Real Sandpiper Point: hermit crab shells



Sandpiper Point is made up. The animals and plants on this page are real, and so are the facts. Each one comes from the source named beneath it.

- A hermit crab moves into larger shells as it grows.
  Source: Monterey Bay Aquarium. www.montereybayaquarium.org/animals-the-ocean/animals-a-to-z/hermit-crab
- Hermit crabs outgrow their shells, "like a growing child needs new clothes," and need an upgrade.
  Source: National Park Service (Gulf Islands). home.nps.gov/guis/learn/nature/hermitcrab.htm
- Pagurus samuelis, a common California tide-pool hermit crab, prefers the shell of the black turban snail.
  Source: Monterey Bay Aquarium. www.montereybayaquarium.org/animals-the-ocean/animals-a-to-z/hermit-crab
- The blueband hermit crab lives in the middle to high tide zones and in tide pools, from British Columbia to Mexico.
  Source: UC San Diego (Under Morro Bay). under-morro-bay.ucsd.edu/invertebrates/blueband-hermit-crab
- When a new empty shell appears, hermit crabs can queue from largest to smallest, so one shell starts a chain of swaps.
  Source: ScienceDaily (University of Exeter study). www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/04/100426141458.htm

Where they live

The blueband hermit crab lives in the middle to high tide zones and in tide pools, from British Columbia to Mexico. The tide-pool hermit crab Pagurus samuelis is common in California.

In the stories

Tully and the New Baby uses the shell swap for a big change: too small, too tight, too big, just right. The shell swap in the story is our own telling; in real life, crabs queue up when a new shell appears.

Stories: Tully and the New Baby, Tully's First Day.

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