Since 1985, the Coastal Discovery Museum has offered educational and interactive programs to regional schools and youth-related organizations. These programs are aligned to many of South Carolina’s Curriculum Standards and engage students in hands-on, experiential learning. Educational experiences are offered at our Honey Horn campus, at several off-site locations, in your classroom, or online. Children participating in a Coastal Discovery Museum program will have the opportunity to make meaningful connections between the natural history and cultural heritage of the Lowcountry.

The Coastal Discovery Museum can come to you! The Museum offers a wide variety of traveling hands-on history and natural history experiences that can be brought to your site. Many of the outreach opportunities can be done with small groups or large groups.
History Experiences

Native Americans on Hilton Head – Imagine what coastal life was like thousands of years ago. Use artifacts, drawings, and replicas to learn about who lived here and how they survived. Students will examine Native American pottery and create replica pinch pots using clay. Social Study Correlations: K.H.2, K.H.3, K.E.1, 1.H.3, 2.H.3, 3.2.2.ER, 3.2.3.ER

Cooperation and Conflict: Native Americans and Europeans in Port Royal Sound
Explore the interactions the Native Americans in the Port Royal Sound area had with the Europeans who settled there. Discover how trade between the two groups led to cooperation and then became a source of conflict. Students will make (and use) a red dye from dried cochineal bugs which the Native Americans traded to the Europeans for iron tools and other goods. (3rd grade and up). Social Study Correlations: 3.2.ER, 3.4.HS, 3.5.HS, 4.1.CO, 4.1.CX, 6.3.CO, 6.3.CE, 6.3.CX, 8.1.CC

Living History with Captain William Hilton – Meet Captain William Hilton and hear about how and why his exploration of the Carolina coast in 1663 lead to an island being named after him. Learn about life aboard his 17th century sailing ship, examine important navigational tools like a chip log (used to determine speed) and a lead line (used to determine water depth), and practice some useful sailors knots. Take your rope home and practice tying knots for your own adventures! (3rd grade and up). Social Study Correlations: 3.1.AG, 3.2.ER, 3.4.HS, 3.5.HS, 4.1.CO, 4.1.CE, 4.1.CX, 6.3.P, 8.1.CO, 8.1.P

16th Century Explorations & Settlements in the Southeast - Learn about eight different 16th century Spanish and French explorers and their settlement attempts in the Southeastern US. Match information about each explorer with their settlement through informational cards, maps, and reproduction artifacts. Students will make a piece of rope from palm fronds to take with them just like the ones Native Americans made for the French. (4th grade and up). Social Study Correlations: 3.2 ER, 3.4 HS, 3.5 HS, 3.5 AG, 4.1 CO, 4.1 CX, 6.3, CO, 6.3 CE, 6.3 CX, 6.3 E, 8.1 CC
History Experiences

Life in Colonial Times – Life was different for people in colonial South Carolina than it is today, but in some ways it was very much the same. Students will compare and contrast life then and now by looking at pictures and examining reproduction artifacts. They will have a chance to play 18th century games and make an authentic 18th century headache sack. (Grades K-3). Social Study Correlations: 3.4.PR, 3.4.AG, 4.1.P

Medicine in Colonial Times – What was health care like for people in colonial South Carolina? Students will learn how people in the past dealt with sickness and disease through a presentation and by examining reproduction artifacts. They will then analyze the treatment given to George Washington during his final illness. (4th grade and up). Social Study Correlations: 4.1.E, 4.2.E

Civil War on Hilton Head – The Civil War is one of the most important events in the history of our country. Learn about what Hilton Head Island looked like from 1861-65, when Union soldiers occupied the island. Students will recreate the battle of Port Royal with Commander Percival Drayton as they learn about this significant historical event. (3rd grade and up). Social Study Correlations: 4.4.CO, 4.4.CE, 4.4.CX, 4.4.E

Camp Dig-It – Get an introduction to the wonderful world of archaeology by a professional archaeologist. Students will have the opportunity to learn about the past as they excavate and identify artifacts from a simulated site dig box. 2020 Social Study Standards: 3.2.ER, 4.1.CO, 6.3.CE, 8.1.CC
Natural History Experiences

A Day at the Beach – Experience life on the beach...without actually going to the beach. Discover a wide variety of fascinating beach critters, learn about what lives in those shells, and investigate the lives of beach visitors like sea turtles and horseshoe crabs. Discover why the beach is such an important habitat and learn how to protect it. Science Correlations: K.P.1, K.L.2, 1.S.1, 1.E.4, 1.L.5, 2.S.1, 2.L.5, 3.S.1, 3.E.4, 3.L.5, 4.S.1, 4.L.5, 5.S.1, 5.E.4, 6.S.1, 6.L.4, 6.L.5, 7.S.1, 7.EC.5


Squid Dissection – Explore the fascinating lives of the fastest swimming marine invertebrates. Examine the external and internal anatomy of the squid through a dissection activity. Science Correlations: 2.S.1, 2.L.5, 3.S.1, 3.I.5, 4.S.1, 4.L.5, 5.S.1, 5.L.4, 6.S.1, 6.L.4, 7.S.1, 7.EC.5, 8.S.1

All About Owls (Owl Pellet Dissection) - From beak to tail, birds living in the Lowcountry exhibit some amazing adaptations for survival in diverse environments. In this avian investigation, students will dissect owl pellets and discover what makes owls the ultimate nocturnal predator. Science Correlations: 2.L.5, 3.L.5, 4.L.5, 5.L.4, 6.L.4, 7.EC.5


Horseshoe Crabs: A Living Fossil - With its tough, helmet-like body and long, pointed tail, the horseshoe crab is one of the most intriguing and misunderstood marine invertebrates found in our marine waters. Dive in with us as we explore the horseshoe crab and investigate the life cycle and adaptations of this living fossil. Science Correlations: K.L.2, 2.L.5, 3.L.5, 4.L.5, 5.L.4, 6.L.4, 7.EC.5, 8.E.6
1. Get approval from appropriate school officials.
2. Pick a few possible dates and times that will work for your group.
3. Determine the number of students that will be participating and what program(s) you would like them to participate in (please contact Dawn Brut if you have questions).
4. Call or email the Curator of Education, Dawn Brut, with your name, school name, grade, number of classes/students, program choices, and possible dates and times.
5. Once you are on the calendar, you will receive a Confirmation Notice with the details of your outreach program(s) outlined.
6. A few days prior to your trip please look over your Confirmation Notice again and make sure you and your students are prepare for your outreach program(s).
7. After your field trip you will receive an invoice for the number of students that participated.

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Thank you to our sponsors, The Bargain Box, Breddlove Foundation, and Palmetto Electric Trust for providing funding that enables us to provide high quality, standard-based educational experiences for school groups.

Other Experiences
The Coastal Discovery Museum has so much to offer teachers and students. Visit www.coastaldiscovery.org to learn more about Online Resources, Virtual Experiences, Conservation in the Classroom, Field Trip Opportunities, and Teacher Workshops.

www.coastaldiscovery.org