Mrs. Gonzalez’s 4A class visited the Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in VA at VIMS on April 21, 2011 for a field trip! Students arrived on campus, and were immediately taken outside to investigate shallow water habitats in order to beat the incoming tide. Students used seine nets and dip nets to sample for plants and animals in the York River.

Shallow Water Species List

Pipefish
American Eel
Blue Crab
Hermit Crab
Silverside
Brown algae (?)
Atlantic Silverside
Jellyfish
Mud Snail
Sand Shrimp
Grass Shrimp
Summer Flounder
Red Beard Sponge
Ribbed Mussel
Oyster
Barnacle
Sea Squirt
Amphipod
Sea Lettuce
Tapered Red Weed
Sun Sponge
Tonguefish

For more information about our education programs, go to www.vims.edu/cbnerr
What did we catch?

Seining
After spending time in the river, students spent the rest of the morning in the lab keying out different species of plants and animals that live in the oyster reef habitat cage that was brought up from the water. Students used microscopes and dichotomous keys before drawing and labeling species in their science notebooks.

**Oyster Reef Species List**

- Oyster
- Amphipod
- Skeleton Shrimp
- Polychaete Worm
- Lacy Crust Bryozoan
- Glassy Tube Worm
- Barnacle
- Hooked Mussel
- Boring Sponge
- White Anemone
- Mud Crab
- Red Beard Sponge
- Sea Lettuce
- Slipper Shell
- Limy Tube Worm
- Sea Squirt

**Salinity** – 25 ppt  
**Dissolved Oxygen** – 15.5 mg/L  
**Temperature** – 17.5°Celsius (approx. 63°F)  
**pH** – 7.8