

Introduction to Keys Habitats Discussion

MarineLab offers a more thorough marine ecology program for groups who stay longer than our basic 3 day/2night program. The Keys Habitats discussion is an introductory class that includes an introduction to ecology as it pertains to the field trips they will be participating in and an overview of the marine habitats the students will be visiting. The class is meant to paint a larger picture of our waters and the interconnection of our marine habitats before students begin studying and observing each habitat individually.

Grade Level: 8th and Above

Timing: 1 hour

Concepts Covered:

- Intro to FL Keys: geological, geographical and other environmental reasons for the ecological uniqueness of the FL Keys marine habitats
- Interconnection of Florida Keys habitats to one another, to the South Florida watershed, to the Caribbean and to the Gulf of Mexico
- Ecology
- Introduction of threats/solution to marine habitats

Vocabulary: ecology, chart, salinity, abiotic, biotic, salinity, photic zone, fetch, turbidity, tropical/subtropical, obligate halophyte, oceanic