



Name _____ Date _____

3rd Grade Reading Daily Review #17

SELECTION OF THE WEEK

Funny Fiddlers

¹ Did you ever think that a crab could play the fiddle? No? You're right, they can't. There is, though, a kind of crab that looks like it is pretending to play the fiddle, or violin. And, do you know what it's called? Yes, you guessed it—a fiddler crab!

² Fiddler crabs have small bodies. They are not more than two inches wide. They do not have tails like shrimp or lobsters. The male, or boy, crabs have one small claw and one very large claw. As they grow, these crabs lose their shells and grow bigger ones. While the new shell is growing, their bodies are soft, so they have to hide until the shell is hard again.

³ These little crabs like to dig into the sand. They can only live in salt water, so you will find them at the beach or near other salty, muddy places. They dig and live in a small hole, or burrow, in the sand.

⁴ One way that these crabs have earned their name is in how they eat. The crab uses the smaller claw to bring sand to its mouth, moving it back and forth near its larger claw, which looks like a fiddle. This makes the little guy look like he's playing the fiddle! After taking the food from the sand, the crab then spits the sand back out.

⁵ Fiddler crabs are thought to be helpful in taking care of the beaches. When they dig up sand to eat, they allow air to flow through the sand. So, if you see little piles of sand next to small holes on the beach, you may have found a fiddler crab's home. Since they help take care of our beaches, we should be careful not to bother their homes.

⁶ If you want to keep a fiddler crab as a pet, you can keep it in a tank. Fiddler crabs live only two or three years, and they must live in salt water. If you put them in fresh water for very long, they soon die.

⁷ The next time you are at the beach, you will be able to tell a fiddler crab from other kinds of crabs. Just remember that they only look like they're playing a fiddle. Do not expect them to really play music for you!