

Maryland Coastal Bays Program: Notes from the Field

Observation

Welcome to the Maryland Coastal Bays Program's (MCBP) virtual learning program *Notes from the Field*. This Monday's "Bulk Resource" page is on OBSERVATION. Provided is a conglomeration of relevant materials from credible sources for anyone to use as a knowledge resource on this subject. The majority of what we have shared is Maryland-based resources, and we encourage you to further research on the subject as there are countless other fantastic sources. The resources we have compiled are broken down into three categories; relevant websites, videos, and activities & lessons.

MCBP exists to protect and conserve the waters and surrounding watershed of Maryland's five Coastal Bays; Assawoman, Isle of Wight, Newport, Sinepuxent, and Chincoteague. As humans, we all use observation in some way, shape or form daily. Through our five senses, we engage our surrounding environment, making assessments and reacting accordingly. Observation is also an invaluable tool in research and monitoring in the scientific world. The first step in the scientific inquiry process is making an observation, then moving onto questioning and making hypotheses. At MCBP, we use observation-based surveying in a variety of monitoring projects as a way of assessing a population (Terrapin Survey and the Horseshoe Crab Survey). Using the resources below, we encourage you to dive deep into the beautiful world of observation and come out filled with wonder and curiosity.

Happy Learning!

Relevant Websites

Organization	Description of Resource	Link	Who
Maryland Coastal Bays Program	2019 Diamondback Terrapin Training presentation - An observation-based study	https://mdcoastalbays.org/content/files/2019%20Terrapin%20Survey%20Training%20Presentation.pdf	Middle - Adults *Stay tuned for 2020 info.
NOAA Fisheries	Marine Life Viewing Guidelines - Create a safe environment for the animal and yourself	https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/fature-story/watching-wildlife https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/marine-life-viewing-guidelines	High School - Adult



Nature Mentoring	Beginner's Guide to Nature Journaling: 12 Tips For a Better Nature Journal - Nature journaling is the process of recording your observations about birds, plants, trees & other natural things on paper.	https://nature-mentor.com/nature-journaling/	High School - Adult
John Muir Laws	Nature Stewardship through Science, Education, and Art: free nature journaling curriculum	https://johnmuirlaws.com/journaling-curriculum/	Teachers, Adults
KhanAcademy	The Scientific Method-making observations	https://www.khanacademy.org/science/high-school-biology/hs-biology-foundations/hs-biology-and-the-scientific-method/a/the-science-of-biology	High School
National Environmental Education Foundation	Citizen's Observing a Changing Climate - citizen science projects	https://www.neefusa.org/nature-plants-and-animals/citizens-observing-changing-climate	All ages
Audubon	How to Start Birding- Observing birds safely	https://www.audubon.org/birding/how-to-start-birding	Middle - Adult

Videos

Organization	Description of Resource	Link	Who
BEETLES (Better Environmental Education Teaching, Learning, and Expertise Sharing)	Nature Journaling lesson	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ueil4T29frw	3rd grade - Adult
Maryland Zoo	Observe some of the Maryland Zoo's inhabitants through live cams and feeds. Animals include penguins, swans, lions, flamingos, and goats.	https://www.marylandzoo.org/animals/live-cams-feeds/	All ages
Teaching Independent Learners	What does a scientist do? Making Observations.	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L94p45Z59XA	Elementary - Middle



Chesapeake Conservancy	Peregrine Falcon Webcam	https://chesapeakeconservancy.org/what-we-do/explore/wildlife-webcams/peregrine-falcon/	All Ages
Chesapeake Conservancy	Great Blue Heron Webcam	https://chesapeakeconservancy.org/what-we-do/explore/wildlife-webcams/great-blue-heron/	All Ages

Activities and Lessons

Organization	Description of Resource	Link	Who
ZooNiverse/Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC)	Invader ID - Assist SERC in identifying changes in marine invertebrates, and spotting any introduced species	https://www.zooniverse.org/projects/serc/invader-id	High School - Adult
Shelburne Farms	Sit Spot Activity: Change through Observation	https://shelburnefarms.org/sites/default/files/cultivatingjoy-sitspot_0.pdf	Elementary -Middle
Project BudBurst	Make observations of seasonal changes in plants right in your own backyard	http://budburst.org/	All ages
Science Learning Hub	Developing observation drawing skills in students	https://www.sciencelearn.org.nz/resources/2071-developing-observation-skills-in-younger-students	4th - 8th
Science Learning Hub	Do you see what I see? Lesson about the reliability of observation information	https://www.sciencelearn.org.nz/resources/2070-do-you-see-what-i-see	Middle - Adult
Wilderness Inquiry	Backyard Nature Scavenger Hunt	https://www.wildernessinquiry.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/K-4-Scavenger-Hunt.pdf https://www.wildernessinquiry.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/5-8-Scavenger-Hunt.pdf	K - 4th And 5th - 8th
Kids Academy	3 Scientific experiments you can do at home to use the scientific method-	https://www.kidsacademy.mobi/storytime/science-experiments-using-scientific-method/	3rd - 5th



Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies	Fostering Outdoor Observation Skills - Preparing children for outdoor science and recreation	https://www.fishwildlife.org/application/files/8515/1373/1089/ConEd-Fostering-Outdoor-Observation-Skills.pdf	K-8th
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This document was produced by the Maryland Coastal Bays Program (MCBP) as a resource for teaching and learning about topics important to the MCBP mission and values. Visit www.mdcoastalbays.org for more information.