

# Hermit Crab Ordinal Numbers

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**Strand:** Number and Number Sense

**Topic:** Identify and write ordinal numbers

**Primary SOL:** 2.3 The student will

- a) count and identify the ordinal positions first through twentieth, using an ordered set of objects; and
- b) write the ordinal numbers 1<sup>st</sup> through 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Materials:**

- *A House for Hermit Crab* by Eric Carle
- Index cards with months of the year (one month per card)
- Drawing paper
- Crayons
- Hula-Hoop
- Paper cups (20)
- Paper crab to hide under the cup (attached)

**Vocabulary**

*ordinal positions first through twentieth*

**Student/Teacher Actions: What should students be doing? What should teachers be doing?**

1. Divide the class into 12 groups, giving each group a card with a month of the year listed on it.
2. Before reading the story *A House for Hermit Crab*, explain to the students that they will need to listen carefully because they will be drawing and recounting the events that happened to the hermit crab during their group's assigned month.
3. Read the book, taking time to discuss with students the events that occurred during each month.
4. After hearing the story give each group a few minutes to draw a picture representing the events that happened during their assigned month.
5. Line up the students in the order of their months by asking questions such as, "Which group has the *first* month of the year?" A member of the group should answer in a complete sentence, "I have January, the first month of the year." Continue in this manner until all 12 months have been represented. Emphasize ordinal numbers in the directions.
6. Beginning with January, have a member of each group tell what happened to the hermit crab during the assigned month.
7. After retelling their stories, have all students sit down, except for the students holding the drawings. Have those students sit in a row on the floor.

8. Ask students questions related to the story that involve ordinal numbers. The student answering the question should place a Hula-Hoop over the student holding the correct drawing, then orally tell the answer. Examples of questions may include
  - What happened to the hermit crab during the *third* month of the year?
  - Which month is the *tenth* month of the year?
  - During which month did the hermit crab decorate his shell with coral?
  - During which month did the hermit crab and his friends enter the forest of seaweed?
9. When a student answers the question using ordinal numbers, then he/she will take the place of the student holding the drawing. This will ensure that each student will be questioned about ordinal numbers.
10. Play the game, “Where’s the Crab?” The object of the game is to guess the location of the crab in three or fewer guesses. The person guessing must use an ordinal number in the guess.
  - Have a set of 20 small paper cups or shells turned upside down in a row.
  - A student will hide a paper crab under one of the cups.
  - Choose a student to guess the position of the crab using an ordinal number. If the guess is incorrect, turn the cup upright to help the students narrow the choices.
  - Then the student who hid the crab must give a hint by responding that the crab is either further from the guess or closer to the guess.
  - Play continues until the crab is discovered.
  - Game variations: The set of cups could be presented in lines or rows from left to right, right to left, top to bottom, or bottom to top.

### Assessments

- **Questions**
  - What month is the fourth month of the year?
  - What is the ordinal number for the month you were born?
  - What is the 12<sup>th</sup> month?
- **Journal/writing prompts**
  - Explain to a friend what an ordinal number is.
  - Write the steps used to tie your shoes using ordinal numbers
  - How would sports be different without ordinal numbers?
  - Where do we use ordinal numbers in our world?
- **Other Assessments**
  - Observe during the activities and take note of students that still refer back to cardinal numbers rather than ordinal numbers.

- Pick a variety of holidays or days students will know the corresponding month. Ask for the ordinal number for the month. For example, Valentine’s Day is in February which is the 2<sup>nd</sup> month.

**Extensions and Connections (for all students)**

- Line students up according to last name (or first name). Have them identify their order in class.
- Write the steps for making a peanut butter and jelly sandwich using ordinal numbers.

**Strategies for Differentiation**

- Make signs that students can hold, representing the ordinal number for each student in the class. Some may benefit from seeing the ordinal number as they line up or count off in class.



- Students can practice putting ordinal numbers in order from 1<sup>st</sup> through 20<sup>th</sup> (or according to the number of students in the class) using the signs.

Carle, E., Damron, W., & Troost, E. V. (2015). A house for hermit crab. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers.

**Note: The following pages are intended for classroom use for students as a visual aid to learning.**

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# Crab Pattern

