

River Roving Tour

(ESL Target Level Intermediate)

Contact information:

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North Carolina Estuarium
223 E Water St.
Washington, NC 27889



Take Greenville Blvd to Hwy 264 in Washington. Take a right on Hwy 17. Turn left on Water Street.

Purpose:

1. to use maps relating to travel needs
2. to interpret information about recreational & entertainment facilities & activities
3. to interpret information about weather conditions
4. to understand or use appropriate language for informational purposes

Vocabulary:

Pamlico River	bullfrog	heron	turtle
Tar River	cypress tree	snake	gar
Africans	dolphin	sharks	rays
Europeans	camouflage	predator	decoy
Native Americans	wood duck	river otter	muskrat
Oyster	nutrients	litter	freshwater
Toxic chemicals	waste	sediment	wetland

Reading:

<http://www.partnershipforthesounds.org/NorthCarolinaEstuarium.aspx>
<http://www.albemarle-nc.com/pfs/>
<http://www.visitnc.com/listings/view/35932/north-carolina-estuarium-1>
<http://visitncne.com/Attractions/North-Carolina-Estuarium.html>

Speaking:

The discussion questions were written on the board prior to the reading activity. The instructor had the students get on their laptops and look up the various websites. The instructor led the discussion. Discussion questions:

1. What county is the estuary in?
2. How long will it take us to get to the estuary?
3. What are the names of the 2 rivers we will tour?
4. What is an estuary?
5. What animals/birds do you expect to see along the river?
6. Why is it important to conserve wetlands?

Summary of trip:

This was an actual boat tour of both the Pamlico and Tar rivers at the estuary site where the two rivers converge. We met at the Estuarium and then Captain Gray escorted us to the boat. On the pontoon boat, while roving down the river, the captain gave us a verbal tour of the area and its history. He also provided binoculars for viewing interesting species and a book to help us identify various waterfowl. We saw a flock of Canada geese and a beaver's nest.

The captain also pointed out many uprooted trees as a result of Hurricane Irene (8/26/11). We discussed damage from hurricanes and the general effects of hurricanes on the river, its wildlife, and indigenous plants. He showed us boats that had blown onto islands because of Irene.

Writing:

As a large group, students discussed the trip. The instructor guided the conversation by asking questions and soliciting comments. What was the most interesting part of the tour? What surprised you? What was some of the damage from hurricanes? Following the large group discussion, the instructor gave some writing prompts. Students chose one to write about:

1. Describe the class River Roving trip at the NC Estuarium"
2. How did Hurricane Irene impact the environment?
3. What kinds of wildlife live along the river?
4. Write a thank you note to the captain of our boat or the curator of the Estuarium.