



Explore Our Shore Like Never Before

The Stars Challenge at Monmouth University 2009

What a wonderful semester it has been, having the opportunity to facilitate learning for these 7th grade "Stars"! Our hope was to not only engage the students with a variety of thought-provoking experiences but to equip them with the tools that responsible young adults need to continue to become stewards of our environment.

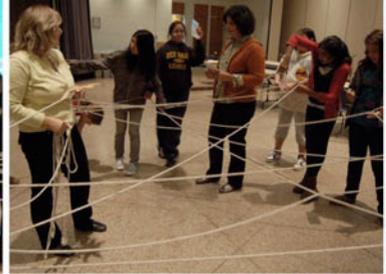
Throughout our course we studied barrier beaches and salty marshes. We handled slimy, squirming animals, watched how they behaved, and even cut up a few. At each turn we explored diversity but in the end we learned that similar factors govern the ecological importance of all environments. Most of all, students realized that they play an integral part in the survival and sustainability of the marine ecosystem. It is our wish that the "shifting sands of time" bring you closer to a lifetime of enjoyment and discovery in the wonders of the world around us!

Fondly,
Claire Antonucci and Diana Burich





Sofia analyzes the densities of estuarine water with varying degrees of salinity. Students observe and characterize the social organization and display function in a fiddler crab population.





The natural history of horseshoe crabs is explored as students discover their ecological importance.



Seining, organism identification, benthic sampling, plankton collection, and water quality analysis – it's all in a day's work!





Field work at Horseshoe Cove in Gateway National Recreation Area, Sandy Hook Unit.



Profiling the barrier beach at North Beach on Sandy Hook provides the students with a side view of the shoreline's surface topography.





Plankton identification at New Jersey Marine Science Consortium/New Jersey Sea Grant's Sandy Hook lab.



A study of moon snail predation on Atlantic surf clams.



Dissections provide students with the opportunity to learn about the inner workings of marine organisms.





CLAMS! Not just for eating anymore!



Sand particles can vary in shape, size, color and material composition depending on origin and location. Here students analyze Sandy Hook sand.



Students separate components of Philippine sand.



Modeling beach erosion as a result of human intervention.









Dissection of a spiny dogfish shark, a top predator in the coastal marine food chain.



Stars Challenge kids exploring the shore like never before!





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