

Intertidal Transect: Beach

Student Data Sheet

General Information

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

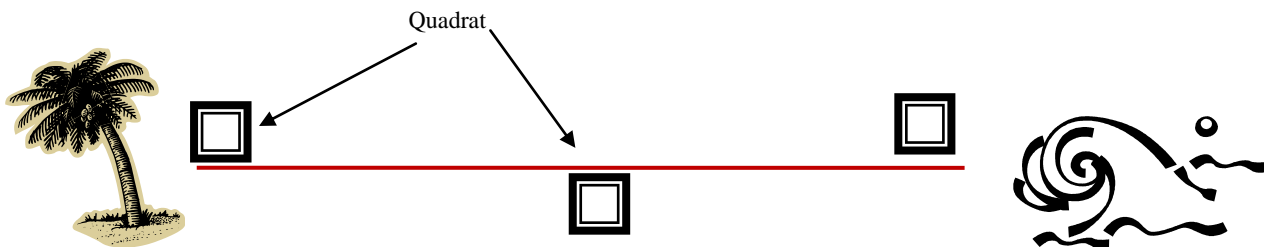
Student Hypothesis and Rationale

Abiotic factors influence where an organism can live and their tolerance to environmental conditions. I think the abiotic factor that will affect the biotic environment along the beach transect line the most is _____, because . . . _____.

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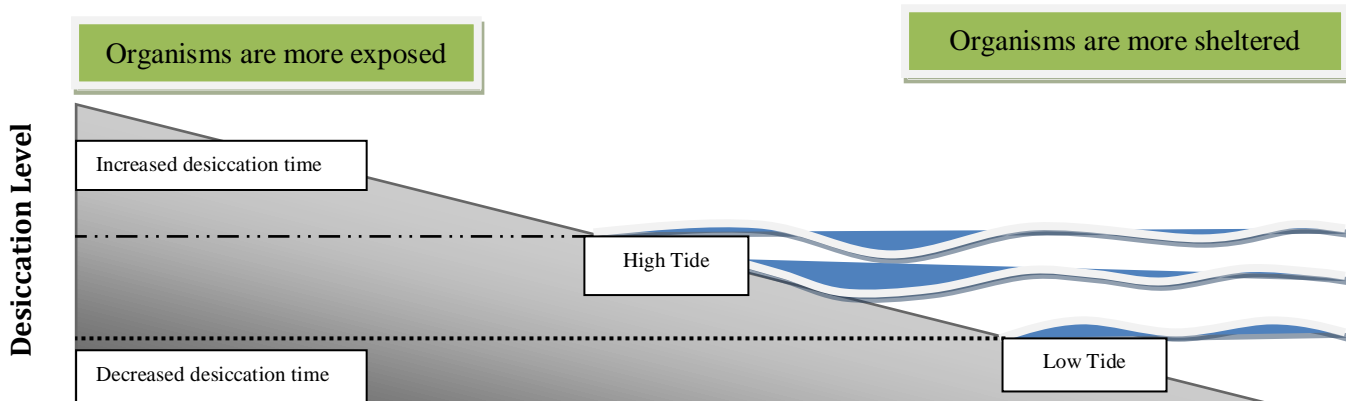
Reference Chart

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 quadrats B1, B2, B3

Desiccation Profile:



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Assessment

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

2. Explain how desiccation (the process of drying out or loss of moisture) affects marine organisms. How have organisms like periwinkle snails, barnacles and fiddler crabs adapted to tidal fluctuations?

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

4. If we were measuring abiotic factors at a freshwater lake, which parameters would be different? Think about temperature, sunlight, wind speed, salinity, humidity, etc.

5. If the seagrasses and salt marsh grasses were removed to make the beach more suitable for swimming and recreation, how might that affect the Periwinkle snails and Fiddler crabs?

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.
