Virtual Estuary Education
Resources for Students

NOAA Office for Coastal Management
cost.noaa.gov/estuaries

When students can’t get to a National Estuarine Research Reserve for an estuary education experience, the reserves can bring estuary education to students. Explore this list of resources from research reserves around the country.

ACE Basin Reserve in South Carolina

South Carolina Marine Education Videos – This suite of videos teaches students about estuaries and the variety of organisms that call the estuary home.

Chesapeake Bay Reserve in Virginia

Multi-media Resource Page – Explore the online multimedia resources developed to provide insight into the reserve’s research and educate about the coastal and estuarine ecosystems of the Chesapeake Bay.

Elkhorn Slough Reserve in California

Digital Resources for Distance Learning – The Elkhorn Slough Reserve is excited to bring you a variety of remote learning opportunities for students and anyone who is interested in learning more about our Slough.

Monitor the Otters – Help Elkhorn Slough Reserve scientists monitor the slough otters. Access the live camera, then follow the instructions to document your observations on the data sheets provided.

Virtual Field Trips – Take a virtual field trip to learn more about Elkhorn Slough estuary. These field trips include K-12 grade-level worksheets and language arts exercises.

Watersheds, Wetlands, and Estuaries Resource Guide – Download this K-12 environmental education resource guide for the Elkhorn Slough Reserve to complement virtual lessons. This guide includes background information, grade level activities, and photographs.

Virtual Walkabout – Explore the various habitats of Elkhorn Slough Reserve with a naturalist through this five-part video series for middle school students.
Get Salty! Salt Marsh Bioblitz – Spend time at a recently restored salt marsh recording the returning biodiversity. Use the iNaturalist app to continue the exploration in your own backyard! This activity is for middle and high school students.

Nature Journaling in Your Own Backyard! – Explore various aspects of nature journaling through this five-part series for grades six to eight.

Great Bay Reserve in New Hampshire

Critter Dinner Time at the Great Bay Discovery Center – Visit the Great Bay Reserve Facebook page to watch the staff feeding estuarine creatures in the Great Bay Discovery Center’s Discovery Tank, and learn about the creatures in a New Hampshire estuary.

Hudson River Reserve in New York

Virtual River – Access a weekly series of lesson plans with a short introductory video about the Hudson River along with suggested activities for younger and older students.

Virtual River Videos – Visit the YouTube channel to view the Hudson River video series.

North Inlet-Winyah Bay in South Carolina

Snippets from the Salt Marsh – Explore fauna and flora of the estuary and beach with information and additional resources for each topic. This information is also available through the reserve’s Twitter and Instagram pages.

Tijuana River Reserve in California

Lunchtime Live – Join Tijuana River Reserve staff members each Tuesday for a 20-minute Facebook Live video about life in the estuary.

PORTS Program – PORTS (Parks Online Resources for Teachers and Students) Program is a FREE distance learning program with California State Parks. PORTS uses the power of videoconferencing to support K-12 educators in designing deep and meaningful learning experiences for their students.