Plant/Animal Identification

**Marine Science Center**

1. Blue Crab (Callinectes sapidus)
   1. Habitat
      1. Brackish (somewhat salty, less salty than ocean) lagoons
      2. Estuaries
   2. Adaptive Characteristics
      1. Large range of diet
         1. Mussels, snails, fish, plants, smaller blue crabs
      2. High tolerance for salinity
   3. Threatened/Endangered Status
      1. Common
   4. Threats
      1. Human development
      2. Pollution
   5. Protection Policies
      1. Reduction of pollution



[Blue Crab: Marine Science Center]

1. Mahara Fish
   1. Habitat
      1. Brackish lagoons
      2. Estuaries
   2. Adaptive Characteristics
      1. Has a sandy top and a shiny, silver bottom to avoid predators
   3. Threatened/Endangered Status
      1. Common
   4. Threats
      1. Pollution
   5. Protection Policies
      1. N/A



[Mahara fish: [photos.al.com](http://photos.al.com/alcom_photo_essay/2010/09/baby_fish_show_up_in_big_numbe.html)]

1. Fiddler Crab (Uca)
   1. Habitat
      1. Brackish lagoons
      2. Muddy burrows
      3. Ocean beaches
   2. Adaptive Characteristics
      1. Males have a large, white pincher to wave to females
      2. Change color—darker during day, pale at night
   3. Threatened/Endangered Status
      1. Common
   4. Threats
      1. Water Pollution
   5. Protection Policies
      1. Habitat restoration
      2. Water pollution reduction



[Fiddler Crab: [www.allthesea.com](http://www.allthesea.com/Sea-Crabs-Fiddler-Crab.html)]

**Marine Discovery Center**

1. Lightning Whelk (Busycon perversum)
   1. Habitat
      1. Fine, muddy, sandy areas
      2. Low/subtidal areas
   2. Adaptive Characteristics
      1. Does not need to feed often—once a month (carnivorous)
      2. Ability to move into bigger shell
   3. Threatened/Endangered Status
      1. Common
   4. Threats
      1. Sea birds
      2. Water pollution
   5. Protection Policies
      1. Reduction of water pollution



[Lightning Whelk: Marine Science Center]

1. Red Mangrove (Rhizophoraceae)
   1. Habitat
      1. Brackish Lagoons
      2. Estuaries
   2. Adaptive Characteristics
      1. Root structure (were known as the “walking trees”)
      2. Shiny, thick, yellow sacrificial leaf that filters salt out of water
   3. Threatened/Endangered Status
      1. Severe danger
   4. Threats
      1. Human development/construction
      2. Frost
      3. Hurricanes
      4. Climate change
   5. Protection Policies
      1. Local and State Government laws



[Red mangrove: [www.reelfl.org](http://www.reelfl.org/species-2/)]

1. Little Blue Heron (Egretta caerulea)
   1. Habitat
      1. Mangroves
      2. Wetlands
   2. Adaptive Characteristics
      1. Nest low in shrubs or mangroves—avoid being seen by predators
   3. Threatened/Endangered Status
      1. High concern—declining population
   4. Threats
      1. Human development
   5. Protection Policies
      1. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act



[Little Blue Heron: [www.blueturtletrawler.com](http://www.blueturtletrawler.com/kayaking-at-lovers-key/)]

References

*Blue Crabs, Blue Crab Pictures, Blue Crab Facts - National Geographic. (n.d.). Retrieved April 16, 2016, from http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/invertebrates/blue-crab/*

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*Red Mangrove - National Wildlife Federation. (n.d.). Retrieved April 16, 2016, from* [*https://www.nwf.org/Wildlife/Wildlife-Library/Plants/Red-Mangrove.aspx*](https://www.nwf.org/Wildlife/Wildlife-Library/Plants/Red-Mangrove.aspx)

*Marine Science Center: Chad March, Educational Volunteer. Keith Flynn, Aquarium Manager*

*Marine Discovery Center: guided kayak tour*