Crabs with Swag!

Decorator Crabs have a very clever way of camouflaging themselves. They hide in plain sight by choosing things from their environment and attaching them to their bodies. Their backs are made of stiff bristles that work like Velcro. They attach pieces of algae, and even other animals like Sea Anemones and Sea Sponges to their bodies. Anemones and Sponges are lucky to be chosen to ride on a Decorator Crab because it will carry them to food!

What you need:

- Masking tape.
- Glue.
- Cardboard tubes from paper towels or toilet paper.
- A recycled food container for the body. Something like a cream cheese tub or tuna can.
- Tempera paint or wide-tipped felt tip marker.
- Any bits and pieces you can find around the house to decorate your crab. Torn paper, pompoms, packing materials, etc.

You can make a Decorator Crab with upcycled objects from your home.

1. Cut toilet paper tubes lengthwise to make long strips for legs. Crabs have 10 legs. The front two legs should be larger and have claws and the back legs are pointed at the ends. Cut out a head and antennas.

2. Use masking tape to attach the head and legs to the body (container). If you plan to paint or use a felt tip marker, cover the entire container with tape so the paint has something to stick to. Give your crab some leg joints.

3. Optional: paint the crab legs and body or color them with your felt tip marker.

4. Once the paint is dry, attach your decorations with glue. This crab has pom-poms made of yarn for anemones and bits of paper for algae.

If a decorator crab needed to hide in your bedroom, what would it look like?