



'Plankton Explorers Investigate Biodiversity'

Belinda Ringpfeil
Ocean Camp Director

Ocean Camp was pleased to offer field trip programs to (3) inland schools meeting criteria of 50% free lunch program; State science trained teachers and 50-100 miles from our facility in exchange for transportation assistance. We publicized the field trips through AMSTI (AL Math, Science, and Technology Initiative) email across the state. The schools awarded included Florala High School 7th grade, Northington Elementary 4/5th grades plus Bay Minette Elementary 6th grade.



Our existing field trip classes were enhanced with use of vocabulary such as distribution, abundance, diversity and microbial oceanography. Plankton was collected in tide pools on the Gulf Coast and brackish lagoon waters. Students examined plankton using microscopes and observations were recorded. C-MORE's Education and Outreach links were shared with each group of students. The animated video of plankton and microbes was a good introduction visual, as well as the games and photo gallery.

We appreciate the opportunity to offer a stronger emphasis in microbial science to these students. Our faculty has enriched their background knowledge and we have discovered an approach to enlist more field trip visitors; transportation is indeed an expensive cost although well worth the trip, I believe. Thank you for your trust in our organization and we would enjoy working together in the future.



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