

Activity 2 – The Great Shellfish Bay

Description

The Great Shellfish Bay by Dr. Valerie Chase tells the story of changes that occurred to a Chesapeake Bay oyster reef as seen through the eyes of the people living near it over time. There are seven sections. Each section depicts a different historical period beginning with the time of Native Americans and continuing to present day.

You could spend several days reading the story as a whole class. However, we suggest breaking the story up and assigning a section of the story to individual groups. These groups will be known as “expert groups.”

The expert groups will make presentations of what they have read to the entire class. As a class, the students will create a timeline about the history of oysters in The Chesapeake Bay.

Procedure

1. Break the class into small “expert groups.”
2. Assign each expert group a section to read. Do not tell the groups this order prior to the activity.

Expert groups in chronological order:

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| A. Native American Boy | E. Bernie as a Boy |
| B. Indentured Servant | F. Young Scientist |
| C. Runaway Slaves | G. School Built Beside the Bay |
| D. Waterman and Boy | |

3. Pass out corresponding “expert group” student page and worksheet.
4. Have students read their stories and complete the worksheet.
5. Each small group should make an oral presentation to the whole class about their section. Groups can present in random order. In their presentation, groups should discuss the main points of their story. Groups can also write information on large sheets of paper to be taped to the wall of the classroom.
6. After each group has presented their section, pass out to each group a set of the seven slips of the story. Ask the students to put the slips of paper in order from what happened first to what happened last. *Alternate method: Create the timeline of the story using the slips as an entire class.
7. Discuss the story as a class.
8. Have students work in partners to complete the Venn diagram.
9. Have students individually answer questions about their diagram.

Teacher Page

_____ A Native American boy paddles his canoe out to an oyster reef and fills his basket with tasty shellfish.

_____ Thomas is an indentured servant. His parents signed a contract that means he has to work for the master for seven years and sent him to a place across the ocean called Maryland.

_____ Nate and Billy sail on a skipjack – a sailing ship that drags an oyster dredge.

_____ Sara and Jenna meet a “conductor” on the Underground Railroad and sail on a boat up the Chesapeake Bay to freedom.

_____ Bernie wades out into the Chesapeake Bay, and the water is clear enough to see his toes.

_____ A young scientist named Jenna studies mud, or sediments, that washed into the Bay.

_____ A school is built beside the Bay. Children and teachers grow oysters on rafts tied to a pier.