

## Intertidal Transect: Salt Flats

## Student Data Sheet

### General Information

Full Name:		Date:	
School (teacher):		Time:	
Tide level at start of lab:			

### Student Hypothesis and Rationale

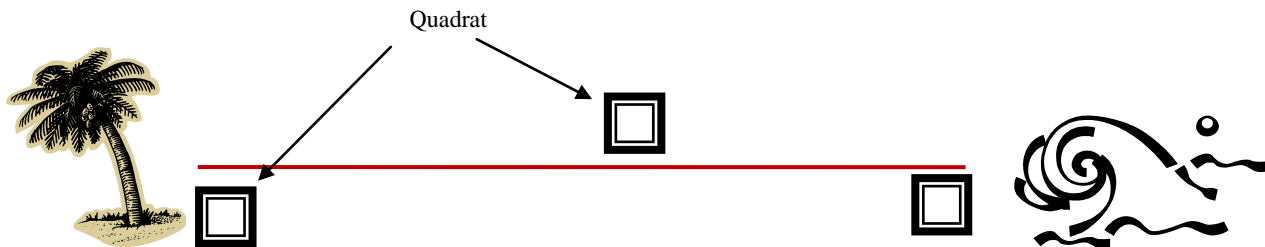
Smooth Cord Grass (*Spartina alterniflora*) is tolerant to high levels of salinity but it is not very drought tolerant. I would expect to find the distribution of Smooth Cord Grass to be (circle one: more dense/less dense) nearer the wet areas of the salt flats, because . . . \_\_\_\_\_

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## Intertidal Transect: Salt Flats

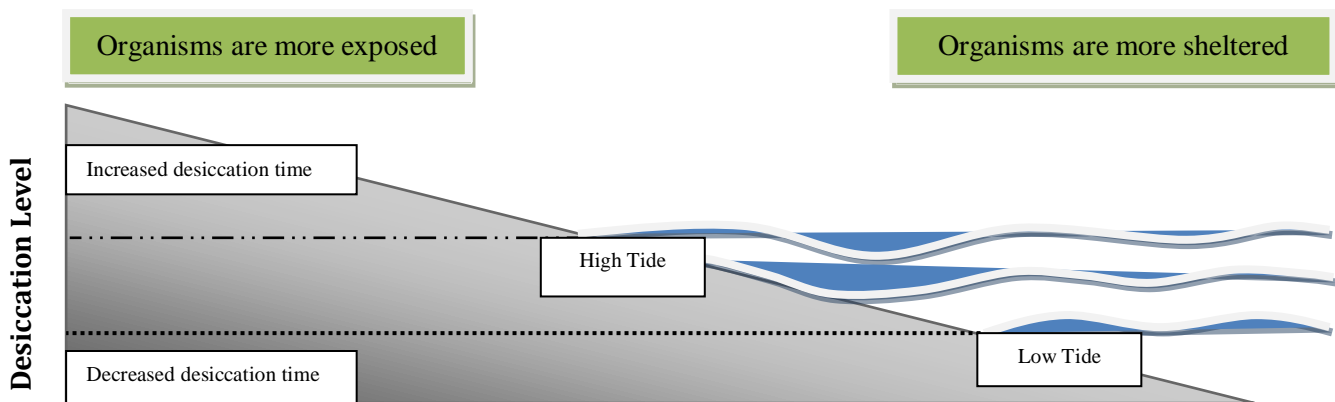
## Reference Chart

### Transect Line (plan view):



Measure the total distance of the transect line and divide by 3. Place the center of each quadrat at that interval beginning from the ocean side of the transect. Label each quadrat S1, S2, S3

### Desiccation Profile:



## Intertidal Transect: Salt Flats

## Assessment

1. Which one of the abiotic factors varied the most along the salt flats transect line? Which varied the least?

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2. Did you find more Periwinkle snails in areas with Smooth Cord Grass or without Smooth Cord Grass?

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3. Does your data support your hypothesis? Whether your hypothesis is supported or not, what can you infer from your observations, measurements, and results?

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4. Periwinkle snails rely on *Spartina* for food and protection against desiccation. Based on what you've observed today, does the distribution of periwinkle snails on a blade of grass change during tidal fluctuations? Why?

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5. How might this intertidal zone be different if there was a much larger change in elevation between the low tide and the high tide? Consider the different types of plants and animals you have observed and how they are influenced by abiotic factors.

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6. Think about the lab activity you just completed. Write a question (starting with what, how, or why) that address something that you'd like to learn more about.

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