Mrs. Gonzalez’s 4B class visited the Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in VA at VIMS on April 29, 2011 for a field trip! Students arrived on campus, and were introduced to oyster reef communities through a lab exercise. Students used dichotomous keys and microscopes to aid in identifying different species.

**Oyster Reef Species List**

- Skilletfish
- Baltic Isopod
- Grass Shrimp
- Amphipod
- Mud Crab
- Limy Tube Worm
- Polychaete Worm
- Red Ribbon Worm
- Mud Snail
- Tapered Red Weed
- Sea Lettuce
- Jingle Shell
- Lacy Crust Bryozoan
- Oyster
- Slipper Shell
- Barnacle

For more information about our education programs, go to [www.vims.edu/cbnerr](http://www.vims.edu/cbnerr)
After spending time in the lab, students ate lunch while enjoying the view of the beautiful day on the York River. Then, students spent the rest of the field trip investigating the shallow water habitats. Students used seine and dip nets to collect a variety of species and studied them in an aquarium before letting them go at the end of the trip.

**Shallow Water Species List**

- Lions Mane Jellyfish
- Pipefish
- Blue Crab
- Grass Shrimp
- Mud Snail
- Tonguefish
- Summer Flounder
- Sea Lettuce
- Mummichog
- Amphipod
- Isopod
- Tapered Red Weed
- Sea Squirt
- Hermit Crab
- American Eel
- Sand Shrimp
- Red Beard Sponge
- Oyster
- Striped Blenny
- Striped Killifish

And they’re off!

![Blue Crab](image)

![Our tank](image)
Salinity – 15 ppt
Dissolved Oxygen – 14 mg/L
Temperature – 18° Celsius (approx. 64° F)

pH – 8.3