

Birch Bay State Park



Pacific
Shellfish
Institute



The Garden of the Salish Sea Curriculum is funded through a Public Participation Grant from the Department of Ecology, the Whatcom Community Foundation, and individual donations.

Essential Questions: *What lives in our local intertidal zones? How can we be stewards of the Salish Sea?*

Instructions: *All parts of this lab can be found in this document. Read the page and click on the links as you go.*

Video: First click on this link to watch a video →



Prompt	Your answer
What did you notice?	
What did you wonder?	







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Video: Pick at least one of these organisms to learn more about: →

Hairy Shore Crab <i>Hemigrapsus oregonensis</i>	Red Tide	Chiton	Purple Sea Star <i>Pisaster ochraceus</i>
			

Prompt	Your answer
What did you notice?	
What did you wonder?	

Reading:

As you read, pay attention to the scientific vocabulary words (underlined and in bold).

Shellfish, including clams and oysters, are **filter-feeders**. That means that they eat microscopic things like plankton from the water, and clean it in the process. Adult oysters can filter up to 50 gallons of water in a day. If we want to be able to harvest oysters and other shellfish we need to be careful about what gets into the water. Pollutants like **fecal coliform bacteria**, which is in poop that can come from animals or faulty septic systems, can make us very sick. We should never collect shellfish without checking the Washington Department of Health's biotoxin hotline (1-800-562-5632) for paralytic shellfish poisoning and pollutant closures or look at the [shellfish safety map](#).



Video: Watch this video about clam surveys →

Prompt	Your answer
What did you notice?	
What did you wonder?	
Why do you think there are harvest limits?	



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What can you do to protect our clams?	
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Now, read the [Salish Sea Challenge](#)

It is a list of ideas for ways that you can have a positive impact on the health of your watershed, conserve energy and decrease the amount of CO2 emissions you are releasing. Read and **make a commitment** with your families to be **stewards** of the Salish Sea and practice **watershed** healthy habits. Print the Salish Sea Challenge and post it. Use the table to record your actions and the number of times you did them to quantify the impact your choices have on the environment. Use [this form](#) to report your Challenge actions.

Optional Extension:

- Planning a trip to the beach with your family? Use our [Family Field Trip - Beach Exploration Guide](#).
- Video: [Pisaster Ochraceus Feeding](#)
- Video: [Nudibranch Feeding and Mating](#)
- Video: [Nudibranch Larvae](#)
- Video: [The Intertidal Biome](#)
- Video: [Hairy Shore Crab Life Cycle](#)
- Video: [Chiton Radula](#)



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