

Lesson 15: Clam Survey

Subject

Intertidal Zone Field Studies

Objectives

The students will:

- Identify clam species and record population data in a clam survey
- Explore local intertidal zone

Materials

- Shovels
- Gloves
- Clam ID cards
- Clam rings
- Clipboards
- 1 Clam ID kit

Size/setting/duration

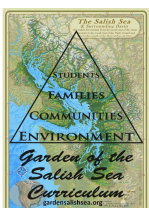
Full Class/Birch Bay State Park Beach/50 minutes

Background

In this activity, students will be conducting a local clam survey. The clam surveys will help determine the health of clam populations. Students will learn how the surveys can also help estimate the health of clam populations over time.

Procedure

- Clam ID Review (10 minutes)
 - Show students an example of the different types of shells in the kit and the distinguishing features of each.
- Preparation for survey (10 minutes)
 - Get each student a glove and each group an ID card and clam ring.
- Clam survey (30 minutes)



- Students should be in groups of 4-5 at each hole. Have holes pre-dug so that students are able to pull out the clams, identify them, and count how many of each species are in each hole.
- These surveys are used to determine the health of clam populations over time by comparing the amount and variety of clams found in the clam surveys.
- Review
 - Prompt students:
 - What do clams eat and need to be healthy?
 - What might eat clams?
 - What can we do to keep our clams healthy?

Next Generation Science Standards

Performance Expectations		
5-ESS3-1: Obtain and combine information about ways individual communities use science to protect the Earth's resources and environment.		
Scientific and Engineering Practices	Disciplinary Core Ideas	Cross-cutting Concepts
Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information	ESS3.C: Human impacts on earth systems	Systems and System Models Science addresses questions about the natural and material world

Graphics

None

Worksheet



Birch Bay State Park Clam Survey Data

Date:

Researchers:

Clams are considered “large” if they are bigger than 1.5 inches and do not fit through the clam ring.

Type of clam	Hole #	Hole #	Hole #	Hole #
Large purple varnish				
Small purple varnish				
Large native littleneck				
Small native littleneck				
Large manila littleneck				
Small manila littleneck				
Large butter				
Small butter				
Large cockle				
Small cockle				
Large eastern softshell				
Small eastern softshell				
Large macoma				
Small macoma				
Other:				
Other:				

