

The Science of Oysters

An Elementary Environmental Curriculum from the Texas Surf Conservancy

Oyster Adventures (Grades K–2)

Learning Objectives:

- Recognize oysters as part of a larger marine ecosystem
- Understand that oysters provide shelter and food for other sea life
- Identify oyster reefs as homes for crabs, shrimp, and fish
- Encourage care for living things and their homes in nature
- Ensure that students are identifying, understanding, practicing, explaining or demonstrating what they have learned throughout the program



TEKS Alignment:

- Kindergarten: §112.2 (13)(B): Animal structures for interaction and survival
- Grade 1: §112.3 (12)(B)(C): Relationships and food chains in ecosystems
- Grade 2: §112.4 (12)(A)(B): Ecosystem support; food chain demonstration

Oyster Explorers (Grades 3–5)

Learning Objectives:

- Understand what a keystone species is and why oysters qualify
- Describe how oyster reefs support marine biodiversity
- Explore relationships between organisms in reef habitats
- Discuss how protecting oysters helps the entire ecosystem

TEKS Alignment:

- Grade 3: §112.5 (12)(B): Food chain impact; §112.5 (13)(A): Animal survival structures
- Grade 4: §112.6 (12)(B): Food web relationships; §112.6 (13)(A): Survival adaptations
- Grade 5: §112.16 (12)(A)(C): Ecosystem health and human impact; §112.16 (13)(A): Functional traits

The Texas Surf Conservancy offers this program at no charge to elementary schools in the Coastal Bend. To schedule your classroom session, please send an email with your school's name, your contact information, grade level, and preferred dates at education@texassurfconservancy.org