

SCIENCE 21

Science For the 21st Century

PACKET OF

Editable and Reproducible

Parent Letters
Blackline Masters &
Journal Pages

for SCIENCE 21 users



Grade One Unit Four
Hermit Crabs

SCIENCE 21

Science For the 21st Century

Dear SCIENCE 21 User,

Several teachers have asked for a separate packet of editable and reproducible documents that includes the Parent Letters, Blackline Masters, and Journal Pages that are a part of the **SCIENCE 21** program.

The documents on this media are provided in **MS Publisher Format** and may be used by **SCIENCE 21** participants to print, adapt, and customize any of these important components. For example, teachers often like to reproduce the parent letters onto their school stationery, or adapt worksheets for tiered activities or to meet small group needs.

We hope that this new service will be useful to you and we appreciate your support and comments.

Sincerely,

Abby B. Bergman
SCIENCE 21 Coordinator

SCIENCE 21

Parent

Letters

Grade One Unit 4

Hermit Crabs

Date_____

Dear Family,

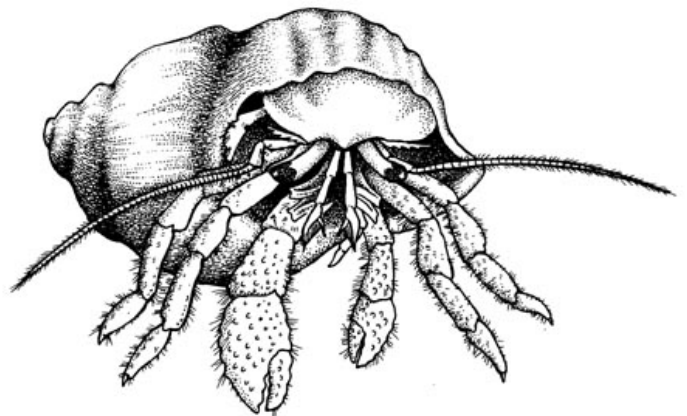
Next week we will begin studying land hermit crabs. We will be making many interesting observations about them. If desired, your child may have the opportunity to take his/her own hermit crab home at the end of our Unit.

Your child will need a large, clean, container for the hermit crab's habitat. Please send in a clear, rectangular, plastic container (similar to the salad bar containers found at a grocery store). Please write your child's name on the container clearly.

Please send in your child's container on _____.

Thank you!

Sincerely,



Date _____

Dear Family,

Beginning this week, we will be learning about and observing land hermit crabs. The children will be creating a habitat for a crab in the plastic container that you sent in. (If you have not done so yet, please send it in tomorrow.) We will be learning about the hermit crab's environment, how and what it eats, how it grows, etc.

At the end of the unit, the children may have the opportunity to bring their hermit crab home. You will receive the requirements for obtaining a hermit crab. Please read, sign and return this letter by _____ if you would be interested in keeping a hermit crab at home.

Sincerely,



Date _____

Dear Family,

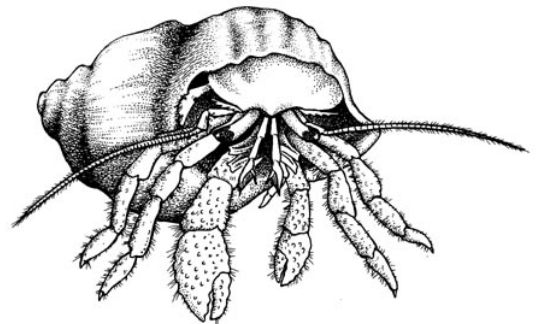
As part of our new science unit, we are observing the properties of living and non-living things. We ask you and your child to collect one item that fits the following criteria:

- solid
- hard
- natural
- heavier and bigger than a marble
- fits inside the hand
- cannot move on its own

Please send this item to school with your child on _____.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Date _____

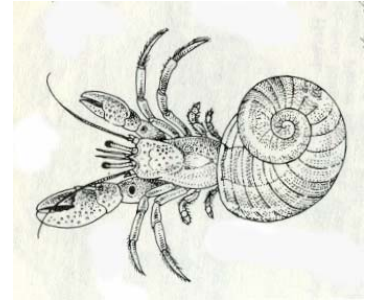
Dear Family,

Beginning this week, we will be learning about and observing land hermit crabs. The children will be creating a habitat for a crab in the plastic container that you sent in. (If you have not done so yet, please send it in tomorrow.) We will be learning about the hermit crab's environment, how and what it eats, how it grows, etc.

At the end of the unit, the children may have the opportunity to bring their hermit crab home. You will receive the requirements for obtaining a hermit crab. Please read, sign and return this letter by _____ if you would be interested in keeping a hermit crab at home.

Sincerely,





Dear Family,

Your child may soon have the opportunity to take home his/her hermit crab. Please indicate below to let us know if you would like to take it home from school.

If you decide that you will be taking the hermit crab home, you will need to arrange to have your child's pet hermit crab picked up. The habitat is fairly fragile, so they may not go home by bus.

Sincerely,

-----detach here-----

Check one box

We understand we cannot release the hermit crab into the environment. We will take the hermit crab as a pet. We will pick up the hermit crab from school on

_____.

We will not take the hermit crab home as a pet.

Child's name

Parent Signature

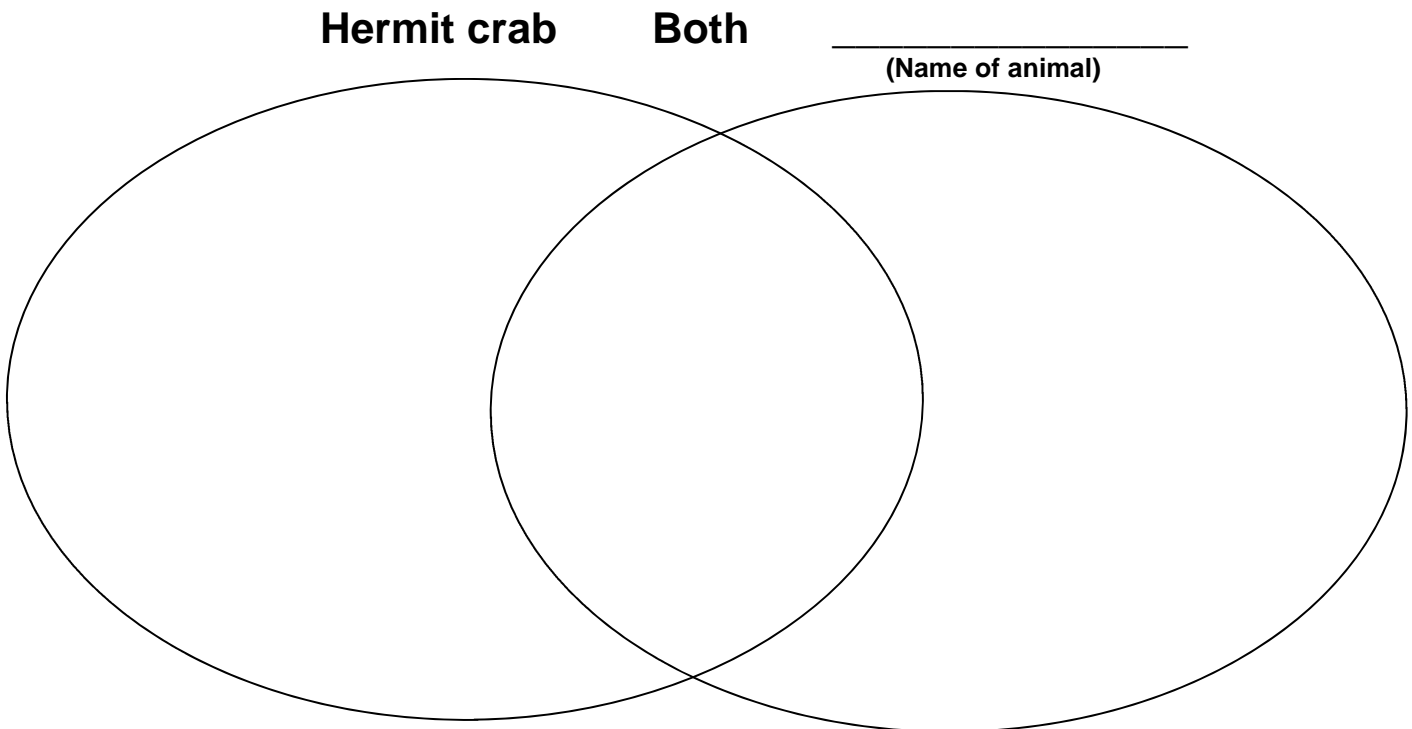
Date _____

Dear Family,

We have been comparing ourselves and our hermit crabs using a Venn diagram. Please help your child compare a hermit crab to another animal (e.g. pet or zoo animal).

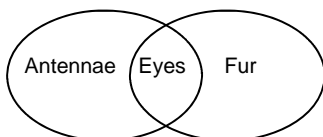
Thank you,

Your child's teacher



Example:

Hermit
Crab Both Dog



SCIENCE 21

Blackline

Masters

Grade One Unit 4

Hermit Crabs

APPENDIX B

HERMIT CRAB POEMS FOR THE CLASSROOM

Hermit Crab

I watch him scurry on the sand
To find a house that's second-hand.
He crawls in someone else's shell
And stays because it fits him well.
Imagine if we did the same,
Just barged right in and staked a claim
To any empty house that fit,
Then settled down to live in it.

By Sandra Liatsos

Decorator Hermit Crab

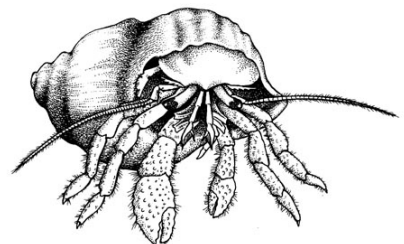
There was a little hermit crab
Who thought his tank was rather drab.
At first he didn't know what to do
Then decorated with pink and blue.
Now he is no longer crabby
With his new home, he's rather happy!

©2001 Vanessa Pike-Russell

Hermit Crabs

Keep an eye on your favorite shell,
Nearby a sly spy waits.
With one blink your shell is gone
And another in its place.

--W.E.M.



The Sad, Then Happy, Hermit Crab

I am a little hermit crab
As sad as I can be
I have a crooked walk, because
my shell's too big for me

Each time I crawl within my tank
My shell tilts left and right
I wish that I could find a shell
that is snug not tight

I tried to climb the driftwood tree
Away, away up high
I start to climb, so gracefully,
High up towards the sky

I wish I had a bigger shell
That fit me snug not tight
Then I'd climb and crawl away
All day and all night

My owner placed a new shell
Inside my habitat
It is the very perfect home
I am very glad of that

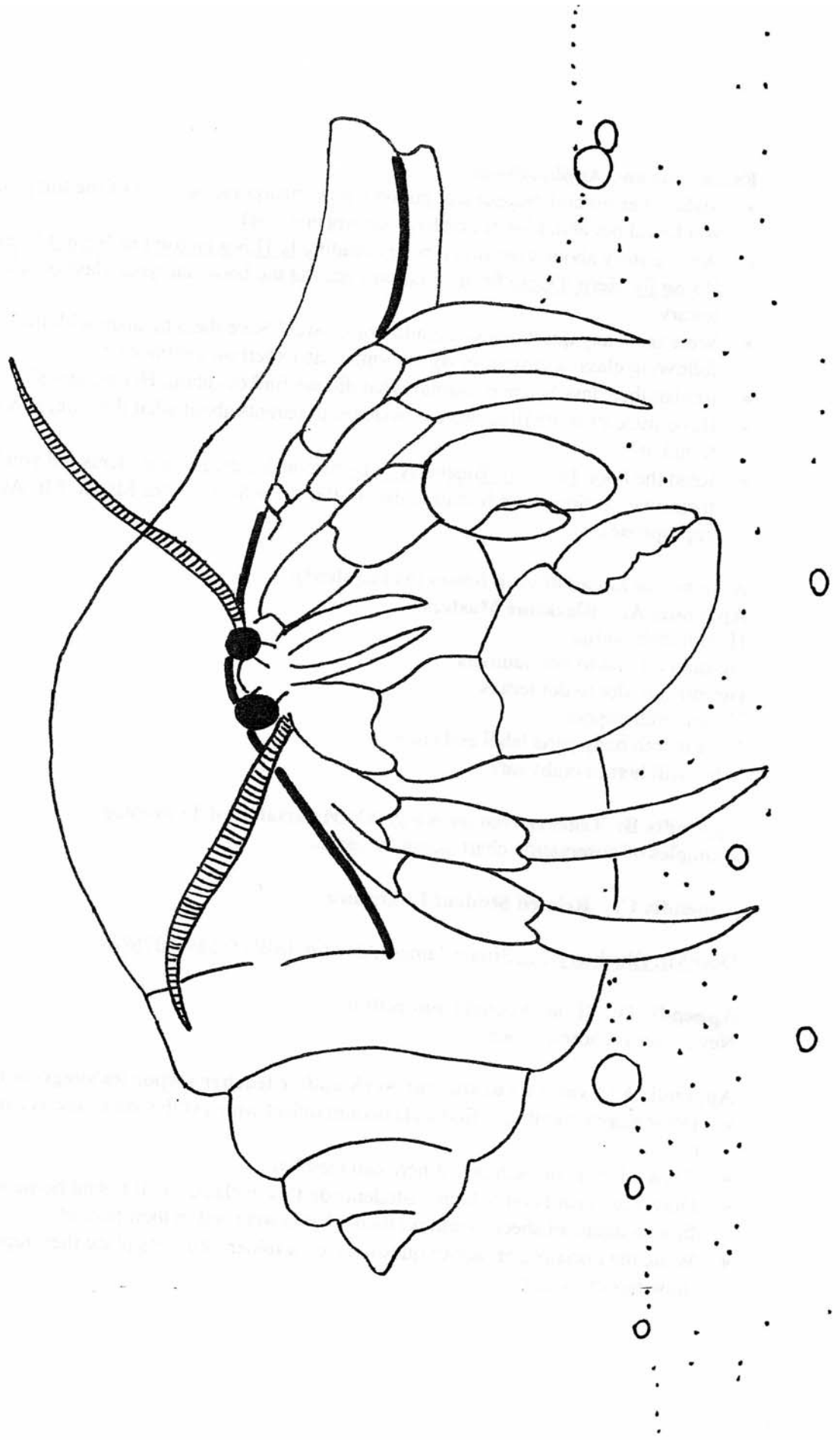
Now I can climb and I can walk
Without a sideward sway
I love my owner, and my shell
This is a happy day.

© Vanessa Pike-Russell 2000



APPENDIX D

Outline of a hermit crab to color

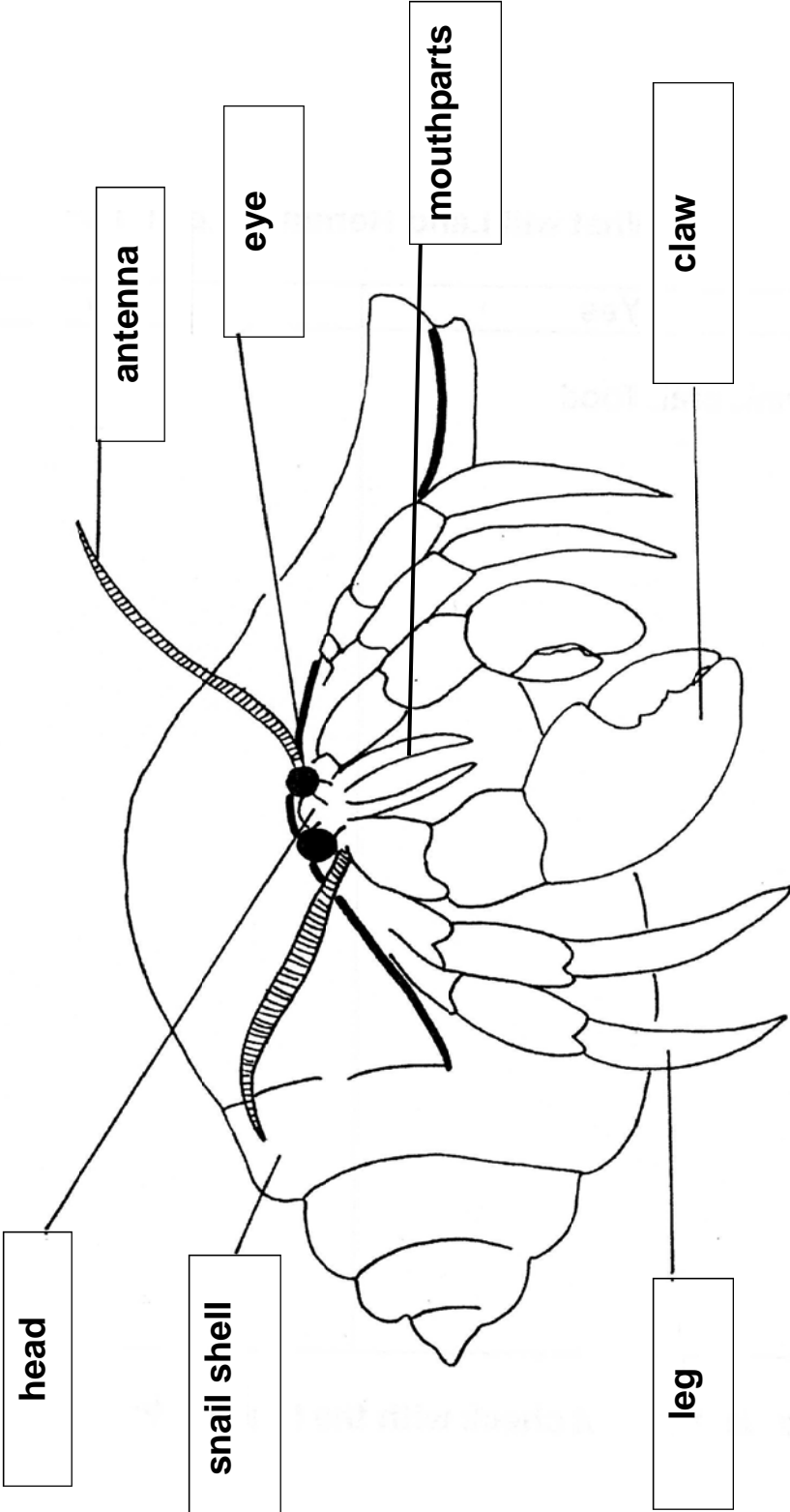


Questions and Answers About Hermit Crabs

1. How many different types (species) of hermit crabs are there?
There are many hundreds of species kinds of hermit crabs, but there are only about 13 kinds of land hermit crabs. Some inhabit mollusk shells, some chalky worm burrows, and a very few do not use shells.
2. For how long can a hermit crab live (life span)?
Hermit crabs can live anywhere from 6 to 15 years if looked after well. Some people claim their hermit crabs are over 30 years old!
3. How can you tell the difference between a male and female hermit crab?
You cannot tell if a hermit crab in its shell is male or female. Males are generally bigger than females. If the crab leaves its shell, you may be able to see the pleopods on the left side of the abdomen if it is a female.
4. In what types of environments (ecosystems) can hermit crabs live?
Most hermit crabs live under the sea, some live in tide pools. Very few live on land. Only one kind lives in fresh water.
5. What is the relationship between hermit crabs and other crabs?
Both organisms are invertebrates (animals with no back bone) called crustaceans (animals with jointed limbs). Most hermit crabs use mollusk shells to protect their bodies.
6. What is the range of a hermit crab's size?
Hermit crabs can be anywhere from a dime (5 mm) to a softball 11cm. Robber crabs (with no shells) can grow to 30 cm long.
7. Which organisms are enemies of the hermit crab?
Predators include birds, and other crabs.

Name _____

The Parts Of A Land Hermit Crab



Human and Hermit Crab Compared	
Human	Hermit Crab
Skeleton and bones	
Body parts	
Food	
Movement	
Breathing	
Babies	
Habitat	
Growth	
Special features	

SCIENCE 21

Student
Journal
Pages

Grade 1 Unit 4
Hermit Crabs

Name _____ Date _____

Properties of My Object

Property	Yes	No
Solid		
Hard		
Natural		
Heavier than 4 unifix cubes		
Bigger than a marble		
Fits in the hand		
Cannot move on its own		

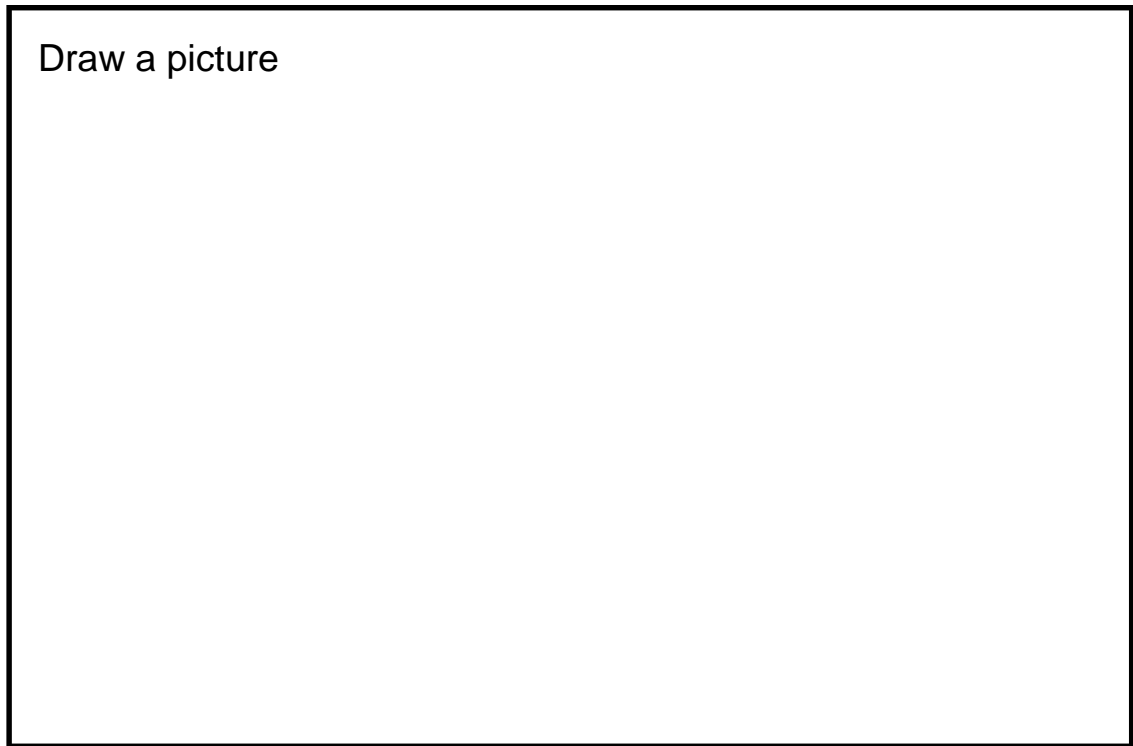
My observation:

Name _____ Date _____

My "Pet"

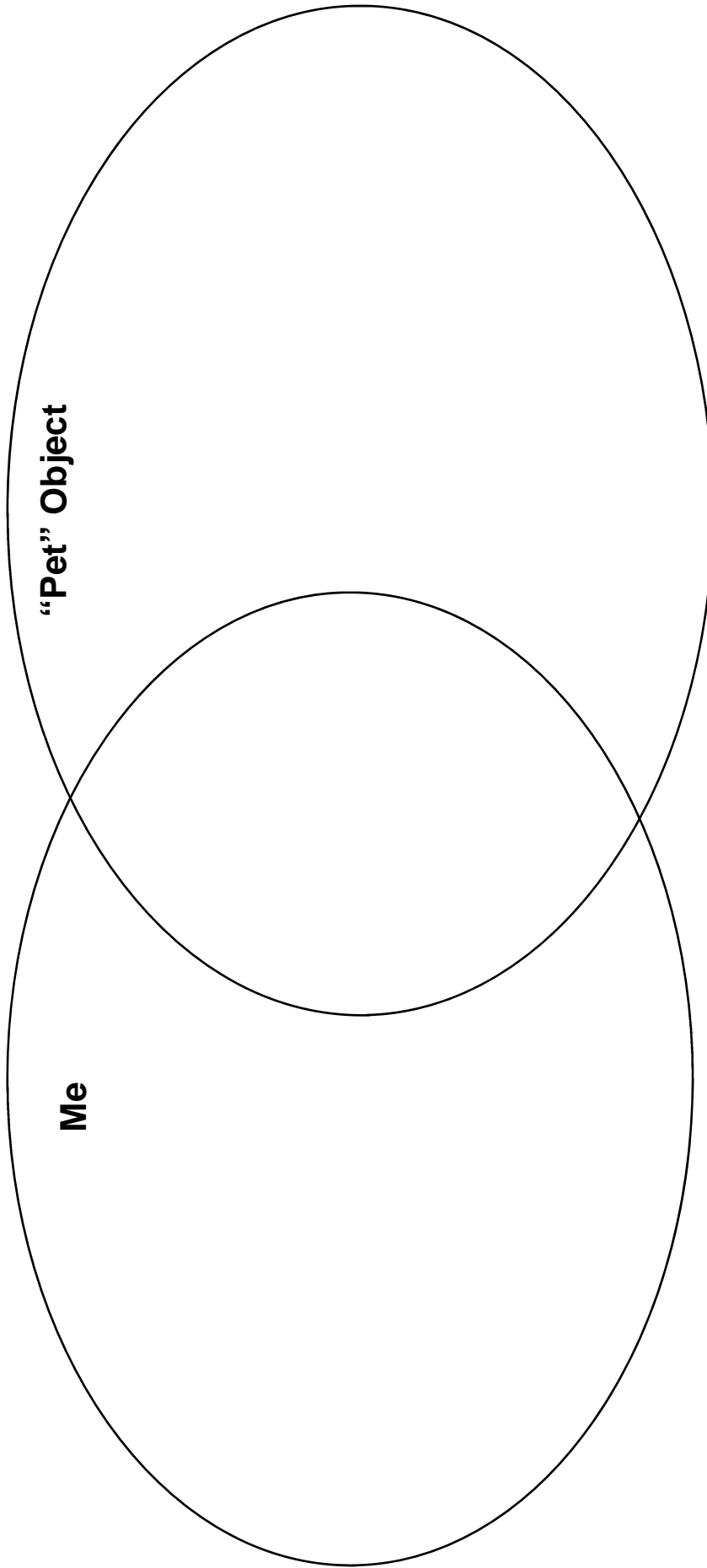
My object is a _____.

Draw a picture



My observation:

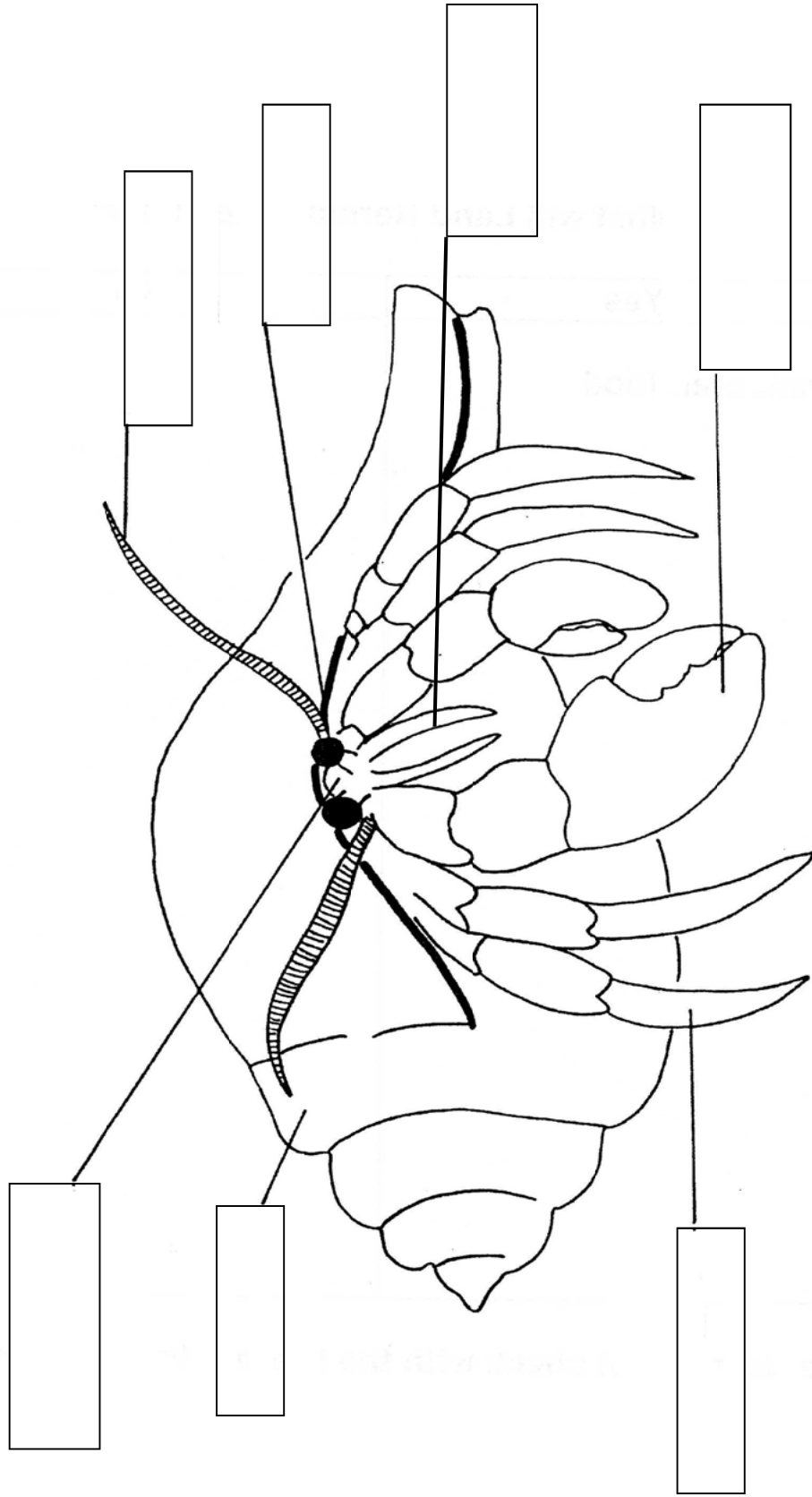
Name _____ Date _____



My thoughts:

Name _____

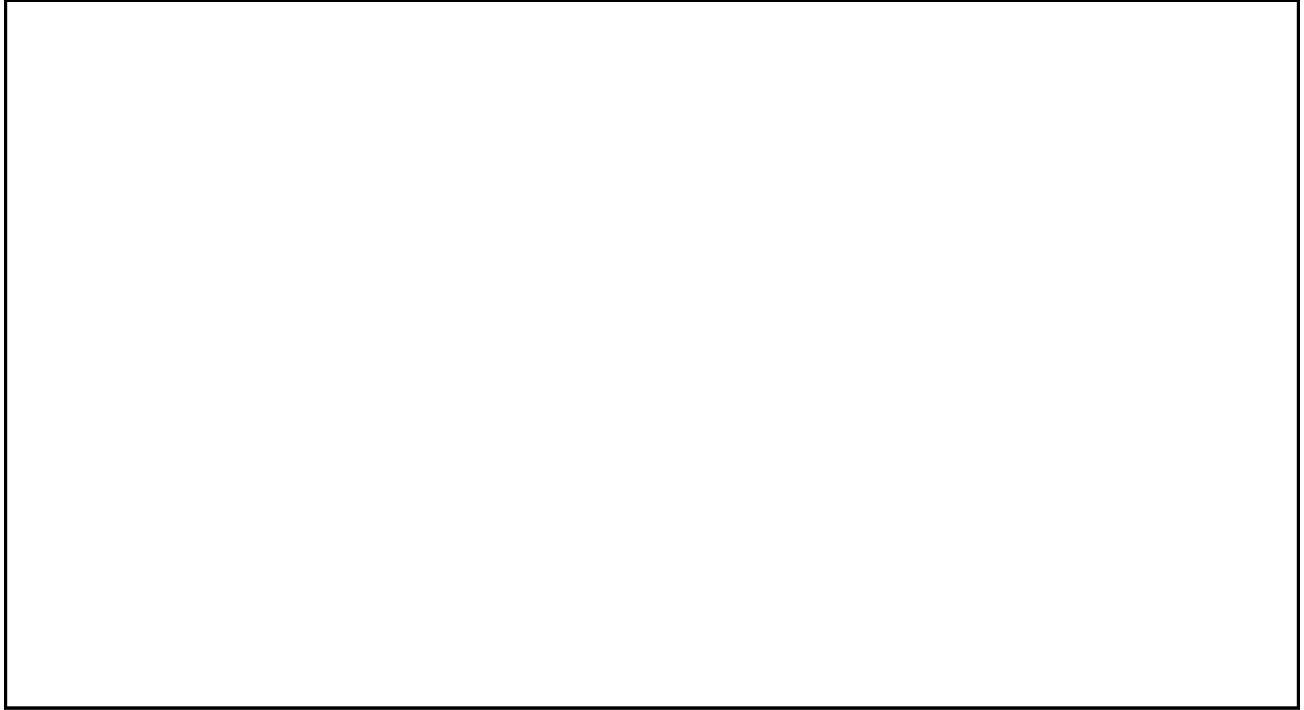
The Parts Of A Land Hermit Crab



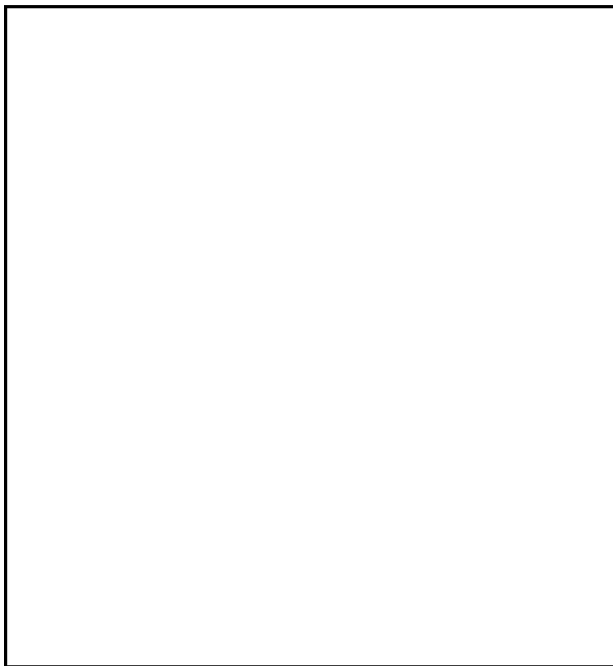
snail shell	eye	claw	antenna
leg	head	mouthparts	

Name _____ Date _____

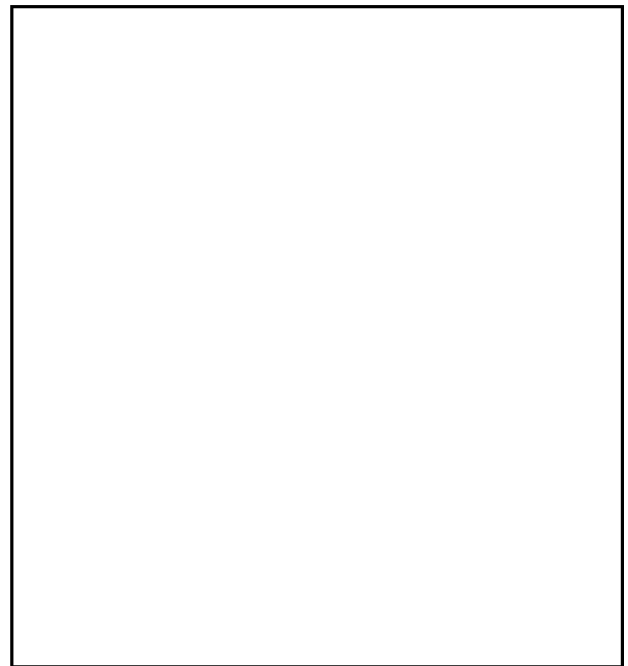
My hermit crab looks like this:



A close up look at two parts of the hermit crab:



This is the _____.



This is the _____.

How Does the Hermit Crab React?

Name of Scientist _____

Stimulus	Prediction	Observation
Another hermit crab _____		



Name _____ Date _____

Draw a picture of your hermit crab eating.



Describe how it eats:

What food did your hermit crab like best?

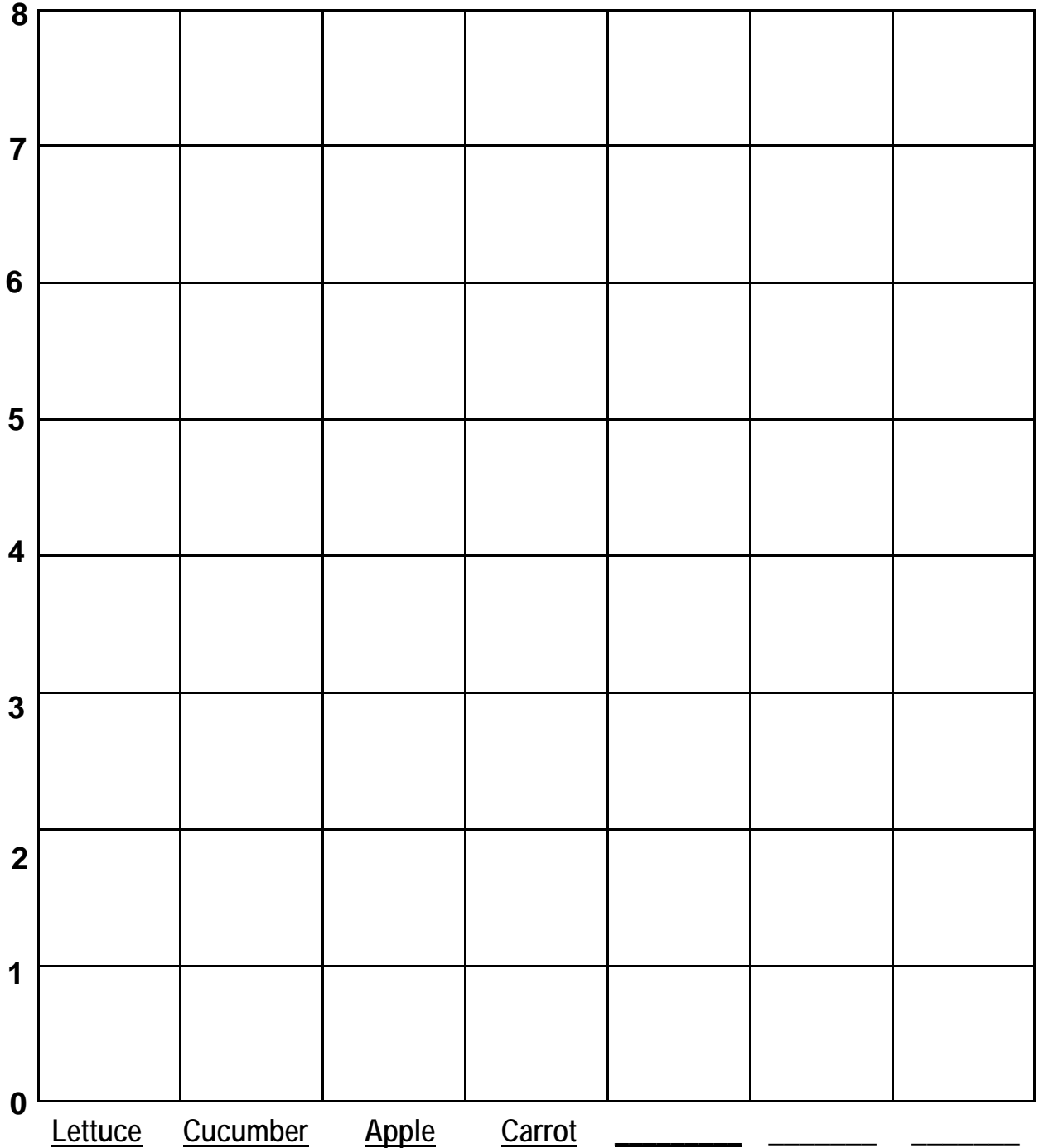
What food(s) did it like least?

How could you tell?

Name _____ Date _____

Histogram: Which foods do our hermit crabs like best?

Number of hermit crabs eating



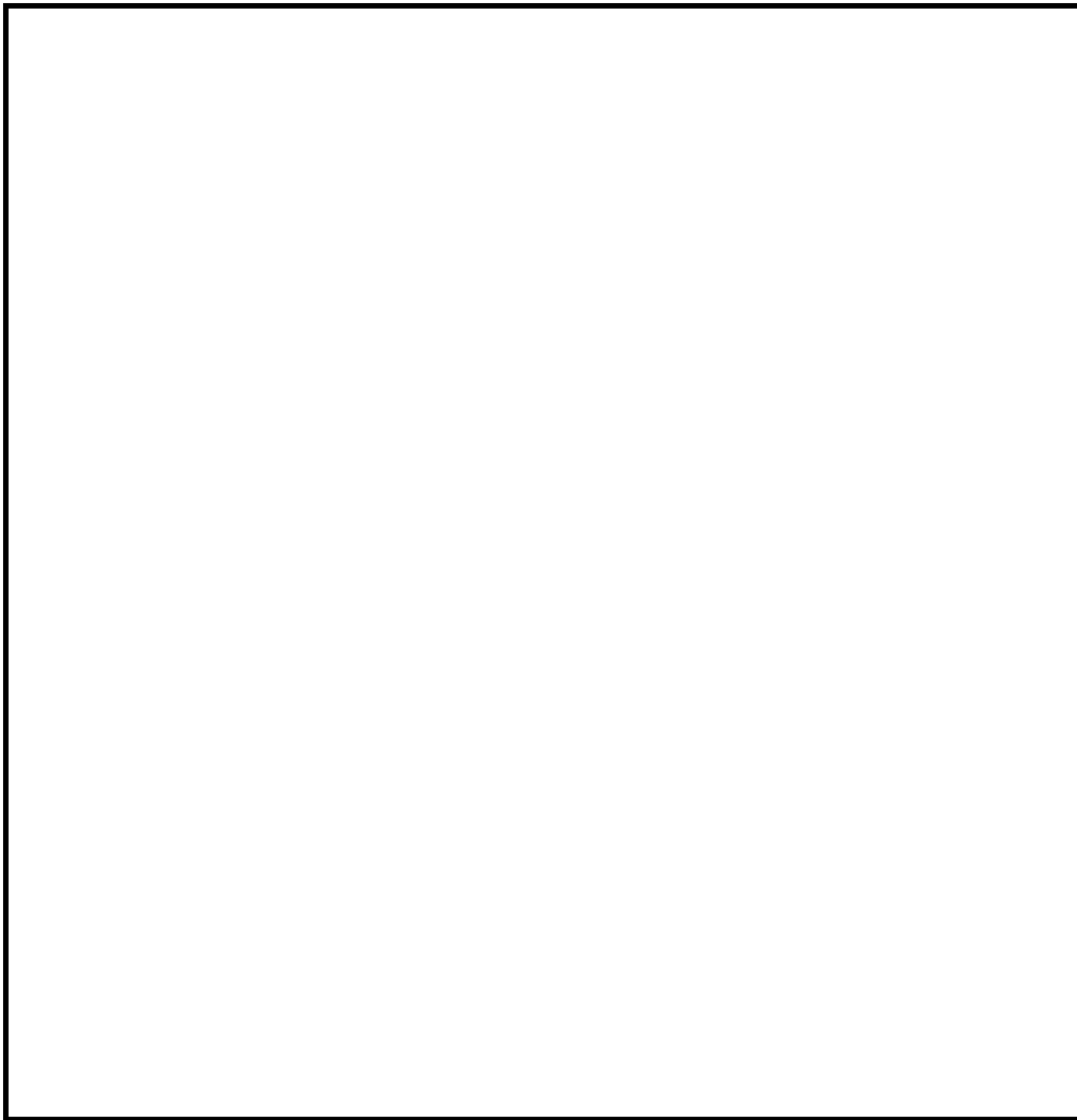
Type of food

Name _____

My Cucumber Plant

Draw the plant.

Label the leaves, seed leaves, stem and roots.



Circle one:

This plant is:

a seed

a seedling

a mature plant

Name _____

Plant Parts

Using a different colored crayon for each one, draw a line to the correct part of the plant.

Part of Plant

leaves

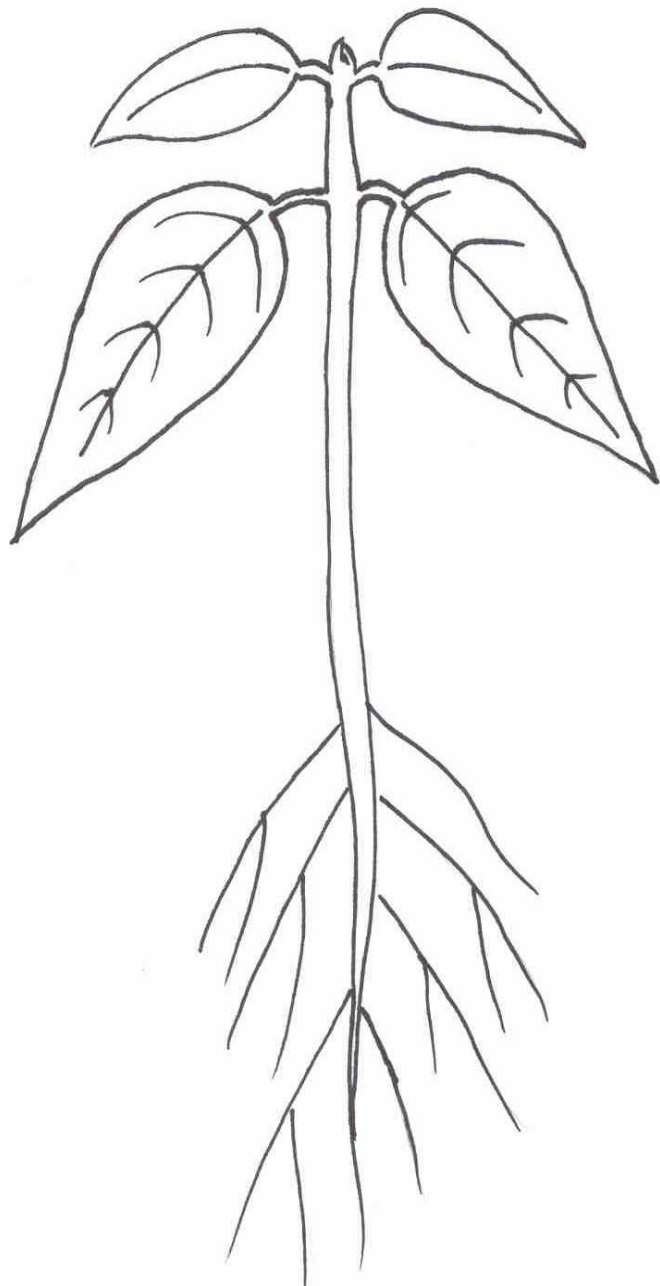
make food from sunlight,
water and carbon dioxide

stem

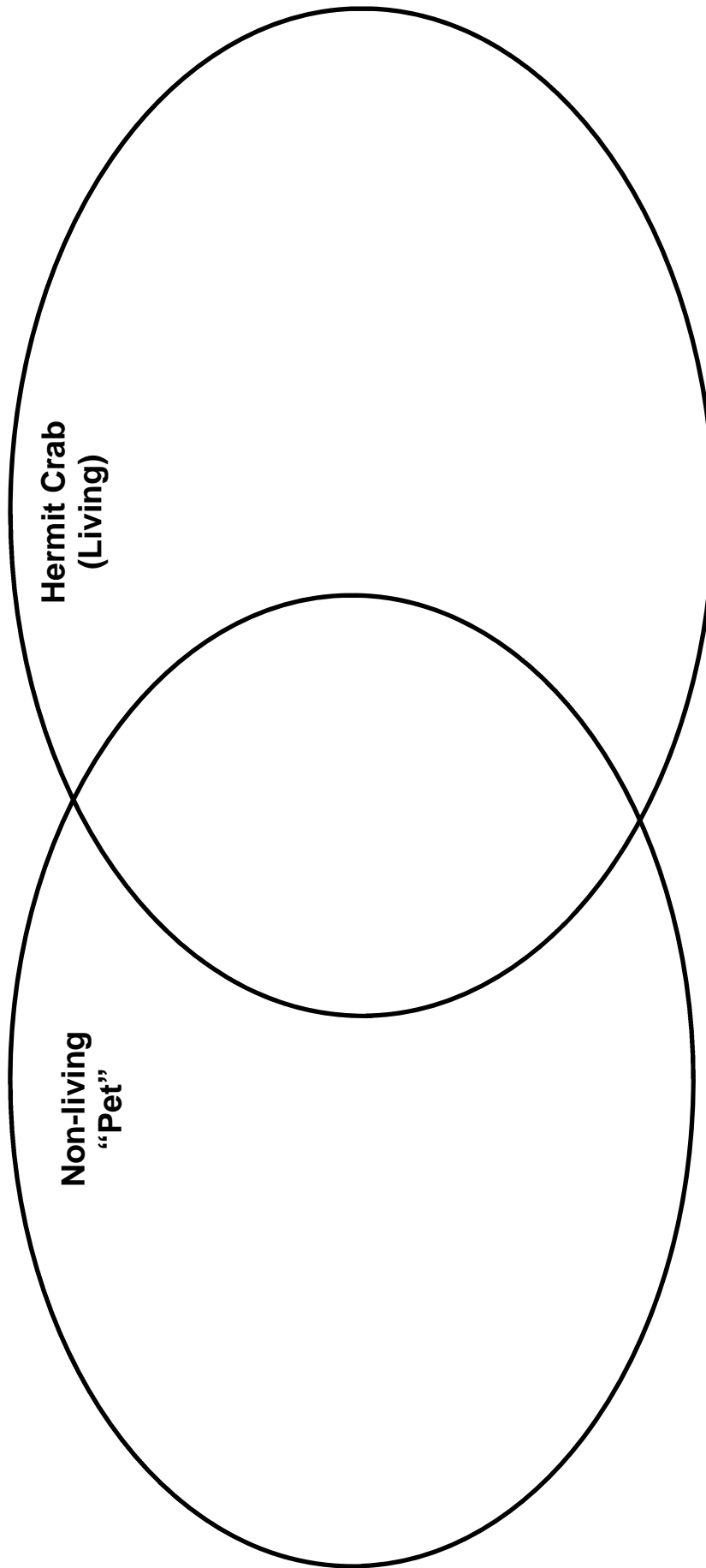
carries food and water
and holds the plant up

roots

take up water and
minerals and hold the
plant in the soil



Name _____ Date _____



My thoughts:
