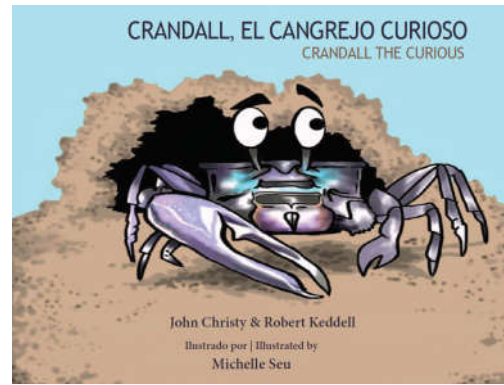


CRANDALL, THE CURIOUS CRAB

Informational resource for educators, parents and students



About the story

Character - Crandall, the curious crab.

Summary – To satisfy his curiosity, Crandall embarks on an adventure full of scares, discoveries and new friends.

Premise - Curiosity leads to unusual adventures.

Inspiration - Curiosity helps Crandall become more courageous, confident, wise, and open to meeting other crabs and species of animals.

About the site

Dramatic Movement- The story takes the reader from a mangrove swamp in Singapore to the open sea to the Panama Canal. Our protagonist clings to life while he is transported on a ship through the ocean until he reaches the Panama Canal where he disembarks. The complication begins when he makes his way to the beach of Culebra along the canal. Along the way, the physical landscape is the home of old and new friends from the natural world and the site opens the doors to change or evolution of feelings.

About the character

Explosion of Feelings - The central premise of the story is how Crandall moves using curiosity by experimenting with a full range of feelings as he travels from Singapore to Panama including but not limited to feeling excited, tired, threatened, surprised, affectionate, euphoric, determined, anxious, appreciative, respectful, confident, fearful, courageous, dreamy, hardworking, and of course, curious.

About the scientist



Dr. John Christy is a scientist emeritus at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama. As an ecologist for the behavior of organisms in marine environments, Dr. Christy studied crabs on the beach at Punta Culebra, where Crandall landed, for years. Dr. Christy has the insatiable curiosity trait just like Crandall. His research on fiddler crabs led to greater understanding and more questions about the organism, such as: "Why do so many intertidal organisms reproduce coincidentally with the tides?"

About the organism

With 100 species of fiddler crabs existing in the world, in Panama we find 30% of these species. Punta Culebra has three species: *Uca terpsichores*, *Uca panamensis* and *Uca deichmanni*.

- Fiddler crabs are found in mangroves, marshes, and muddy, sandy, and rocky beaches.
- One of the male's claws is distinctively larger than the other, with which they make wave movements to communicate.
- This large claw is also used during fights between males and to attract a female during courtship.
- The female carries her eggs in a mass on the lower part of her body, and remains in a burrow built by the male for a period of two weeks incubating them.
- Some species of fiddler crabs build structures (hoods, pillars, mounds, among others) at the entrance of their burrows that function as an orientation mechanism to find them and, at the same time, to attract females.
- Fiddler crabs have their eyes on peduncles, like periscopes.
- Most fiddler crabs are active on the surface only during the day when the tide is out.
- Fiddler crabs are agile runners.
- Years of research on the behavior of fiddler crabs reveals that predation affects behavior and almost everything that crabs do.
- Crabs "listen" using their vibration sensors.
- Several scientists actively conduct research at Punta Culebra.
- Scientists try to duplicate images and sounds that animals respond to.
- Animals do not use language like humans to communicate, but use signs and signals through their appearance, smell, taste, touch, or behavior.
- This little crab has a myriad of behaviors to investigate.

