

The Night the Crabs Took Back the Beach

A Grade 2 Lesson on Responsibility, Teamwork, and Caring for the Environment

Grade Level: 2

Time: 45–60 Minutes

Text: The Night the Crabs Took Back the Beach by Kris Marvin

Essential Question

How can our actions help protect the places where animals live?

Big Idea

People and animals share the environment. Small actions, such as cleaning up litter, can make a big difference.

Learning Objectives

Students will:

- Identify ways litter affects animal habitats.
- Explain the central message of the story.
- Describe how teamwork helped solve a problem.
- Identify actions they can take to help keep beaches and other habitats clean.

Materials

- The Night the Crabs Took Back the Beach
- Chart paper or whiteboard
- Crayons or colored pencils
- “Helping Our Habitat” worksheet
- Pictures of ghost crabs and beach habitats (optional)

Vocabulary

- Habitat
- Litter
- Environment
- Responsibility
- Teamwork
- Community

Hook: A Beach Mystery (5 Minutes)

Show students a picture of a clean beach and a littered beach.

Ask:

- Which beach would you rather visit?
- Which beach would a crab rather live on?
- Why?

Explain that today they will hear a story about some crabs who discovered a problem on their beach.

Read Aloud (15 Minutes)

Read *The Night the Crabs Took Back the Beach* aloud.

Pause occasionally and ask:

- How do the crabs feel?
- What problem do they discover?
- What are they trying to do?
- How are they working together?

Discussion (10 Minutes)

Create a chart titled: **Problem and Solution**

Problem: People left trash on the beach.

Solution: The crabs worked together to clean their home.

Discuss:

- Why was the trash a problem?
- How did teamwork help?
- What lesson can we learn from the crabs?

Activity: Helping Our Habitat (15 Minutes)

Students draw a picture of a habitat they want to protect.

Examples:

- Beach
- Park
- Pond
- Backyard
- Forest

Below their drawing, students complete:

I can help by...

Examples:

- Picking up litter
- Recycling
- Respecting wildlife
- Keeping waterways clean

Students share their ideas with a partner.

Teamwork Challenge (10 Minutes)

Divide students into small groups.

Give each group a simple task such as building a paper tower or cleaning up scattered paper scraps.

Afterward ask:

- Was it easier to work alone or together?
- How were you like the crabs in the story?

Discuss how teamwork helps solve problems.

Assessment**Exit Ticket**

Complete the sentence:

One thing I can do to help animals is _____.

Students may write or draw their answer.

Extension Activities**Beach Cleanup Poster**

Students create a poster encouraging others to keep beaches clean.

Include:

- A picture
- A slogan
- One way people can help

Examples:

- "Leave Only Footprints!"
- "Keep Our Beaches Clean!"
- "Protect Our Crab Friends!"

Conservation Connection

Discuss how litter can affect:

- Crabs
- Sea turtles
- Fish
- Birds

Explain that even one piece of trash picked up can help protect wildlife.

Closing Reflection

Ask: What did the crabs teach us?

Florida Standards

Science

SC.2.L.17.1

Compare and contrast the basic needs that all living things, including humans, have for survival.

SC.2.L.17.2

Recognize and explain that living things are found all over Earth, but each is only able to live in habitats that meet its basic needs.

English Language Arts

ELA.2.R.1.1

Identify and explain the central idea and relevant details in a text.

ELA.2.R.3.2

Describe the relationships among events in a story.

ELA.2.C.1.2

Write informative texts using information from a source.