU ARE WATCHING A HERMIT CRAB AND A GHOST SHRIMP FEED.



HABITAT

THE PAGURUS NOVAEZEALANDIAE IS FOUND ON THE COASTLINE OF NEW ZEALAND WATERS IN INTERTIDAL ROCK POOLS. THEY GENERALLY LIVE IN ESTUARIES WHERE STRONG TIDAL ACTIVITY TAKES PLACE AND THE SALINITY OF THE WATER REMAINS CONTINUOUSLY HIGH ENOUGH TO SUPPORT THE CRABS REQUIREMENTS.



BY PRESSING THE VOICE BUTTON YOU WILL HEAR THE FACTS BEING READ OUT TO YOU!



APPEARANCE/PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

YOU CAN IDENTIFY THE NEW ZEALAND HERMIT CRAB BY THE STRIPES THAT GO AROUND THEIR LEGS. THE NEW ZEALAND HERMIT CRAB IS VERY SMALL AND ONLY GROWS TO 16MM WIDE.

PAGURUS NOVAEZEALANDIAE HAVE 5 PAIRS OF LEGS. THE FIRST PAIR IS CALLED THE CHELA/PINCERS. THESE ARE USED TO PROTECT THEM FROM PREDATORS. THE 2ND AND 3RD ARE THE WALKING LEGS AND ARE WHAT THEY USE TO WALK.

THE 4TH AND 5TH PAIRS ARE USED TO GRIP THE BACK OF THE SHELL. IF YOU HAVE EVER WONDERED HOW THE NZ HERMIT CRAB USES ITS SENSES, WELL IT HAS 2 PAIRS OF ANTENNAE. 2 ARE SHORT AND 2 ARE LONG. THE LONG ONES ARE USED FOR TOUCHING AND THE SHORT ONES ARE FOR SMELLING.

AS WELL AS THEIR ANTENNAE, THE HERMIT CRAB ALSO HAVE SHORT SENSORY HAIRS ALL OVER THEIR BODY WHICH THEY USE TO TASTE THINGS.



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DIET

THE NEW ZEALAND HERMIT CRAB IS A SCAVENGER AND EATS ANY DEAD OR DYING ANIMALS. NZ HERMIT CRABS EAT BY USING THEIR FRONT CLAWS TO BREAK UP ANY FOOD INTO SMALL PIECES SO IT'S EASIER TO EAT.

THEY ARE DETRITUS FEEDERS AND EAT MAINLY PLANKTON, MUSSELS, CLAMS AND ANY SMALL DEAD ANIMALS OR PARTS OF DEAD ANIMALS. MOSTLY THEY EAT INVERTEBRATES THOUGH BECAUSE AN INVERTEBRATE HAS NO BACK BONE.

'I MAY STAY INSIDE MY SHELL BUT EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE I'LL BE BRAVE'



CONCLUSION

HERMIT CRABS ARE A HUGE ASSET TO THE NEW ZEALAND ROCKY SHORE AND ARE A CREATIVE AND FUN ANIMAL. WE NEED TO MAKE SURE WE ARE LOOKING AFTER THE ROCKY SHORE ENVIRONMENT WELL BECAUSE FOR SO MANY ANIMALS THIS IS THEIR HOME AND THEY DON'T WANT IT DESTROYED, SO STOP LITTERING, PICK UP RUBBISH AND LEAVE SHELLS ON THE BEACH!



Hermit Crab
song



'Staying
inside the
shell is
okay,
SOMETIMES'



GLOSSARY

DETRITUS

IF AN ANIMAL IS A DETRITUS FEEDER THEY WILL EAT DEAD AND DYING ANIMALS, SIMILAR TO A SCAVENGER.

ENVIRONMENT

WHERE AN ANIMAL/HUMAN LIVE, OR WHERE THEY ARE AT THE TIME.

PAGURIDAE

A FAMILY THAT CONSISTS OF UP TO 34 DIFFERENT SPECIES OF HERMIT CRABS, INCLUDING THE NZ HERMIT CRAB.

PAGURUS

NOVAEZEALANDIAE

THE SCIENTIFIC NAME FOR THE NEW ZEALAND HERMIT CRAB.

INVERTEBRATE

AN ANIMAL WITH NO BACK BONE.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: GRACE MATHEWS

MILLY

FAV THINGS

COLOUR: ORANGE, BLUE MONTH: JANUARY

FOOD: ROAST POTATO CELEBRITY: JODIE SWEETIN

BOOK: PRIMROSE RAILWAY CHILDREN TV SHOW: FULL HOUSE

SONG: BRUISES LEWIS CAPALDI

SEASON: SUMMER! MOVIES: HANNAH MONTANA, SOUND OF MUSIC

SPORT TO PLAY: NETBALL

SPORT TO WATCH: RUGBY

SPORTS TEAM : ALL BLACKS! (GO THE ABS!)



THANKYOU



Bruises
Lewis
Capaldi

**MAGNIFICENT
IMAGNITIVE
LOVING
LIKEABLE
YOUNG**



BY MILLY QUELCH

I hope you prefer the NZ Hermit Crab