

Katy  
Writing  
January 6, 2014

### A New Collection

On a sunny September morning, I set out with other fifth graders to discover the world of science. Our goal was to learn about different animals and their habitats. I enjoyed all of the eco-systems that we visited, but the meadow stood out the most to me. The meadow was located at Marshy Point Nature Center. The activities were amazing because I actually used a butterfly net and swept it over the tall, lanky meadow grass. Then we looked into the net and inspected all the insects. If we saw anything new or interesting, the instructor gave us a plastic box to put the creature in. I would have to say that my favorite part was getting to see and learn about new animals and how they make their habitats in the depths of the meadow. The meadow is an awesome eco-system to observe and learn about.

Emily  
Writing  
January 6, 2014

### Wet Wonderland

One lone yellow bus pulled up at Hillcrest Elementary School on the morning of September 25, 2014. Unlike the busses before it, this one was not full of kids. It was here to take my class on a field trip! This was going to be a day of science and nature for my classmates and me. We were about to head to Miami Beach, Maryland to learn about the wetlands.

The first thing we did at the wetland area was record the air temperature and the salinity of the water. The air was 20° C, the water was 23° C, and the salinity was 4.20 parts per thousand. We spotted a lot of plants and animals in the wetland area. The chaperones helped us to scoop the muddy water out. We searched through the muck, hoping to find tadpoles and other animals. We put our findings into plastic containers for everyone to see. I saw an oddly shaped clump of dirt. I picked it up and rinsed it in the muddy water. It was a baby frog! The guide said it was still living so I put it in the water. After a few seconds, it darted through the water, to the other tadpoles. The wetland area was interesting and fun to visit.

Declan  
Writing  
January 6, 2014

### A Marvelous Monday at Miami Beach

On the morning of Monday, September 23, I was about to experience my first fifth grade field trip. We were going to learn about eco-systems! We had been studying eco-systems in science class, and now it was time to put our knowledge to the test.

We did a lot of exciting activities, but my favorite was visiting Miami Beach. It wasn't in Florida, but it was a beach. We were there to look at different organisms in the water. We tried to catch fish in large nets. We did that by walking into the water. It was cold at first, but I got use to it. My group and I only caught three little minnows. We also measured the salinity of the water and made the conclusion that it was brackish water. We tested the temperature too. I had a marvelous Monday at Miami Beach and can't wait to go again!