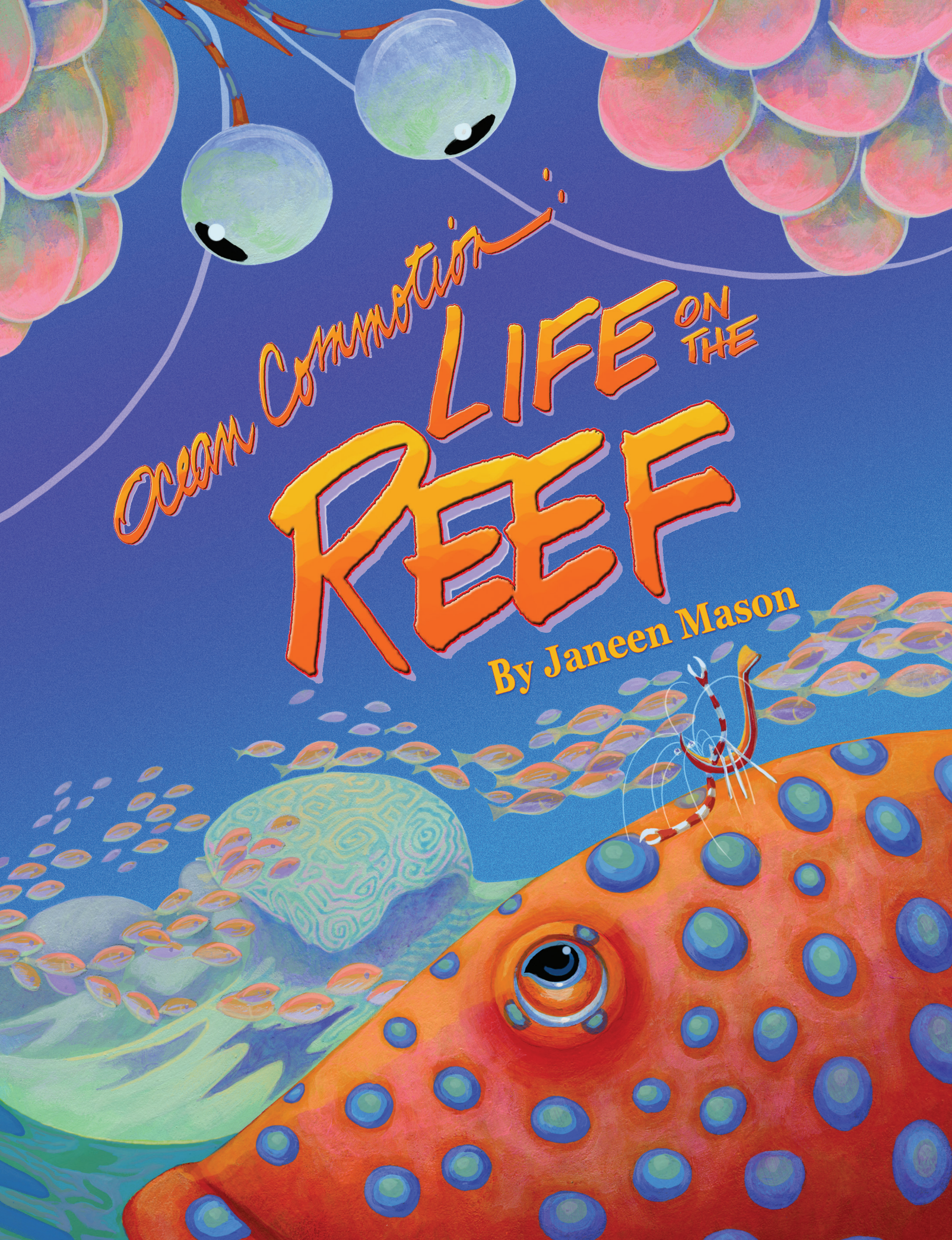


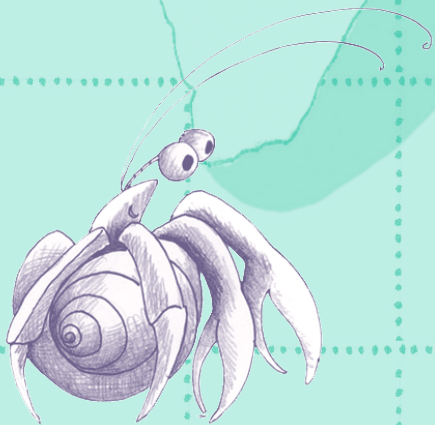
Ocean Commotion!

LIFE ON THE REEF

By Janeen Mason



Almost three-quarters of the earth's surface is covered in water. Less than 1 percent of the total area is accessible to diving, and another 88 percent is more than 1,000 meters deep. • Consistently warm temperatures at the equator cause water to evaporate and raise the ocean's salinity. Coral reefs survive only in the warm, salty environment near the equator, up to thirty degrees latitude north and thirty degrees latitude south. • Corals reefs grow only about as fast as your hair. • Some reefs are over 500,000 years old.





During one week in 1998, 80 percent of the coral reefs around the world suffered coral bleaching. Many have since recovered, but 40 percent of all reefs remain in jeopardy. • Another threat to reefs is ocean acidification. The ocean absorbs 25 percent of the earth's carbon dioxide (CO₂), so the chemicals released into the air also end up in the sea. When carbon emissions from cars and factories dissolve in the water, they create an acid that causes shells and coral reefs to dissolve.

Ocean Commotion!
LIFE ON THE REEF
By Janeen Mason

“An exquisitely illustrated guided tour beneath the waves, designed to excite wonder and curiosity and foster a generation of ocean stewards.”

—Dr. Edith Widder, president and senior scientist, Ocean Research & Conservation Association

“We are extremely proud of Janeen’s recent accomplishments . . . not only as a member of the Florida Arts Council, but as one of Florida’s many talented individual artists.”

—Kurt S. Browning,
Florida secretary of state

“Getting children interested and educated in the marine environment is vital to our ocean’s future. The book shows us how diverse our coral reefs are and why they are so important.”

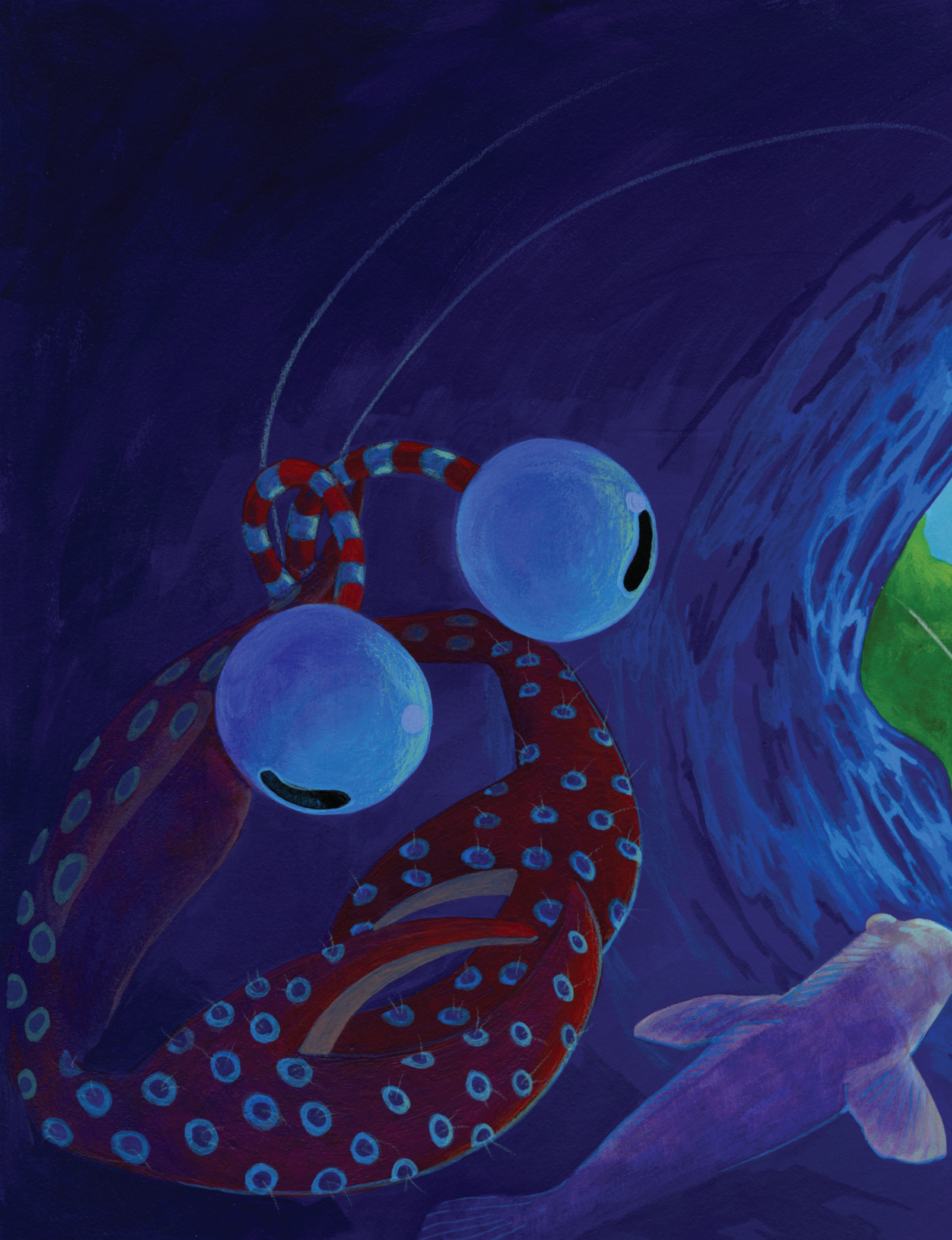
—Millard McCleary,
program director, Reef Relief

When a hermit crab discovers that her shell is too tight, she embarks on an undersea adventure across a brilliant living reef to find one that fits. Through roiling waves and a swirling light show, she tackles the ocean’s obstacles, but the ominous sound of thunder and the dangers of the ocean hasten her mission. Along the way, the crab meets such aquatic creatures as cleaner shrimp, surgeonfish, and grouper.

Each page is illuminated with bright colors, capturing the splendors of the reef. An illustrated glossary includes information about the marine life mentioned in the story and an author’s note explains the effects of pollution on the ocean’s waters.

Ocean Commotion







Ocean Commotion:
LIFE ON THE
REEF

By Janeen Mason

PELICAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

GRETNA 2010

For Kaila—Love, Nee Nee

This book is made possible by the love and support of Kevin and Penny—thank you both from the bottom of my reef-roving soul—and by scientists the world over who give their time and intellect to the spectacular world beneath our ocean’s surface.

In memory of Mae Slaton

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Mason, Janeen I.

Ocean commotion : life on the reef / Janeen Mason.

p. cm.

ISBN 978-1-58980-783-9 (hardcover : alk. paper) 1. Hermit crabs 2. Coral reef animals—Juvenile literature. 3. Molting—Juvenile literature. 4. Coral reef ecology—Juvenile literature. I. Title.

QL444.M33M37 2010

578.77’89—dc22

2010012933



Printed in Singapore
Published by Pelican Publishing Company, Inc.
1000 Burmaster Street, Gretna, Louisiana 70053



OCEAN COMMOTION: LIFE ON THE REEF

Under warm, rolling waves on a clear blue Florida dawn, the first rays of sunlight danced across the reef. A **hermit crab** squeezed and squished her soft belly into a tulip shell. *Oops!* She wouldn't fit.



A nosy **pufferfish** unexpectedly ballooned when the crab tumbled out into the open.

During each **molt** the crab grew. Her **carapace**, or hard outer skin, split open and her body emerged from the old skin. She looked the same, only bigger. Her bright new body armor started out soft so when she molted, she had to hide long enough for it to harden.