

COASTAL DISCOVERIES PROGRAM FOR GRADES 6-8

Beach



Beach Seine

Students explore the high energy surf zone using seine nets to sift and sort organisms. They will learn about functions of producers, consumers, and decomposers.

6.L.2.1, 6.L.2.3

Science as Inquiry: 7th grade

8.E.1.2, 8.L.3.1, 8.L.3.2



Coastal Fishing

Students learn about typical species caught along our coast and basic coastal fishing techniques while being introduced to marine fisheries management in North Carolina.

6.L.2.3

Science as Inquiry: 7th grade

8.E.1.4, 8.L.3.1



Cool Crabs

Students collect data using thermometers to examine how ectotherms, such as Ghost Crabs, regulate their body temperature by moving to different environments.

6.L.2.3

Science as Inquiry: 7th grade

8.L.3.1



Maritime Forest Scavenger Hunt

Students learn about plant communities on a barrier island and investigate plant adaptations for living in sandy, salty conditions.

6.L.2.2, 6.L.2.3

Science as Inquiry: 7th and 8th grade



Seashore Discovery Walk

Students walk the tidelines in search of "treasures" washed up on shore and discuss their role in the marine ecosystem.

6.L.2.1, 6.L.2.3

Science as Inquiry: 7th grade

8.E.1.2, 8.L.3.1, 8.L.3.2



Turtle Hurdles

Students simulate the lifecycle of the Loggerhead Sea Turtle and become familiar with conservation efforts made on behalf of this endangered species found nesting

6.L.2.3

Science as Inquiry: 7th grade

8.L.3.1, 8.L.3.2

Beach



Turtle Talks

Students build life-size sea turtles in the sand, as they learn about the biology and behavior of sea turtles around the world.

6.L.2.3

Science as Inquiry: 7th grade

8.L.3.1, 8.L.3.2



Marsh



Blue Crabs

Students learn about the anatomy and behavior of the Atlantic Blue Crab and its importance to our salt marsh ecosystem while trying to catch a few of their own.

6.L.2.1, 6.L.2.3

Science as Inquiry: 7th grade

8.L.3.1, 8.L.3.2



Dock Discoveries Field

Students use nets and buckets to investigate fouling communities created by man-made structures such as Caswell's floating dock.

6.L.2.3

Science as Inquiry: 7th grade

8.L.3.1, 8.L.3.2



Dock Discoveries Lab

Students will use microscopes to observe and investigate the fouling community organisms found under Caswell's dock.

6.L.2.3

Science as Inquiry: 7th grade

8.L.3.1, 8.L.3.2



Downstream Drift

By conducting a flood event using a miniature model of a watershed, students learn how people influence and are affected by pollution in a watershed and how salt marshes can help.

6.L.2.3

Science as Inquiry: 7th grade

8.E.1.1, 8.E.1.2, 8.E.1.4



Estuary Exploration

Students will explore our salt marsh using a scavenger hunt guide and will discuss the interconnectedness of this estuarine community.

6.L.2.3

Science as Inquiry: 7th grade

8.E.1.2, 8.L.3.1, 8.L.3.2



Fiddle Facts

Students learn about Fiddler Crab behavior and learn how populations of organisms are scientifically estimated.

Science as Inquiry: 6th and 7th grade

8.L.3.1

Marsh



Marsh Seine

Students assist staff naturalist with sieves and seines to discover the flora and fauna that abound in North Carolina estuaries and why they are called the “nursery ground of the sea”.

6.L.2.1., 6.L.2.3

Science as Inquiry: 7th grade

8.E.1.2, 8.L.3.1, 8.L.3.2



Plankton Ecology Field

Students learn how to tow a plankton net and collect a sample for analysis. Learn how our interns collect samples for NOAA’s Phytoplankton Monitoring Network.

6.L.2.1, 6.L.2.3

Science as Inquiry: 7th grade

8.E.1.2, 8.E.1.3, 8.L.3.2



Plankton Ecology Lab

Students use microscopes and lab equipment to view some of the smallest members of the marine community: plankton.

6.L.2.1, 6.L.2.3

Science as Inquiry: 7th grade

8.E.1.2, 8.E.1.3, 8.L.3.2



Tidal Creek Kayak

Students get a ducks-eye view of the salt marsh – *Spartina* grass, oysters, fiddler crabs, and more, as they kayak through the tidal creek with staff naturalists.

8.E.1.1, 8.E.1.2

Multiple Locations (Pair with beach or marsh activities)



Fort Caswell Tour

Students take a walking tour of old Fort Caswell to learn the history of the pre-Civil War fort and other significant places, people and events in North

8.H.2.1



History Hayride

Students explore the grounds of Fort Caswell by wagon while learning about early settlements in the Cape Fear region and historical uses of the fort throughout the last century and a half. *Will have an opportunity to go inside the Fort.

8.H.2.1



Hooks and Ladders

Students simulate the life cycle of anadromous fish, like the Striped Bass, and learn about limiting factors that impact their survival as they journey between their freshwater spawning grounds and the ocean.

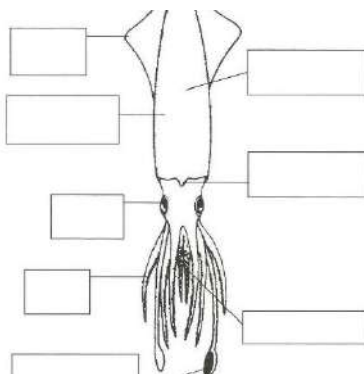
6.L.2.3, 6.G.1.4
7.G.1.1, 7.G.1.3
8.L.3.1, 8.L.3.2, 8.G.1.3



Salt Water Survey

Students participate in water quality testing as they learn how abiotic factors such as salinity and temperature affect marine life.

6.L.2.3
Science as Inquiry: 7th grade
8.E.1.3, 8.E.1.4



Squid Dissection

Students learn about marine mollusks and investigate the taxonomy and anatomy of the squid through conducting a dissection.

Science as Inquiry: 6th – 8th grade

Indoor Alternative



Bravo, Charlie

Students play games with maritime flags to learn how sailors communicated at sea before the days of modern technology.

6.H.2.3
7.H.2.3
8.H.3.2



Estuary Keeper

Students play a card game to learn about the many factors, both man-made and natural, that affect fish populations in the estuary.

Science as Inquiry: 6th grade
7.G.1.1, 7.G.1.3
8.E.1.2, 8.E.1.4



Fish Forms

Students put their creative skills to use as they learn about adaptations that help fish survive in their aquatic habitats.

6.L.2.3
Science as Inquiry: 7th grade
8.L.3.1, 8.L.3.2



Incredible Journey

Students become a water droplet and take an incredible journey through the water cycle while making a memento to remind them of their trip.

Science as Inquiry: 6th grade
7.E.1.2
8.E.1.1



Marsh Munchers

Students discover the dynamics of survival in a salt marsh by becoming part of an estuarine food web.

6.L.2.1, 6.L.2.3
Science as Inquiry: 7th grade
8.E.1.2, 8.L.3.1, 8.L.3.2