

First Home-Grown
Proudly Singaporean
Owned



SCIENCE ADVENTURES

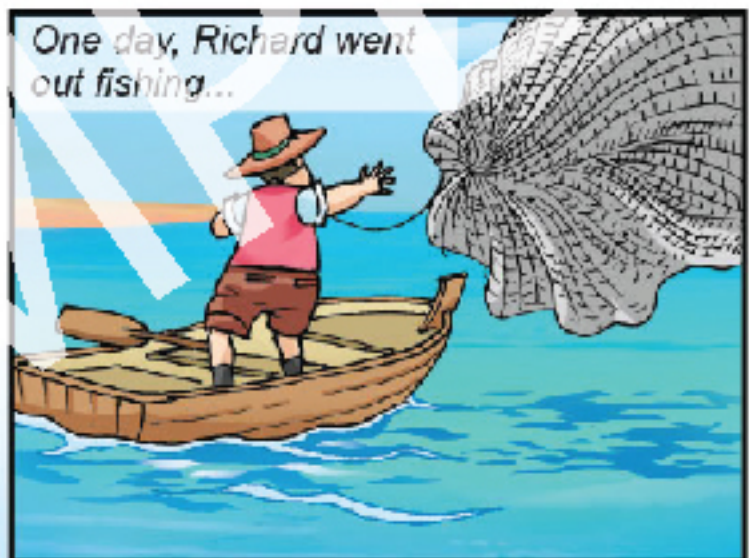
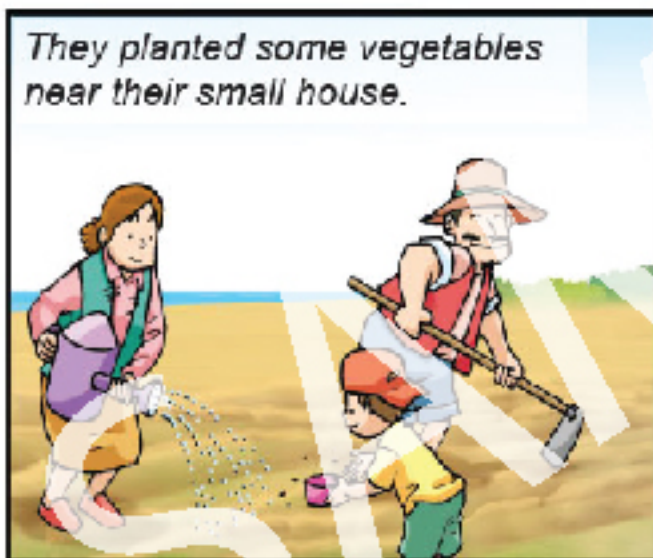
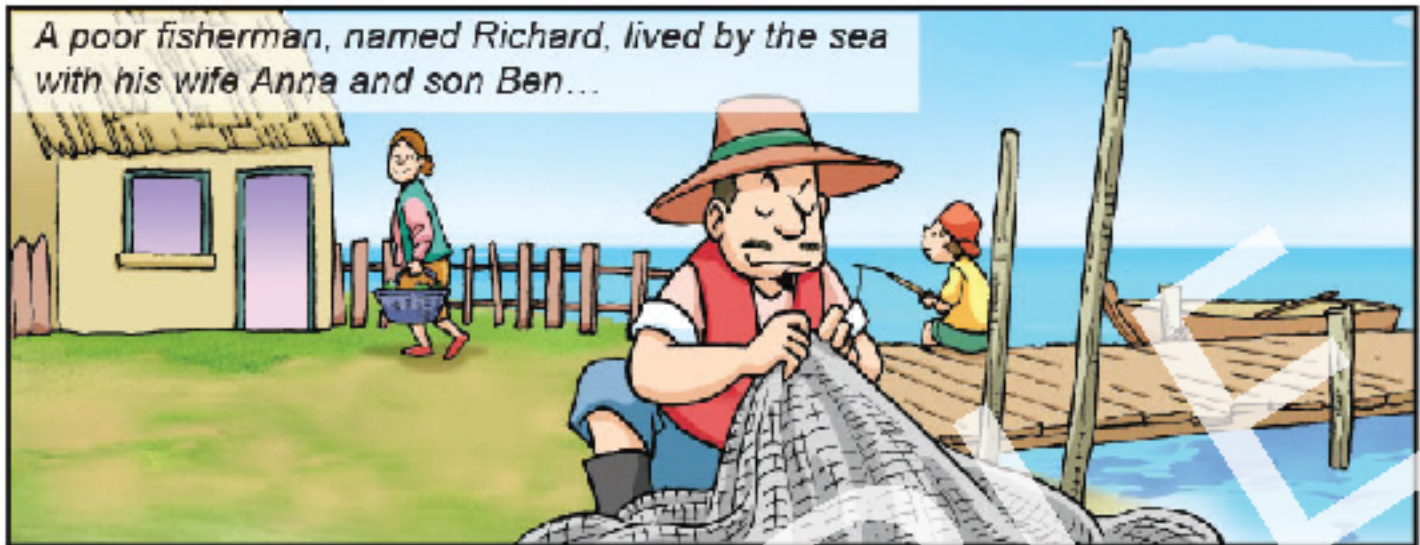


Black Sand
Beach

STEM
51
Lower Primary

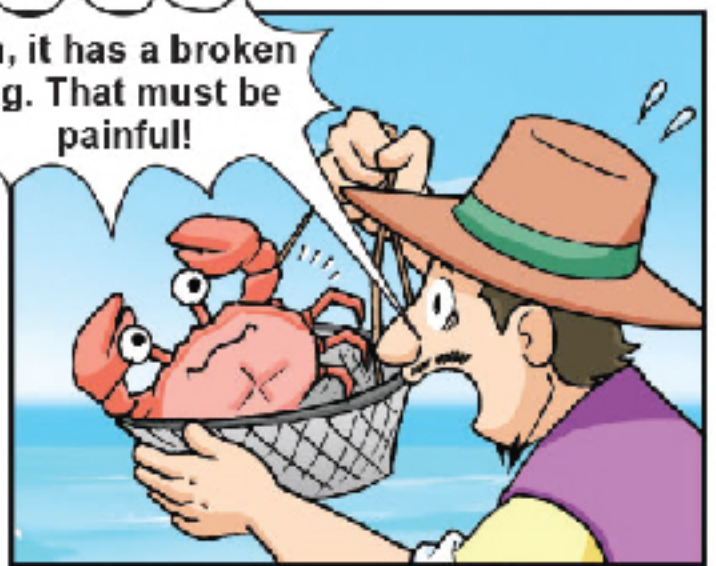


Crab, My Friend

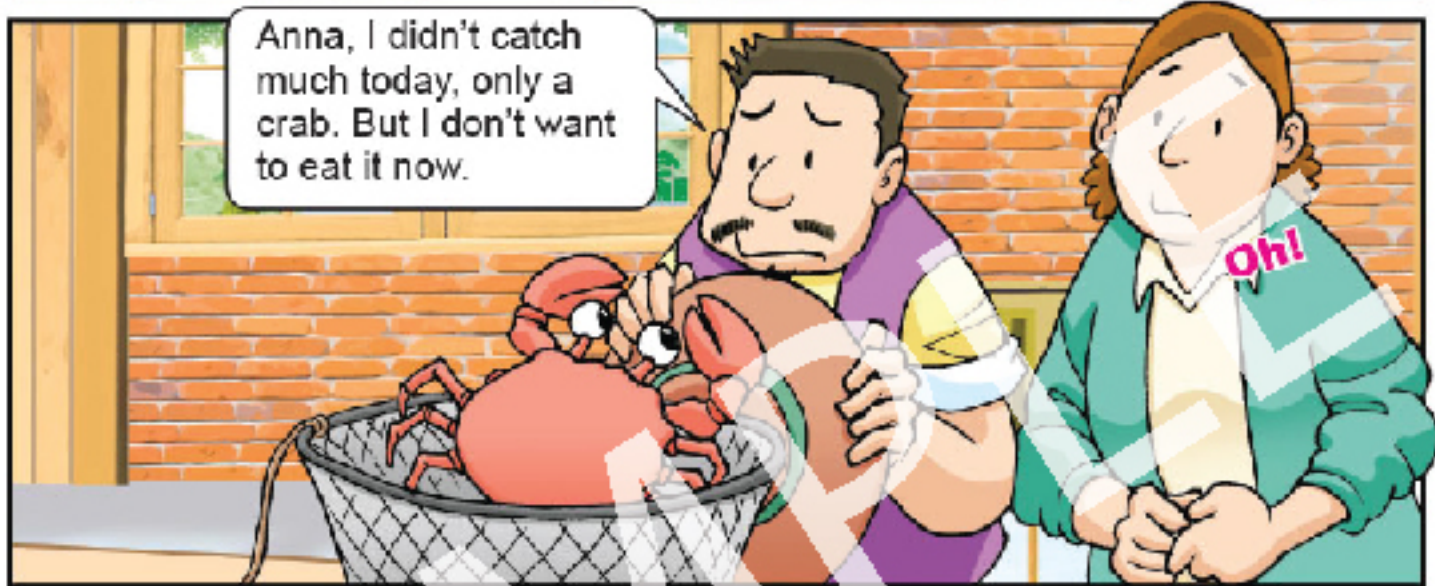




Yay! One crab is better than nothing.



Oh, it has a broken leg. That must be painful!



Anna, I didn't catch much today, only a crab. But I don't want to eat it now.

Oh!



That's okay. We have enough vegetables to eat.

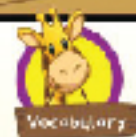
Huh? Okay!



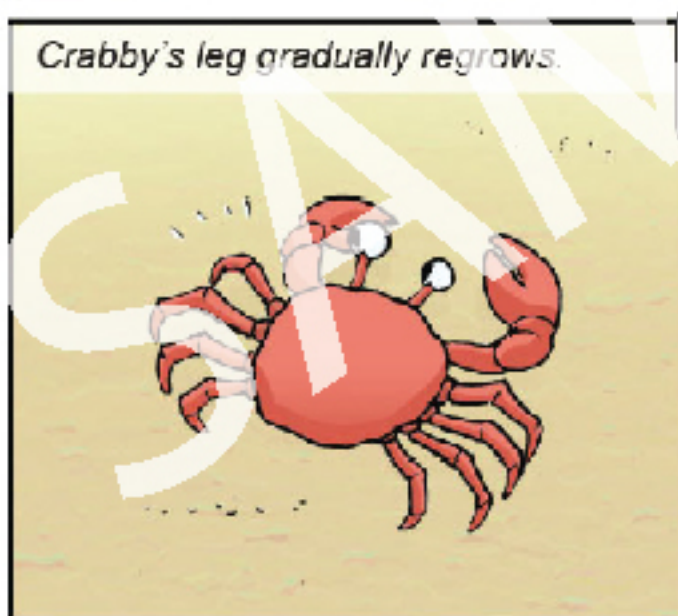
Now I can take care of you!

Now I Know!

Crabs are ***crustaceans**. Their body is protected by their hard shell. Crabs breathe with their ***gills**.



***crustaceans:** animals with no backbone, such as a crab, lobster or shrimp, that are part of the mainly aquatic group Crustacea
***gills:** the body part used by some water-based animals to breathe

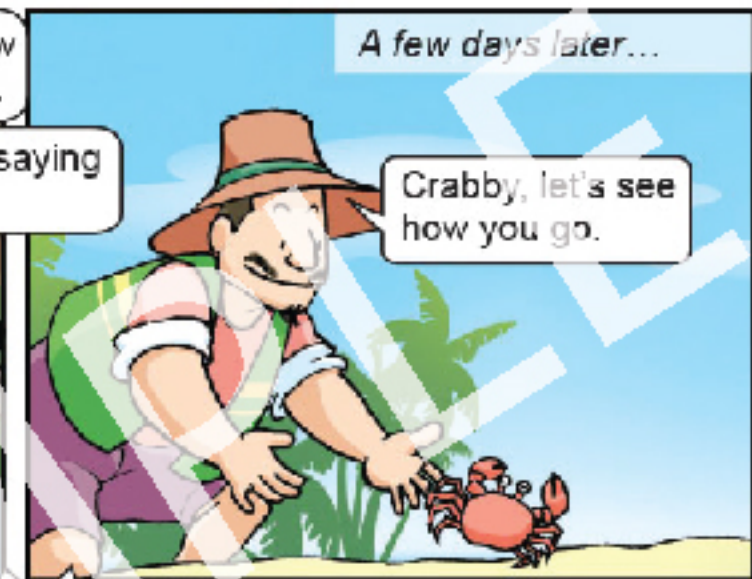
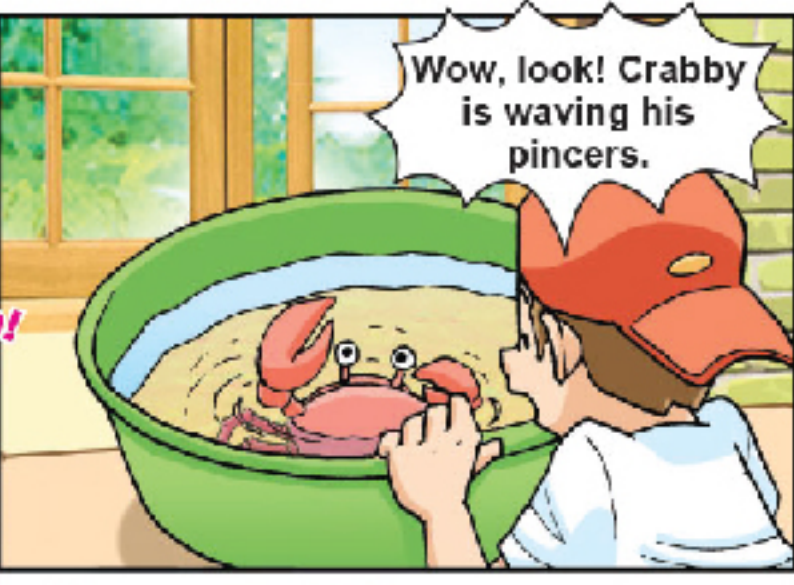
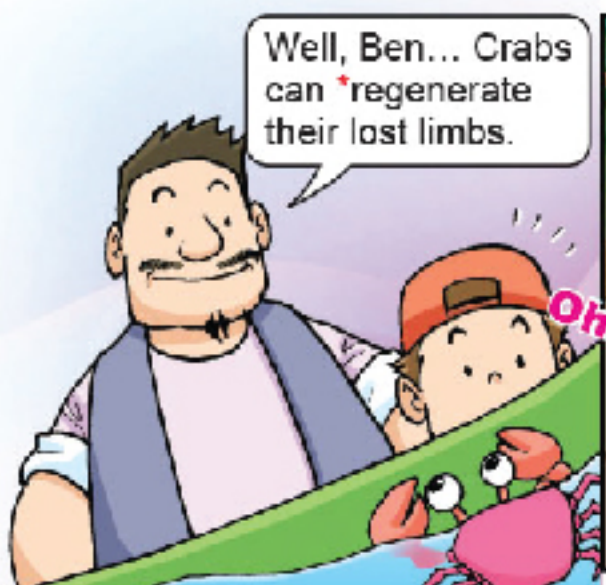


Now I Know!

Crabs are ***omnivores** that mainly feed on algae. Sometimes they also eat ***micro-organisms**, small shrimps and even animal ***corpses**.



- *corpses:** dead bodies
- *micro-organisms:** microscopic organisms
- *omnivores:** animals that eat plants and meat



Now I Know!

Because of their joint ***structures**, crabs walk more quickly when they walk sideways. This is why they usually move sideways.



***regenerate:** grow again
***structures:** the arrangement of parts

Mum, Dad, look at me! I'm walking sideways too!

Ha, ha, ha...

It looks like you've completely recovered. I will take you back to the sea.

Goodbye, Crabby. We'll miss you!

Bye, Crabby!

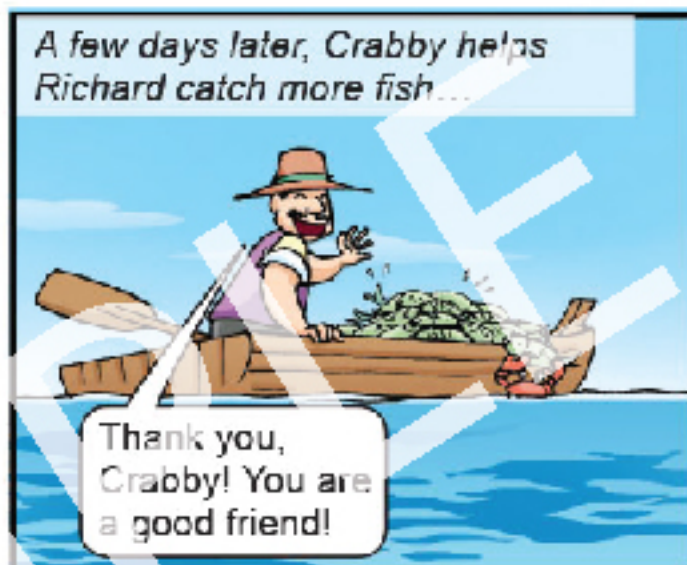
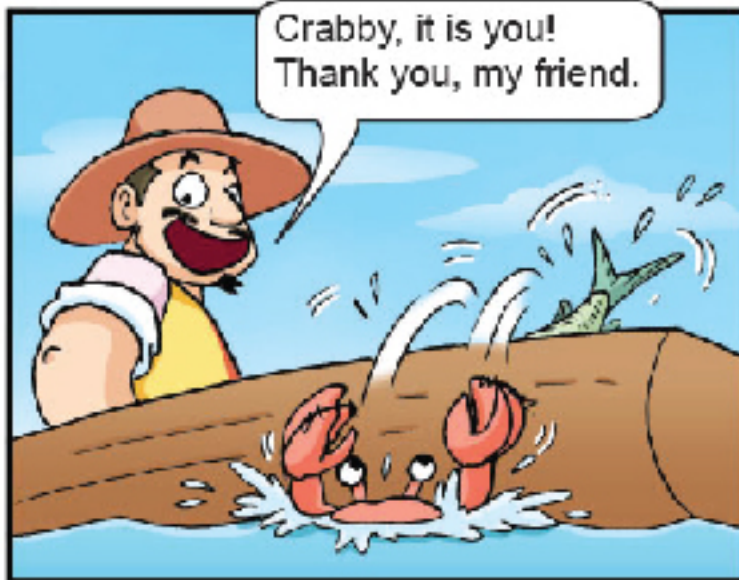
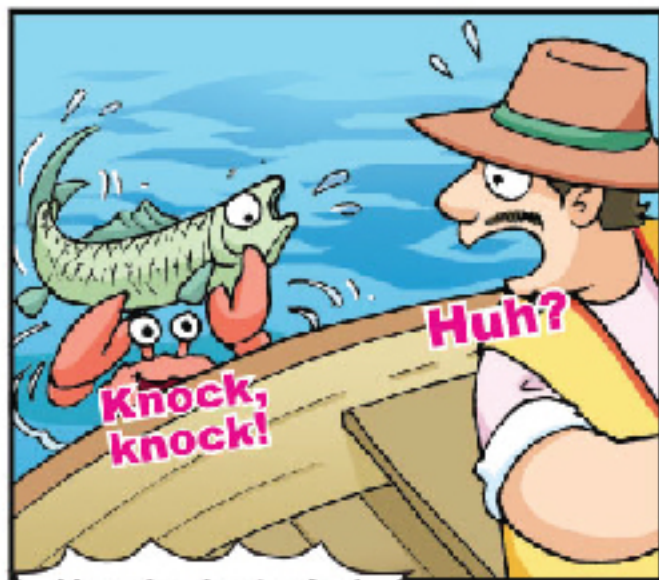
The next day...

Splash!

Now I Know!

A female crab can lay many eggs at a time, sometimes several million eggs or more.





In this story, we find out more about crabs and what makes them so special. Crabs are strange animals. They look funny and walk in a funny way as well. We should always be kind to animals (and people), but be careful around crabs as their pincers are powerful and sharp.



*aggressive: ready to attack

Now I Know!

Male crabs can be ***aggressive**. They often fight with each other over females, food and hiding places.



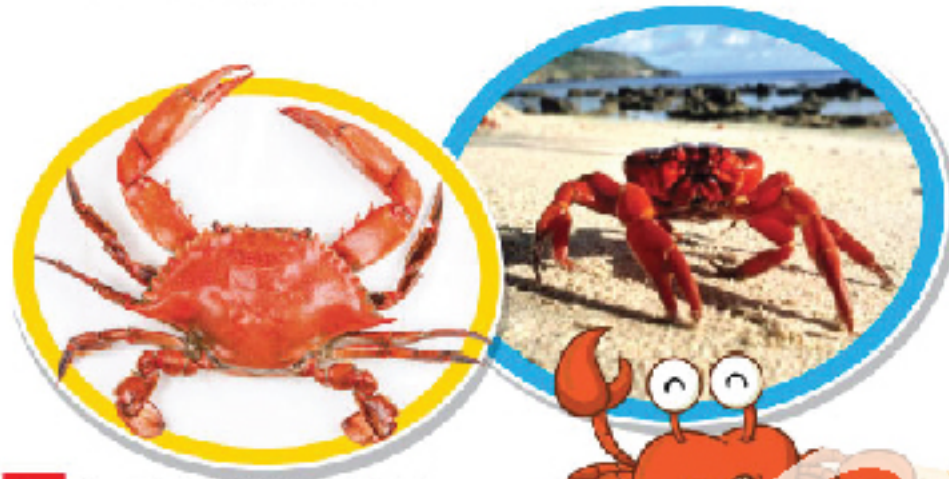
Dear Ranger Jack,



RANGER JACK
The Animal Whisperer

Q: Do crabs really have so many legs?

A: Crabs belong to the Decapod family which has 5 pairs of walking legs. In the case of crabs, the first pair of legs are claws. See the huge pincers? Some crabs can regrow their legs, and even their claws, a year after losing them.



Q: Where do crabs live?

A: Crabs live all over: in the sea, in fresh water, and also on land. Most crab bodies are quite flat. This allows them to crawl into narrow spaces to hide from predators.

Q: How do crabs see?
Where are their eyes?

A: Crabs are so fascinating. Their eyes are found on the stalks coming out of their head. They can move these eyestalks in different directions. This helps the crabs look around while hiding under water, rocks, corals, sand or mud.



Q: How do you know if a crab is a male or a female?

A: They are different in size, shape and colour. The easiest way to distinguish them is to flip the crab upside down and look at the 'apron' — males have pointy aprons while females have rounded aprons.

Do you have a question about animals for Ranger Jack? Write to Ranger Jack at Jack.animalwhisperer@gmail.com. You can even share a video with Ranger Jack of you walking like a crab. Remember to include your name, age and school. You might even see your questions in the next issue of *Science Adventures!*