Mrs. Rickerson’s 4A class visited the Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in VA at VIMS on May 10, 2011 for a field trip! Students spent the morning investigating the shallow water habitat with dip nets and seines, looking for diversity in the species collected. Students also tested the water quality in the York River.

Shallow Water Species List

- Grass Shrimp
- Comb Jelly
- Sea Lettuce
- Tapered Red Weed
- Blue Crab
- Hermit Crab
- Lions Mane Jellyfish
- Mummichog
- Pipefish
- American Eel
- Tonguefish
- Mud Snail
- Atlantic Silverside
- Skilletfish
- Sand Shrimp
- Striped Killifish
- Hogchoker
- Oyster
- Skeleton Shrimp
- Eelgrass
- Green Bead Tunicate

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After lunch overlooking the York River, students spent the afternoon in the lab using dichotomous keys, microscopes, and science books to key out 5 different species with their partners. Students discussed differences in the shallow water habitats versus the oyster reef habitat, and what they learned on the field trip.