

GREEN EGGS AND SAND

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“Green Eggs and Sand” is an exciting interdisciplinary curriculum comprised of four educational modules which systematically guide students through an understanding of the Horseshoe crab (*Limulus polyphemus*), its connection to several species of shorebirds, its use by man, and human attempts to manage this valuable resource. Development of the curriculum became possible through the joint effort of scientists, resource managers, and teachers from Maryland, Delaware, and New Jersey.

Modules one and two engage students with hands-on activities that focus on the anatomy and ecology of horseshoe crabs and shorebirds. Activities, such as “Build a Shorebird” and “Horseshoe Crab Jeopardy,” entice the students into a rewarding learning experience. Module three introduces social science activities in history, economics, and statistics. Students consider various historical events with “Time Tracking.” These young minds develop a keen appreciation for the horseshoe crab based entirely on its place in history, and this inadvertently assists in deepening their awareness of the importance of the horseshoe crab. Mankind’s dependence on this resource is made evident through instruction in module three. Module four addresses the management issue as it adequately considers when limited science meets the politics of management. Instruction occurs when discussing the horseshoe crab harvesting controversy, limited data, and the insights of actual stakeholders, scientists, and managers. “Tragedy of the Commons” is an activity that encourages students to participate in a predicament that simulates a situation resembling the horseshoe crab/shorebird phenomenon. The final module encourages students to examine their own values and beliefs regarding this resource by developing and justifying their individual management plan.

Each module incorporates the use of video clips, Internet activities, real time data, and several hands-on activities. The video clips compliment each of the four modules. Students use the Internet to complete a WebQuest and Treasure Hunt. Data can be updated by using several Internet resources. Finally, there are numerous activities that easily catch the fancy of teachers and the students they teach.