Mrs. Rickerson’s 4B class visited the Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in VA at VIMS on May 9, 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
Striped Bass
Brown Fuzz
Blue Crab
Hermit Crab
Lions Mane Jellyfish
Mummichog
Pipefish
American Eel
Tonguefish
Mud Snail
Summer Flounder
Atlantic Silverside
Spotted Hake
Sea Robin
Isopod
Skilletfish
Slipper Shell

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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. We even found both a skilletfish AND a Striped Blenny guarding eggs inside the oyster shells. Students discussed differences in the shallow water habitats versus the oyster reef habitat.

**Oyster Reef Species List**

- Hooked Mussel
- Boring Sponge
- Oyster
- Polychaete Worm
- Two-sutured Odostome
- Striped Blenny
- Skilletfish
- Oyster Flatworm
- Blue Crab
- Mud Crab
- Barnacle
- Sea Squirt
- White Anemone
- Green Tufted Seaweed
- Zooplankton
- Green Striped Anemone
- Red Beard Sponge
- Mud Snail

**Environmental Conditions:**

- **Salinity:** 15 ppt
- **Dissolved Oxygen:** 12 mg/L
- **Temperature:** 20°Celsius (approx. 68°F)
- **pH:** 8.2