

# Experiment Resources

You may set up small scale 3-5 day experiments indoors using small containers with bubblers.

Ideas for Experiments and observations:

## **% Flowering:**

- Determine how many eelgrass plants are flowering in your tank, and calculate what percentage that is of the total number of plants in the tank.
- Blog about this on the Sea Grasses in Classes website and compare results with other schools.

## **Seeding:**

- Set up a tank with only seeds planted in the sediment. Plant seeds that have been rubbed between sandpaper on one side, and seeds that have not been on the other. Record observations of new shoot growth on the Seed germination data sheet.

## **Studying Organisms**

Tips and Ideas for Organism Studies:

- How does the introduction of a new type of animal affect the eelgrass habitat within the tank? Have the students brainstorm which types of organisms they think their system can support. Remember that the dissolved oxygen should be up around 6.0 to support fish life.
- Ask students to develop a hypothesis for what will happen when they introduce a species to their tank. For example, they might hypothesize that introduction of a green crab would disrupt roots and dislodge plants.
- Have students develop a study plan, so that they are making accurate observations of green crab behavior from the time they put it into the tank until their study is complete. They can remove the green crab at a designated time if desired. Students should decide if they want to photograph or videotape the crab. They might decide to draw out a grid of the tank and record the location of the crab throughout a day or throughout a week.
- How are the organisms that arrived in the tank adjusting to their new environment? Have the students make an initial series of observations. Decide whether that will include sketches, photographs or video.
- Have groups of students focus on particular organisms. One group may keep their eye on how snails are moving around the tank, others might focus on clams, are they settling into the mud? At what rate? One idea is to circle organisms on the glass and track their movement. Another is to key on organisms on a particular plant. Is there the same number every day?
- What happens if there is a change in temperature or a change in light? Do the organisms move or change their behavior? Have students make a prediction and test whether or not things happen as they expect.