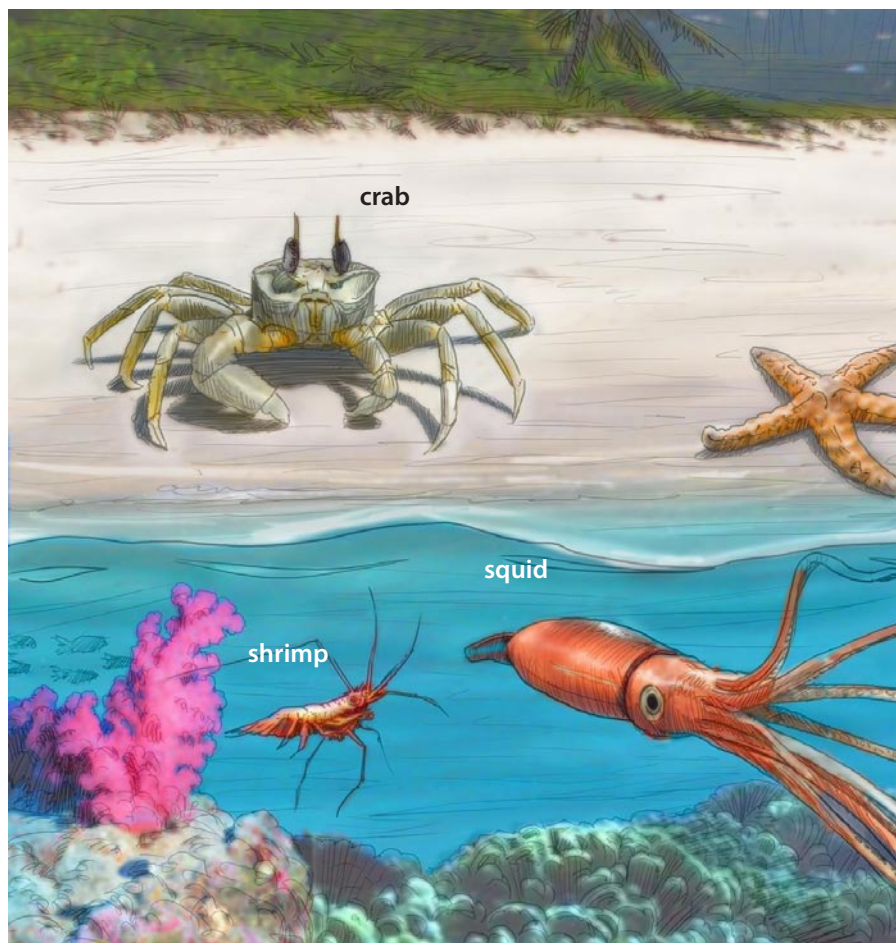


# Climbing the Dragon's Spires



“What are you **looking for** up there?” asks Nguyen Mien, a Vietnamese fisherman.

“Nothing,” I say. “I climb for fun.”

It is difficult for a poor fisherman to understand why I am climbing the rock cliffs of Ha Long Bay in Vietnam. He works very hard and he has no time for sports. He lives on his fishing

boat in a *floating village*. It isn't really a village because all the people live on boats. They move from one place to another. Nguyen catches **squid**, **shrimps**, and **crab**. He sells them to buy fresh water, vegetables, fuel, and clothes for his family.

So, what am I doing here? I am spending my vacation doing what I enjoy— rock climbing. Nguyen thinks I am crazy. But to me rock climbing is like dancing—dangerous dancing. I need some danger in my life.

