



Incredible Invertebrates

Module Summary

This module is an immersive dive on a pristine coral reef, where students will learn about numerous invertebrate species and why they are an important part of the marine ecosystem. The CCMI team will guide students through an interactive identification lesson by looking at how the external features of an invertebrate can help us classify them. Students will be able to participate in a live lesson by engaging with an underwater educator as they explore the reefs of Little Cayman in search these fascinating creatures.

Year 4

Learning Objectives

- Define an invertebrate.
- Describe how to identify common invertebrate species on the reef.
- Discover the different habitats in which invertebrates live.
- Explain why invertebrates are important for a healthy reef ecosystem.
- Discuss how humans can manage and protect local invertebrate populations.

Science National Curriculum Alignment

- Find out about other animals, including how they grow, feed, move and use their senses (Year 4)
- Investigate a local habitat, including the relationship between the animals and plants found there, and develop skills in classifying animals and plants by observing external features (Year 4).

Description of the live dive

This live broadcast will be on a coral reef rich with marine life, particularly invertebrates. The underwater educator will communicate constantly with the live lesson host (who will be on the boat) and with the engaged remote class. The educator will take the students through a series of fun facts and learning objectives regarding marine invertebrates, in alignment with the Science National Curriculum of the Cayman Islands. Students will have an in-class activity to complete during the live lesson, which they are welcome to ask questions about to our underwater educator at any time during the duration of the broadcast. The dive will observe numerous invertebrate species on the reef and the habitats in which they reside. Pre-recorded footage and images will be used to show some of the more elusive invertebrates on the reef, should these not be observed naturally during the live broadcast.



Live broadcast outline (45 mins)

- 00:00 - 03:00 CCMI host welcomes students and outlines the lesson
- 03:00 - 05:00 CCMI host introduces the educator and the in-class activity
- 05:00 - 10:00 Educator defines an invertebrate and explains why they are important for a healthy reef ecosystem
- 10:00 - 15:00 Educator points out two invertebrate species (corals and conch)
- 15:00 - 20:00 Questions
- 20:00 - 25:00 Educator points out two invertebrate species (urchins and lobsters)
- 25:00 - 35:00 Educator engages students to report their observations of the different invertebrates on the reef
- 35:00 - 40:00 Questions
- 40:00 - 45:00 CCMI host on the boat recaps the live dive and concludes the lesson

Materials

Internet connection, laptop, projector, speakers, paper, pencils/pens, CCMI activity sheet, and CCMI fun fact sheet.

Useful resources

- www.reefresearch.org/reefs-go-live
- www.doe.ky
- www.education.gov.ky/education/curriculum
- www.oceanservice.noaa.gov/kids/
- www.reefresilience.org/coral-reefs
- www.projectaware.org