Activity #5 - A Model Estuary

Objective:
Students will assemble a poster of an estuary showing the five communities of animals and plants that inhabit the estuary.

Materials:
- glue
- pictures of estuarine organisms (next pages)
- scissors
- colored pencils, pens, watercolor
- butcher paper or poster board

Procedures:
1) Have students research the concept of an estuary: a meeting of fresh water, ocean water and land.
2) Students will find photographs or diagrams of various estuaries to identify and see the differences between the 5 distinct communities that inhabit an estuarine environment:
   - open ocean
   - sand beach/sand bar
   - tidal marsh
   - mud flats
   - estuary uplands

3) Students begin their poster project by making an estuary background that depicts each of the 5 distinct communities. They may paint, draw or cut magazine photographs to make this background. Encourage them to show the underwater environment too (for open ocean species and fish).

4) Cut and paste the pictures of estuarine organisms (next pages) in their proper community.

Discussion:
Have students write an explanation of each community found in the estuary. Have them include the type of animals and vegetation found there.
Activity #5 - A Model Estuary

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PIPEFISH

GHOST SHRIMP

BARNACLE

DUCK

CANCER CRAB
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EAGLE

GUNNEL

FLATFISH

HERMIT CRAB

GULL

HERON
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MUD SNAIL
KILIFISH
MUSSEL
OCHRE STAR
PIPEFISH
PLANKTON
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POLYCHAETE WORM

EEL GRASS

SUN STAR

SCULPIN

SURFPERCH

SHORE CRAB