



Eco-Explorers Virtual Field Trip



Aquatic Resources Education Center, Delaware Division of Fish & Wildlife, DNREC
2520 Lighthouse Road, Smyrna, DE 19977
302-735-8689

Welcome to the new Eco-Explorers virtual field trip program, designed to bring the wonders of the tidal salt marsh to students in any learning setting.

The Eco-Explorers virtual field trip combines short video segments with worksheets, activities that can be done at home or in the classroom, and additional resources focused on food webs and energy flow, plant and animal adaptations and water chemistry in a tidal saltmarsh ecosystem. It is aligned with Next Generation Science Standards for fifth grade students.

Participation in the field trip is free of charge but please be sure to fill out the **registration** and **evaluation** sections on our web page. These are important because they enable us to evaluate how successfully we are meeting the needs of the students that we serve and they help us fulfill the reporting criteria of our grant, enabling us to provide additional programs in the future. (There is an additional copy of the registration form in this folder in case you prefer to register by email.)

Field Trip Sections

Getting Started

This section includes an **introductory PowerPoint** called **Eco-Explorers Virtual Field Trip**. The PowerPoint introduces students to the field trip program and explains how to use the field trip materials. You will also find an information sheet for students and their families who live near the Aquatic Resources Education Center in Smyrna, Delaware, and who wish to visit the tidal salt marsh that they are learning about in this program.

The introduction is followed by six main learning units:

Welcome to the Tidal Salt Marsh - an overview of the tidal salt marsh ecosystem

The video for this unit has a Spanish version as well as the English one - [Bienvenido a Tidal Salt Marsh](#)

Fish in the Tidal Salt Marsh

Macroinvertebrates

Water quality

Plants in the Tidal Salt Marsh

Wildlife

Each learning unit follows this format:

- Student directions for using the materials in the unit
- A PowerPoint explaining important vocabulary words
- A link to a short video introducing the topic (available on YouTube)
- Activities and worksheets designed to help students explore the topic more deeply
- The worksheets are designed so that students will be able to fill them in if they are working online. There are a few worksheets where the students are instructed to draw something and those will need to be printed out. The entire set of activities and worksheets can be printed out for student who do not have internet access.
- Each learning unit contains teacher notes, assessment tools and answer keys for worksheets and assessments.

Wrap up and evaluation

This section includes a student assessment tool for the entire field trip program, an evaluation form and links to additional material about topics covered in the field trip.

* A **GIS activity** will be added to the file of activities soon. It will help students use the GIS technology to explore salinity and plant distribution in the tidal salt marsh.

Please feel free to contact Mary Rivera at Mary.Rivera@delaware.gov. if you have any questions or need additional information regarding this virtual program.

We know that there is no substitute for the experience of a live field trip, and we look forward to the day when we can resume our traditional field trip program. In the meantime, we hope that our virtual program helps your students as they learn about ecosystems this year.

The Eco-Explorers virtual field trip program was created by environmental educators at Delaware's Aquatic Resources Education Center. The Eco-Explorers program is supported by Sport Fish Restoration grants administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program. Funds provided by this grant program are generated through federal excise taxes on fishing equipment and motorboat fuels purchased by sportsmen and sportswomen.

