Mrs. Gonzalez’s 1B class visited the Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in VA at VIMS on April 14, 2011 for a field trip! Students spent the first part of their time investigating oyster reef animals and plants using microscopes, dichotomous keys, and science notebooks.

Oyster Reef Species List

- Polychaete Worm
- Mud Crab
- Barnacle
- Red-gilled Mud Worm
- Amphipod
- Sea Squirt
- Slipper Shell
- Sea Lettuce
- Oyster

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After the oyster lab, students spent the rest of the morning seining and dip netting in the York River. Students observed the differences between the habitats and the species that are found in each place. Students tested the water quality of the York River – check out data below!

**Shallow Water Species List**

- Blue Crab
- Pipefish
- Sea Lettuce
- Grass Shrimp
- Amphipod
- Red Beard Sponge
- Oyster
- Hermit Crab
- Sand Shrimp
- Sea Squirt
- Comb Jelly
- Spotted Hake
- Mummichog
- American Eel
- Skilletfish
- Mud Snail
- Skeleton Shrimp
- Jellyfish
- Brown Fuzz

**Water Quality Data**

- **Salinity** – 25 ppt
- **Dissolved Oxygen** – 14 mg/L
- **Turbidity/Water Clarity** – 65 NTU
- **Temperature** – 15.5°Celsius (60°Fahrenheit)
- **pH** – 8.5
And they’re off!

Pipefish and Mummichog

Looking through the nets for more species!

Sea Lettuce

Checking out the comb jelly