

WEIRD AND WONDERFUL ANIMALS

Lesson Plan

Crab Lab Reports

Lesson Plan for *Japanese Spider Crabs*

Grade 4

Objective

To help students practice summarizing a process described in a text.

Things Needed

- *Japanese Spider Crabs* book
- Access to the “Japanese Spider Crabs” web page on the Pop! website:
<https://popbooksonline.com/weird-and-wonderful-animals/japanese-spider-crabs/>
- Paper and pencils

Before the Activity

Open the “Japanese Spider Crabs” web page in your internet browser. Pull up the “Learn More” tab.

Activity

Read Chapter 2 (“Ten Long Legs”) and Chapter 4 (“Growing Bigger and Older”) from *Japanese Spider Crabs* aloud to students. Then, call on a student to read the caption on the “Learn More” tab aloud. Ask students to imagine they are scientists studying Japanese spider crabs. One day, they watch a crab during the molting process. They must write a summary of the process for a lab report. The lab report should be one paragraph long. It should give a step-by-step description of the molting process. It should also include specific details. The paragraph should answer the following questions:

- How old is the Japanese spider crab?
- Has the crab molted before?
- What did the crab do with its body while it molted?
- What did it do with its legs?
- What did the crab do after it molted?
- Was the crab missing any legs before it molted? What about after it molted?



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Evaluation

Collect the lab reports at the end of class. Give each student up to 10 points:

- 1 point for each of the questions the lab report addressed
- 2 points for including specific details about the crab's actions
- 1 point for describing the process in step-by-step order
- 1 point for writing that is relatively free from spelling and grammatical errors

Standards

This lesson plan may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational texts, grade 4 (RI 4.3, 4.7).



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