



Keys Survey Field Trip

This field trip gives students a first-hand perspective of the horizontal zonation of the dominant marine habitats in the waters off of Key Largo. The trip begins with a walk into the hardwood hammock and includes snorkeling at multiple sites as we take the boat inshore to offshore (seagrass/mangrove habitat, hardbottom, patch reef, artificial reef (shipwreck), bank reef and the deep blue). The changes in ecology the students observe at each habitat will be discussed.

Grade Level: 7th grade and Above

** This trip involves getting on and off the boat multiple times for several snorkel opportunities and can be physically too much for many younger students and/or new snorkelers **

Timing: 3.5 hours

Concepts Covered:

- Horizontal zonation of the habitats that make up Key Largo
- Changes in ecology of each habitat within the Florida Keys ecosystem

Vocabulary: ecology, biotic, abiotic, horizontal zonation, turbidity, oligotrophic, eutrophic, diversity, hardwood hammock, hardbottom, inshore, offshore