



Animals with Shells

Before Your Visit:

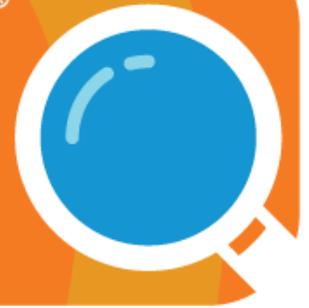
- Tell your students you will be visiting ECHO and explain that ECHO is a museum where they can play and learn about Lake Champlain and the animals that live in and around the lake.
- Create a list of "I wonder..." questions to ask a museum staff member during your field trip. Many children wonder if they will see a shark at ECHO.
- Read *A House for Hermit* by Eric Carle and add any new questions to the "I Wonder" list that might be inspired by the book. One question might be, "I wonder if hermit crabs live in Lake Champlain?"

While You are at ECHO:

- Visit the Sea Tank to see a hermit crab like the one from the story.
 - Hermit crabs are found in the sea tank at the top of the central staircase.
 - Ask the volunteer to show the children a hermit crab.
 - The Sea Tank volunteer would be a good person to ask your "I wonder" questions to, like I wonder if Hermit Crabs live in Lake Champlain? or Does the Hermit Crab make it's own shell?
- Look for other animals that carry their "houses" on their backs like the hermit crab in the story.
 - The periwinkle snail also lives in the Sea Tank at ECHO. Unlike the Hermit Crab, they can make their own shell.
 - The box turtle is found in the upstairs animal care window. He can pull his entire body into his shell and closes it up tight for protection.
 - The baby spiny softshell turtles can be found in the upstairs Action Lab tank. Look how small their shells are. Turtles remain attached to the same shell for their entire life. The shell will grow as the turtle grows. The spiny softshell turtle's shell protects its body, but is not big enough for the turtle to pull all of its body



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parts inside like the box turtle. The spiny softshell has to compensate for this lack of protection by being a fast swimmer.

- See how many animals with shells the children can find at ECHO. You might want to copy the Animals with Shells Scavenger Hunt or ask for a copy from the front desk when you arrive at ECHO.
- Visit the Resource Room across from the Sea Tank. Ask the Resource Room staff member if they can show you an example of an animal that has a shell. This is another good person for the children to ask questions to.

Back at School:

- Read a book about a turtle like *Little Turtle's Big Adventure* from Random House or *Turtle Splash* by Cathryn Falwell.
- Talk about how hermit crabs and turtles are alike and how they are different.

	Turtles	Hermit Crabs
How are they alike?		
Has a shell	✓	✓
Spends time in water	✓	✓
Lays eggs	✓	✓
Has legs	✓	✓
Has eyes	✓	✓
Other Similarities?		



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How are they different?		
Born with a shell	✓	x
Finds a shell	x	✓
Lays eggs on land	✓	
Lays eggs in the water	x	✓
Breathes air (has lungs)	✓	x
Breathes underwater (has gills)	x	✓
Other differences?		

- Animals with shells craft projects:

