

Narragansett Clay Bay

Creating a Microcosm of Narragansett Bay Biological Communities in the Classroom

Grades K-4

After students observe Narragansett Bay Biological Communities on field trips, complete their in-class Biological Community spreadsheet and determine the parts of each Bay creature, the next step is to have them replicate and design a microcosm of a Narragansett Bay biological community in the classroom out of clay. It is a good idea to set up three teams of students with each team being responsible for designing and creating the Upper Bay, Lower Bay and local tide pools. Each student within the teams could select and sculpt one Narragansett Bay life creature, out of clay, within a biological community, based upon their research and observations. Once the Bay life has been sculpted and bisque fired, the pottery pieces can be underglazed in the appropriate colors by the students and then glaze fired. Afterwards, the students could design and build a “neighborhood community” habitat - a microcosm of Narragansett Bay - for the Upper and Lower Bay and tide pool, utilizing their clay sea creatures, beach sand, rocks, drift wood, etc.