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## CMA's Super Educator, Carl Carranza

By *CMA Kids News* reporters

**D**id you know that the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium not only has a cool aquarium and tidepool walks, but also a salt marsh? CMA Educator Carl Carranza took *CMA Kids News* reporters on a fun tour of the salt marsh.

**CMA Kids News:** How are salt marshes formed?  
**Carranza:** Lots of different ways. Usually it's an area where you have tides coming up and covering

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*Photo by D. Southwell*

CMA Educator with *CMA Kids News* reporters and PressFriends mentors

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## Away with Pollution

By Lindsay O.

**P**lastic bags, soda bottles, soda cans and other plastic and metal items cause ocean pollution. Ocean pollution is bad for living creatures in the ocean like for example sea stars, fish, sea urchins and all of the other living

things in the ocean. A lot of these animals die from ocean pollution. Pollution is bad for the ocean, land and people!

During storms, trash and other things go down the drain and to the

*Continued on page 8*



<http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/images/>



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## Salt Marsh Adventures

By Sara K.

**Y**ou probably think a salt marsh is a lifeless, boring place filled with mud and salty water. But, look a little closer, and you will discover how wrong you were. Why, a salt marsh is actually full with great sea life and wondrous adventure.

For example, you might find a bird wandering in the low tide. One of the smart hunters is the Snowy Egret. It has a long, broad neck and pearly white feathers. If you spot one of these intellectual birds, watch closely at its feet. You'll find it shuffling them around in the mud.

Since the Snowy Egret has a long middle toe, it appears as a worm as it sticks out from the mud, and a curious fish clasps onto its toe, thinking that it's bait. The Snowy Egret then pulls out the fish and pops the poor little guy into his mouth. Now that's an adventure. A dangerous one for the fish, and a satisfying one for the Egret.

Look around some more. You'll probably see a fish or two leaping high out of the water and going back down, creating a large splash sound. If you spy closely on it you'll probably find an even larger fish chas-

ing it. The smaller fish will be swimming for its life, frantically, waiting for a miracle. Sometimes the smaller fish ends up winning and gets away. Other times the bigger one wins, with a blissful feeling in its stomach. You never know what's going to happen, watch for yourself. It's like a battle—an adventurous one!

These were just a few examples of the amazing adventures of the salt marshes. There are stingrays, exotic birds, and much more. To explore them... well, that's YOUR adventure. ❖



[www.cabrilomarineaquarium.org](http://www.cabrilomarineaquarium.org)

## Always Think Before

By Diana K

**D**id you know that there used to be 50,000 salt marshes in the United States and now there are only 30 left? What do you think happened to all these incredible salt marshes? Incredible? Well, if you look at a salt marsh, wonderful wonders are going on constantly.

But when a single dock is built, over 3,000 living creatures lose

their lives. You may say we need docks and also salt marshes, so what should we do? That is why you always think before you do something that is very harmful to living creatures without noticing.

If you are someone who cares about nature, think about all the creatures that live in the salt marsh. For example, fish need to lay their eggs in

salt marsh so the eggs can be protected against any harm. If they lay their eggs in the ocean, when their babies are just a day old, a gigantic sea creature can take a single breath and swallow the whole baby fish into their body. That is why we need to save the salt marshes to preserve living creatures. So remember always to think before. ❖



<http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/images/>



Photo by D. Southwell

## Underwater Wonders of the Salt Marsh

By Hana M.

**T**he Salt Marsh is a place that is like a lake, with plants living in it. The plants in the marsh are special because they can grow with salt water.

Cordgrass is a type of grass that grows in the Salt Marsh, that has roots that grow up above the water. The roots keep the plant alive by acting like breathing tubes when the tide rises. Another plant is the Pickleweed, which is a plant that the Native Americans used in early California to liven up their meals with its salty flavor.

The fish that live in the Salt Marsh are not

very big. The largest fish is about three feet long. There are a lot of baby animals in the Salt Marsh, because there are no big fish to eat them. When the animal grows up it can move to the ocean where it is able to compete with bigger creatures.

Other interesting inhabitants of the Salt Marsh are Sting Rays! The Cabrillo's Salt Marsh has quite a few of them. And if you're really lucky, you might see an octopus on the rocks trying to find crabs to eat.

At most ponds, you see ducks and maybe swans, but at the Salt

Marsh, there are lots of different kinds of birds. Most of the birds in the Marsh hang around because of the fish. Two of the birds in the Marsh are Ducks and Coots. These two look very much alike. The Salt Marsh also holds the Great Blue Herons that can grow to four feet tall. And there are birds that you can find almost everywhere - Gulls. One fact about them is that they eat everything.

If you have a chance, visit the Cabrillo Salt Marsh to see the underwater wonders ... and don't forget to bring your binoculars and camera. ❖



Photo by D. Southwell

## The Salt Marsh!!!

By Olivia S.

**T**he Salt Marsh is like a lake, with plants living in it!!

Cordgrass, a type of grass that grows in the Salt Marsh, has to have a tiny air hole to breathe, so the Cordgrass has a tube that comes up every once in a while, and it sucks down air so the roots have air to breathe!

The fish that live in the Salt Marsh are not

that big. Carl Carranza, a CMA educator, told *CMA Kids News* that the biggest fish in the Salt Marsh is about three feet long!! That's not really big at all!

The Salt marsh is also a great place for giving birth or raising a baby fish because, there are no big fish that would eat them.

At most ponds, you see ducks, and swans,

but at this Salt marsh, there are lots of birds! We saw a white bird, and a really big tall bird called, The Blue Heron!!

We also saw Sting Rays!! We saw three of them!!! It was really cool!

Carranza said, "If you are really lucky, you can see octopus looking for crabs on the rocks."

This is what makes the Salt Marsh interesting! ❖

## The Interesting Sea Life of the CMA

By Tara S.

A salt marsh is a very important part of the environment for several species of fish, sharks and birds. Fish need a salt marsh for having babies, as it is much less likely to be eaten in a shallow salt marsh than the deep ocean. Small mostly harmless sharks live in salt marshes because of the seaweed-like plants that grow there. Birds live in salt marshes due to the abundance of lit-

tle fish which they eat and share a home.

### Salt Marsh Plants

There are also a lot of different “plants” in Cabrillo’s salt marsh. Pickleweed is one of those “underwater grasses”. It is a grass-like plant that grows at the bottom of the sea marshes. Pickleweed can survive in salt water due to several adaptations. By the way, “Pickleweed” is not just

a name to make the plant sound interesting. It actually looks like a cross between a pickle and a weed! Pickleweed survive underwater by gathering salt in its leaves until they turn an orange or reddish color and fall off.

There are many, many more interesting facts about the Cabrillo Salt Marsh. Come on down to the Cabrillo Aquarium and see for yourself! ❖



Photo by D. Southwell

## Tramping thru the Salt Marsh

By Holden O.

CMA Educator, Carl Carranza, took the CMA Kids News staff on a tour of the Cabrillo Salt Marsh. It was nice visiting the salt marsh, but the best part was the information Mr. Carranza gave us. We had a lot of fun at the exhibits.

First, we went to the aquarium. While there, we learned that some sea plants, such as pickleweed and cordgrass, have found different ways to adapt to salt marshes. Since it is under water most of

the time, pickleweed gets oxygen from underwater, while cordgrass uses tubes to get air above water.

We also learned that salt marshes are breeding grounds for fish. This is a great nursery for babies because there are fewer predators in the vicinity. Only heron are accustomed to eating fish, but even so, they normally catch worms and snails.

On the way to the salt marsh, we saw a cliff. The rocks around it were made of tiny fos-

sils. The rocks are good as filters or for keeping away bugs. Also, we saw a sour plant called lemonberry. At last, we arrived at the last 3.5 acres of salt marsh.

We used binoculars to investigate the salt marsh. We saw a few stingrays and a snowy egret, which uses its broad middle toe to lure out fish to eat.

We learned much, but I deem most importantly, the fact that states that one should respect and keep intact the salt marsh. ❖



Photo by D. Southwell



Photo by D. Southwell

## Fun Salt Marshes

By Ryan L.

A Salt Marsh is a body of water that has different animals and birds. Every hour the tide changes which make a marsh look different every time. Baby fish live in marshes and there are no big fish to prey on them.

There was a Salt Marsh in the Cabrillo area many years ago, and it was 3,000 acres. Then it was turned into

a harbor. Today, only 3 acres of the Salt Marsh remain.

Birds adapt very well and are everywhere in Salt Marshes. Some birds take clams or mussels and drop them onto cars or rocks to break them so they can eat the insides.

When you walk to the Cabrillo's Salt Marsh there are painted raccoon footprints that you

can follow. Along the way, there is a cliff that has diatomaceous earth. Diatomaceous earth is to kill parasites inside cows. Diatomaceous earth is made of fossilized plankton and is sharp like glass.

You should go to the Cabrillo's salt marsh some time. The Cabrillo Marine Aquarium is fun because there are so many entertaining things to do. ❖



www.cabrillosmarinaquarium.org

## Short Story: Amazing World of Grunion

By Tilly S.

Once there was a grunion who lost its mommy when he was still an egg. She got lost in a shark attack. Luckily she survived but they were separated. When he hatched he wanted to find his mommy. He knew she looked exactly like him and he knew she was a girl.

He set off into the sea. There were a lot of fish who looked exactly

like him but they were boys. There were also girls who looked exactly like him but they were either too young or had other eggs. He saw other fish but they weren't his kind and they were either bigger than him or smaller than him.

He went on to find his mommy. He saw a sea lion eat a little fish so that was when he

learned to stay away from any animal that was bigger or stronger than him. He saw a little bit of coral and he was tired so he decided to take a nap in the little bit of coral. He went inside and you know what he saw? A fish that looked exactly like him. She was a little bit bigger than him. She was so nice and sweet. It was his Mommy! ❖

### FUN FISH FACTS

1. The Sea Turtle is a gourmet item in American seafood restaurants.  True  False
2. Eels are marine reptiles.  True  False
3. Fish sleep.  True  False
4. Red tide contaminated mollusks become safe to eat when cooked.  True  False

ANSWERS: 1. False. Sea turtles are an endangered species protected by law; 2. False. Eels are fish. 3. True. Fish sleep. 4. False. For more information, see <http://www.yoto98.noaa.gov/index.html>.

## The Underwater Venus Flytrap

By Faith K.

The *Melibe leonina* opens its big mouth and swallows plankton. The name, *Melibe Leonina*, is the scientific name for a Lion Nudibranch. It is like a Venus Flytrap, and smells very strongly of watermelon. They swim fast if they use their humungous mouth by opening and closing their mouth.

There are a lot of interesting facts about the Nudibranch. It eats by using its oral hood or mouth. The feelers, which look like feathers feel around the water for food. It usually eats small crustaceans which



Photo by Luke Southwell

are small fish, jellies, plankton, and seaweed. The nudibranch use mostly touch and taste to find their food.

The Lion Nudibranch lives off the Pacific Coast and near Catalina Island. The ones that usually smell like watermelon are the ones that live near Catalina. Staff at the Cabrillo Marine

Aquarium have smelled nudibranches, and they say that they actually smell like watermelon!

Most people don't realize how interesting and humane animal a nudibranch is. These very interesting animals have interesting ways of surviving in the ocean among predators.

For more information, look at *Nudibranch Behavior* by David E. Behrens, and *Pacific Coast Nudibranches* by David E. Behrens. Both books are in the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium's library that is open to the public. ❖



Photo by Luke Southwell

## Adaptations of the Clown Triggerfish

By Michaela L.

The clown triggerfish is a very interesting fish. It has black with white spots on its belly. Its habitats are coral reefs and the deep seaward reef slopes. They also venture into the clear coastal water.

The size of a clown triggerfish is approximately 20 inches long. The food they eat are sea urchins, crustaceans, mollusks, and sea squirts.

The clown triggerfish has a protective covering of tough scales. The triggerfish breeds by releasing eggs into the water and fertilizing externally.

The clown triggerfish adapts to its environment physically as well as mentally.

While the triggerfish seems pretty on the outside, it is actually a very aggressive fish. Housing

a clown triggerfish might be difficult. Also they damage or tip over corals and eat invertebrates, so they cannot be housed in reef aquariums.

The clown triggerfish can bite with their sharp teeth when they feel threatened. Even though the clown triggerfish is aggressive, it is a beautiful fish and can be kept as a house pet. ❖



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## Adaptations to Survive

By Sydney C.

**T**he Fugu Puffer fish has many adaptations to survive in the vast ocean.

Fugu Puffer fish are very famous because they can inflate their bodies with water or air to discourage enemies. The Fugu Puffer fish inflates when the fish is scared. So if a predator tries to eat it, the Fugu Puffer fish inflates.

Did you know that the puffer fish is only four inches long? Wow!

Have you ever wondered what kind of foods the Fugu Puffer Fish eats? Well, they eat hard shelled mollusks and crustaceans. If you were a puffer fish you would love those foods.

Where would you find the Fugu Puffer fish? You can find them in the

North Western Pacific Ocean, from Vietnam to Japan on sandy sea beds.

In Japanese “Fugu” means puffer fish.

Have you ever eaten puffer fish before? Well if you visit Japan you probably will! I wonder how that will taste.

These amazing Fugu Puffer fish need adaptations to survive ❖



<http://projectpuffin.org/ATPUs.html>

## The Amazing Puffins

By Gabby S.

**P**uffins are like miniature penguins but cuter. They have an orange beak, a white belly, black wings and webbed feet.

There are many kinds of Puffins, they are Horned puffin, Tufted puffin, Atlantic puffin and Rhinoceros Auklet. The Atlantic Puffin is

12.5 inches long. The Horned Puffin is 15 inches long. The Tufted Puffin is 15 inches long. The Rhinoceros Auklet is 14.5 inches long.

They can fly 48 to 55 miles per hour and they can flap their wings at the speed of 400 flaps a minute. They can swim 100 feet deep just to

catch a fish. Puffins' favorite food is fish.

The predators of Puffins are seals, gulls, snowy owls, bald eagles and foxes.

Puffins live in rocky coastal areas with cooler waters. They usually live for 25-30 years.

Puffins are amazing animals. ❖



## Away with Pollution

Continued from page 1

ocean. Then the ocean gets polluted which makes the sea animals die.

Air pollution is also a problem. We need air to

live but unfortunately it is polluted. So if we want fresh air, oil and gas companies should not put smoke or other gases in the air.

So to save ocean life, have a clean ocean to splash around and play, and clean air for living things to breathe, don't pollute! ❖

## Spiny and Spectacular

By Olivia C.

**W**hat is spiny, red and lives in tidepools? Give up? It's a Giant Red Sea Urchin. They are the biggest urchins in the North Pacific, and they can live 100 years or more.

What's the first thing you notice when you look at one? Their spines! The Red Urchin is covered with toothpick-like spikes. They

may look scary, but they're really herbivores. Seaweed is their main diet.

Speaking of food, if you're a sea urchin, look out! If you don't, you might be a sea otter's lunch. Sea urchins can also be a meal for some fish, sea stars, and crabs.

You might have heard that sea urchins are poi-

sonous. Not true—at least here. Sea urchins are not poisonous in Southern California.

The Red Sea Urchin's spines give you a "hug" when you put your finger in between them. The spines may give you deep red marks the color of their tube feet.

The Red Sea Urchin is the coolest animal in the tidepool. ❖



By Luke Southwell

## Scarlett Hand Strikes Again!

By Minji J.

**H**urry, RUN! Before they get you! Just kidding. Red sea urchins are herbivores, so they're practically harmless. Their spikes aren't very sharp either, although they look like sharp toothpicks.

The sea urchin's spikes are not poisonous. Red sea urchins are so gentle that they want to

give you a hug when you put your fingers between their spines. And if you keep your fingers there long enough, red marks (that fade away) will appear on your fingers.

The red sea urchin is the biggest spiny sea urchin found in the North Pacific Ocean.

The Red Sea Urchin is

preyed upon by sea otters that live in the kelp forest, and by Japanese people. Poor sea urchins!

But the red sea urchins who live through those threats can live to over one hundred years old.

Talk about having a long life! I hope you have a long life too! ❖



By Luke Southwell

## How Starfish Eat

By Loren K.

**W**ould you like to know how a starfish eats?

First, starfish go to their prey, a mollusk. The sea star approaches the mollusk at a slow

speed, but when it finally reaches it, it goes on the divider of the shell and the body of the shells. Then, it pulls the shells the apart, or the shell from the body.

After the shells have been pulled enough, the starfish digests the meat of prey. Once the process is done, the starfish moves on to its other ways of life. ❖



By Luke Southwell



Photo by Mike Schaadt

## Elephant Seals

By Kaylin L.

**W**hat sea animal has a nose that looks like an elephant's trunk? If you guessed the elephant seal, you are right! Did you know that elephant seals and elephants have more in common?

First, they are both large. There are two types of elephant seals: the northern elephant seal and the southern elephant seal. Both are bigger than sea lions, but the southern elephant seal is the largest of all seals. It can get up to 8,800 pounds!

Second, they both live long lives. The northern elephant seal has a shorter life, but

the southern elephant seal can live up to 22 years.

Third, they both make similar noises.

### More Fun Facts

Elephant seals spend most of their time in the ocean. The Northern Elephant seal lives in the Pacific Ocean near California and Baja California. The Southern Elephant Seal lives in the sub-Antarctic and Antarctic. They are great swimmers, but they can also move quickly on land. Southern elephant seals are able to dive almost one mile deep and stay

underwater for up to two hours.

Their favorite foods are: skates, rays, squid, octopuses, eels, small sharks, and large fish. Southern elephant seals also eat penguins.

Elephant seals are fascinating because they are like elephants. How can an aquatic animal be like a terrestrial animal? It's a mystery! ❖



www.noaa.gov/Ed. by MField/Wikimedia Commons



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Wikimedia Commons

## Leopard Seals

By Kaylin L.

**T**he leopard seal is black with spots and was named after the leopard big cat. It is a predator like the leopard cat too. Leopard seals feed on krill, penguins, seabirds, squid, and even other seals. They rest after meals.

The leopard seal is one of my favorite sea animals. They are fun

to watch in zoos or aquatic parks. They live in Antarctica but can also be found in the oceans around southern Australia, South Africa, New Zealand, and the Atlantic coast of South America.

The baby leopard seal is called a pup. They have to watch for sharks



Photo by Dr. Peter Boyeng, Natl Marine Mammal Laboratory, NOAA

and Killer whales. The parents get food for their pup.

I also like penguins and polar bears! ❖

## The Wonder of Orcas

By Albert T.

**D**id you know that Killer Whales can kill the Great White Shark in a battle?

Killer Whales are super intelligent, and the Great White Shark is dumb.

The Orca feeds on seals, sea lions, penguins, and other animals.

Killer Whales' predators are humans. Since humans are killing whales, there are not many more. That is why people made a law not to kill whales.

The Orca kills anything

in its way. But not many things are in its way, because they run away!

Orcas are scared of motor boats. The sound frightens them. So people are safer in boats.



*Images.nationalgeographic.com*

Each oil spill kills a lot of Orcas. Whales are

also threatened by other of man's activities, like those that cause other types of pollution in the ocean.

Whales have been a strong symbol in the ocean, because they have lived on Earth way longer than people. Now they are also getting hunted by people. Imagine people getting hunted by animals! That's how they feel.

Orcas are a great animal and they should be protected from unlawful killing. ❖



*Photo by Luke Southwell*

## Into the Deep with Gray Whales

By Jason L.

**D**id you know gray whales have a life span of fifty years?

There are lots of cool facts about whales. Baby gray whales drink 100 gallons of milk a day. You'd fill a whole refrigerator with all that milk!

### Baleen Whales

Baleen whales have overlapping plates instead of teeth. These

are plates, made from keratin, that hang from the roof of the mouths of baleen whales. These baleen plates help filter food.

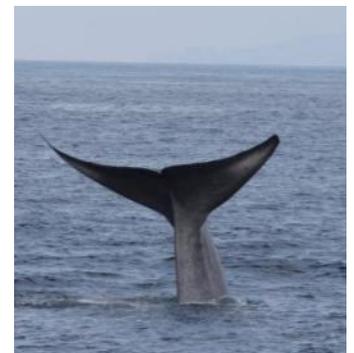
### Gray Whales

Gray whales feed in the Bering Sea of Alaska. They migrate along the West Coast of America between Alaska and Baja, Mexico, where they mate.

Gray whales are mammals, because they are warm blooded, have hair, breathe air, give live birth, and nurse their young.

Gray whales can be as long as 45 feet and weigh about 30-40 tons. A whale is fifty-three percent fat.

I hope you like my article. I had fun doing it and hope you like gray whales. ❖



*Photo by Luke Southwell*



Photo by Luke Southwell

## About Killer Whales

By Avalon B.

**M**y favorite sea animal is the Killer Whale or Orca.

Some whales live in amusement parks like SeaWorld, but most live in the ocean.

All killer whales nurse their young. When a predator approaches a female with a calf, the pod will start surrounding the calf to distract or confuse the predator. Sooner or later the predator will get con-

fused and leave.

A pod is a social group of whales that travel together and protect one another.

A female killer whale can grow to 8.5 meters long and a male can grow to be 9.7 meters long. They can weigh 8,000-12,000 pounds.

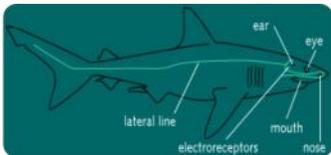
The maximum longevity for a female what is up to 80 years. Killer whales love to eat squid, sharks, whales, turtles,

octopi, seals, birds, and fish.

If you get to write about your favorite sea creatures, which one would you choose? Next time, write about your favorite!❖



Photo by Luke Southwell



<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/sharks/world/senseelectro.html>

## Great White Shark

By Chris J.

**G**reat White Sharks live in the deep part of the vast ocean with water at 50 to 75 degrees Fahrenheit. If you dive into the deeper part of the sea, you will probably find great white sharks. They are white only on their bellies, and black or light gray on their backs. At full size, great whites can be up to 20 feet long and weigh up to 5000 pounds. From the moment they are born, great white sharks can live and scavenge for food on their own. All

sharks have special senses to help them hunt for food. They have excellent vision and prefer bright or shiny things in the ocean. They can see prey 70 to 100 feet away. Sharks can hear at a distance up to 0.6 miles (3,168 feet). Unlike us, sharks use their nostrils for smelling prey. They use their gills to breathe. Their smell is much stronger than ours. They can smell their prey several yards away.

Sharks use their taste

buds to choose the food they like. They will eat whatever they find, even a dead fish. Sharks use their lateral line to feel the water movement of their prey. One of the special senses sharks have around their head is called the electroreceptors. These receptors help detect electric field coming from their prey. They can even find fish hiding under the sand by detecting their heartbeats.

Great white sharks are the greatest and fiercest ocean hunters.❖

## The Opulent Octopus

By Naoya O.

**N**o matter what kind of octopus you are interested in, they all have one thing in common. Obviously, they are octopi. This feature explains their primary features.

All of the different kinds of octopi have eight tentacles. On these tentacles, there are suckers. These allow octopi to hold on to a surface. It requires forty pounds of force to take

the suckers off from a surface. The suckers also allow them to hold on to their prey.

Octopi also have a feature called the siphon. It pumps out water. The siphon is funnel-shaped and pumps out water to propel and move itself. Octopi will sometimes wet the suckers to stay in place.

One of the most standout features of an octopus is its ink. Its ink

is made by an ink producing gland. It is stored in a certain part of their body. When the octopus is startled, it will squirt out ink. This may temporarily muffle a predator's sense of smell and taste, giving the octopus a chance to get away.

All octopi have amazing capabilities and are wondrous creatures that will exist for a long time. ❖



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## The Amazing Octopus

By John S.

**D**id you know an Octopus has eight tentacles with a dozen rows of suckers on each? It also has three jet-powered hearts in its body. It has a fake eye, which is brown and blue. It fakes out



<http://animal.discovery.com/invertebrates/octopus/>

predators, such as its fierce enemy, the Moray Eel.

To flee battle, the Octopus squirts a toxic ink from its ink sack. It blinds its enemies eyesight and takes away the enemy's sense of hearing for an easy escape.

The Octopus prefers to live in a rocky area. The Octopus has no ears, but uses its suckers to

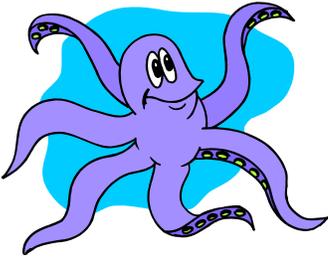
touch, smell, and taste. They have great eyesight and a big brain. Its head has a big bag of skin and muscles. It also has a very soft body and no bones. Its main source of food is crab.

The Octopus is also great at camouflage. It is a great climber and really strong. The Octopus also performs really well in the lab.

The octopus is easily trained and very smart. An Octopus can open a jar without any training at all! ❖



<http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/images/>



<http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/images/>

## The Awesome Octopus

By Joey S.

**D**id you know octopuses have 3 jet powered hearts? They have no ears but they do have a fake eye on the side of their head. They are very good climbers.

Their enemy is a Moray Eel. They are good at changing colors to camouflage themselves from predators. They also squirt ink from an ink sac

to protect themselves. The ink smells very bad and it is very toxic, it can damage an enemy's hearing and sight.

The octopus is a very strong animal with a powerful beak they use to bite their enemy. They have eight arms and legs with suckers they use for tasting and smelling.

In the aquarium, CMA

*Kids News* reporters saw an octopus climb up the wall using its suckers. When one hid under the rock, and you could see that it blended in with their surroundings. We saw two octopuses fighting they were using their tentacles and appeared to be squeezing each other. They are really strong and smart animals. ❖



Photo by D. Southwell

## The Shocking Eel

By Joshua R.

**A** Moray eel looks like a snack underwater. Moray eels always keep watch when there might be other eels.

Like other fish, eels use gills to breath. They bring water in through their mouths, over their gills and out the side of

their head. Eels usually have mouths open and that's what makes them so ferocious.

Many eels live in the freshwater rivers, lakes, and streams of North America and Europe. They were born and will die in the Sargasso Sea.

Eels lay their eggs in seaweed and then they die. The eels hatch but they do not look like their parents. They look like little green leaves.

These eels will grow up to be just like their parents. ❖



Photo by Mike Baird/Wikipedia Commons (bairdphotos.com)

## Cute Sea Otters

By Megan O.

**S**ea otters do not have thick layers of blubber to keep warm in cold water. Instead, they have very thick, dense coats - as much as one million hairs per square inch.

Sea otters eat abalone, crabs, clams, mussels, and sea urchins. The sea otter eats 20 to 35

percent of its body weight in one whole day! The scientific name is *Enhydra lutris*. They weigh between 30 and 100 pounds, but they are the smallest marine mammal.

Sea otters use tools, like rocks, to crack open food that have hard outer shells.

Ways that you can help sea otters are recycling, conserving energy, and picking up trash on the beach.

Sea Otters are really cool animals, because they wrap themselves in kelp when they are resting. How cool is that! ❖

## Interview with Carl Carranza

Continued from page 1

the area, making it basically a mud flat. Salt marshes are right along the side of the ocean, but they don't get a lot of waves or the waves would wipe everything out.

**CMA Kids News:** How much salt is contained in our salt marsh?

**Carranza:** Water in the salt marsh has about the same amount of salt as the ocean water (we call that *salinity*). When it rains, the percentage of salinity might drop, because a lot of fresh rainwater. On a really hot day when the water evaporates, it can get a lot saltier than the ocean.

**CMA Kids News:** Do you have fun working?

**Carranza:** I do have fun working. I love having the chance to work with kids. I love having the chance to teach people new things. Not necessarily just kids but adults too.

**CMA Kids News:** What's your favorite sea animal?

**Carranza:** I would probably have to go with the sea urchin, followed very closely by an octopus. Those would be my two favorites.

**CMA Kids News:** What encouraged you to learn about the ocean?

**Carranza:** When I was young, my parents would take me during the summer to the tidepools on family trips. We'd go to Laguna Beach to the tidepools and play around there, but I'd always love the tidepools because of the neat little animals and the more often I went, the more I found. I just fell in love with the ocean then.

**CMA Kids News:** What is your favorite exhibit in the Aquarium?

**Carranza:** My favorite exhibit would be - again there's two - there's the breakwater tank in the Exploration Center, which has a bunch of different fish you'd see at the breakwater right out here if you went scuba diving and invertebrates that grow on rocks, and my second would be the pier tank in the main exhibit hall, which would be just like if you were off the fishing pier out there.

**CMA Kids News:** When does the Aquarium check on the animals at the marsh?

**Carranza:** Once a month, we have the salt

marsh open house when have the salt marsh open to the public.

Twice a year, we do a salt marsh survey and that's where we dig some holes in the mud and count and identify and measure the animals that live in the salt marsh, like clams and worms and crabs and shrimp, and things like that. And then we drag a big net through the water called "Seine" and we catch the fish and other things that are swimming around in the water.

**CMA Kids News:** Does the Aquarium take care of the animals in the marsh, or are they left to their own devices?

**Carranza:** They are left on their own. One thing that we at the Aquarium want people to understand is the oceans, beaches, salt marshes—all these natural habitats—don't need us to make them work. People often get the idea that, especially in places with a lot of buildings and people, that we need to do something, but if we leave the animals and plants alone, they take care of themselves much better than we could ever do so. ❖



Photo by D. Southwell



Photo by D. Southwell

## The Amazing Salt Marsh

By Jason L.

When was the last time you went to a trash dump and had fun? The Cabrillo Marine Aquarium salt marsh started as a trash dump and is now full of life. *CMA Kids News* recently spent an afternoon there and learned many new things from Carl Carranza, a Cabrillo Marine Aquarium Educator.

First, there are interesting plants and animals living in and around the salt marsh. You can

find plants like pickleweed and cord grass, which live in saltwater. You may also find animals like the Great Blue Heron, seagulls, and foxes. Twice a year, people from the aquarium survey the salt marsh life forms because they are always changing.

Also, did you know the white rocks around the salt marsh are special? They are made from millions of micro-

scopic fossils. Their texture is like powdered glass, so they crumble easily. One unexpected thing about these rocks is that they are good for repelling ants because rock powder gets into the ants' joints, which kills them.

The salt marsh is amazing because it went from a trash dump to a world of life. Come check it out! It is located north of the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium. ❖



Photo by Edwin Jacobson

## CMA's Summer Fun with Carl Carranza

By Luke Southwell, PressFriends mentor and CMA Senior High Docent

PressFriends would like to give a huge shout out to CMA Educator Carl Carranza who made the summer *CMA Kids News* workshops extra special.

In our July workshop, Mr. Carranza took our first group of *CMA Kids News* reporters to the tidepools and we learned lots of fun facts about the sea life in the tidepools.

In our August workshop, Mr. Carranza took our *CMA Kids News* reporters to the Salt Marsh and brought binoculars for each of the reporters and PressFriends

mentors, so we could investigate the Salt Marsh close up.

Both the reporters and mentors had a great time

this summer at the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium thanks to the fun and interesting sessions led by Carl Carranza. Thanks, Carl! ❖



Photo by D. Southwell

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