



SEYMOUR CENTER AT LONG MARINE LABORATORY

“Why is Science Important?” (Green Pod) Chaperone Facilitated Activities (Grades 5 – 8)

Marine scientists don’t just wonder about the world—they test things to settle their curiosity. They gather samples, run tests on them, conduct experiments, and search for answers to their questions. Let’s explore how scientists test their ideas...

Russ Flegal tests for metal pollution

1. Ask students to find the Green Pod exhibit titled “Testing... Metal Pollution.”
2. **Read this to your students:** Metals like lead and copper are some of the most useful elements we know—but when they build up in the air, water, or soil, they can be deadly. Russ Flegal tests soil and water samples for toxic levels of lead and other metals. Dr. Flegal’s tests have found metal pollution can come from some interesting sources.
3. Ask students to look at the different objects in the clear box that displays pollution sources. Which ones do they recognize?
4. Ask which kinds of metal pollution can result from different types of human activities and products? Have students take turns reading aloud to the group about each object. After each item, briefly discuss what was read.

Spring-loaded dolphins?

1. Ask students to find the Green Pod exhibit panel on “Dolphin Exercise Physiology.”
2. **Read this to your students:** Terrie Williams is a professor at Long Marine Lab that tests how dolphins’ bodies work. I need volunteers to read the sections on this panel aloud so we can figure out what ideas she’s testing.
3. Discuss each section on the panel as it is read. How can this scientific research help dolphins in the wild? (See Terrie’s answer written at the bottom of the panel.)