

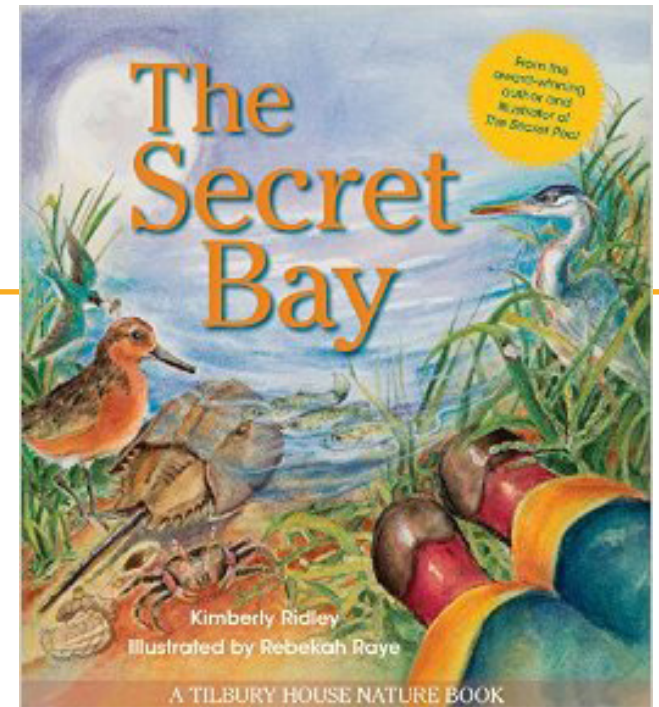
EXPLORE MORE BOOK GUIDE

Activities, tools & resources for learning with this book!

Meet the author and illustrator



Kim Ridley is a science writer, editor, and author of the picture books *The Secret Pool* and *The Secret Bay*. Her passion is sharing her love of nature and writing with children and adults. A Maine native whose roots go back many generations, Kimberly is an avid birder and naturalist who loves exploring wetlands, beaches, woods, and other wild places around her home. She never leaves home without her binoculars and hand lens, green rubber boots, and a notebook.



Rebekah Raye is an artist beloved for her bird and animal paintings and sculpture, derived from her affinity with the natural world around her studio in East Blue Hill, Maine. In Rebekah's words, "My early interest in animals of all kinds continues to be the focus of my painting and sculpture. Our pet chickens, geese, and cats, as well as the wild fox, bobcat, crows, and deer - are my inspiration. The more I learn about the animals I paint, the more I understand how we are all related." Rebekah's award-winning children's books include *The Very Best Bed*, *Bearly There*, *The Secret Pool*, *Swimming Home*, and *The Secret Bay*.

EXPLORE MORE BOOK GUIDE

LET'S BEGIN!

BEFORE READING THE BOOK

Use the Visual Thinking Strategy (VTS) questions below to orient readers, and to help guide a group discussion. Begin by taking a quiet moment to look closely at the book jacket, allowing time for observation and contemplation of the images.

- *What is going on in this picture?*
- *What do you see that makes you say that? (provide evidence)*
- *What more can we find?*

Watch this [VIDEO](#) for a quick VTS demo

HAVE QUESTIONS?

Please contact Alison Johnson at Island Readers & Writers,
207-460-6828 or ajohnson@islandreadersandwriters.org.

LET'S TALK! *DISCUSSION QUESTIONS*

Why do estuaries form?

How does winter ice disturb an estuary?

Isn't mummichog a great name for a fish? If you discovered a new species of fish in your local waterway, what would you name it - and why?

How does trash affect the animals in an estuary?

STANDARDS

Covered throughout this Explore More Book Guide:

SL.1. Prepare for and participate in conversations across a range of topics, types, and forums, building on others' ideas and expressing their own.

SL.2. Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric.

SL.3 Present information and supporting evidence appropriate to task, purpose, and audience so listeners can follow the line of reasoning and incorporate multimedia when appropriate.

R.4. Read various texts closely to determine what each text explicitly says and to make logical inferences; cite specific textual evidence to support conclusions drawn from the texts.

R.5 Provide an accurate summary of various texts; determine the central idea(s) or theme(s) and analyze its development throughout each text.

R.6. Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.

R.8 Analyze the structure of various texts, including how the features and components relate to each other and the whole.

R.9. Assess how perspective or purpose shapes the content and style of various texts.

A2 Literary Texts- Students read fiction, nonfiction, drama, and poetry, within a grade appropriate span of text complexity.

Life Science

LET'S CREATE (AND DO)! Book-Inspired Art



1. Visit a local estuary and draw a picture of a bird, creature, or plant that you find there.
2. Alewives are a common estuary creature. Are there alewives in your local estuary or river? If so, ask your family members, teachers, or friends if they have any memories of past alewife runs.
3. Contact a local environmental organization and ask them how your class can help your local estuary.
4. Choose a creature from *The Secret Bay* and research at least 10 additional facts about the creature. Create a fact sheet - or a profile page - for the creature.
5. Estuaries are a sort of "quiet place" for animals and can serve as a calm place during their journey. Make a collage of your ideal quiet place - where you go to recharge, take a break, or calm down.

- Write Point-of-View stories using an animal character from the book.
- Write an estuary poem - try a rhyming poem, or haiku!
- Make an ABC concept book on estuaries
- Write a fictional interview with a terrapin turtle.

Writing Concepts

- Write a letter to the editor in defense of an estuary protection.
- Write and illustrate your own children's book about estuaries.
- Write a how-to article on protecting estuaries from pollution.

LET'S DIVE DEEPER! Explore More

Restore America's Estuaries - The effects of climate change and other threats to estuaries

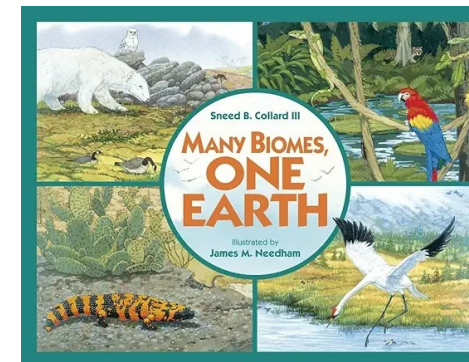
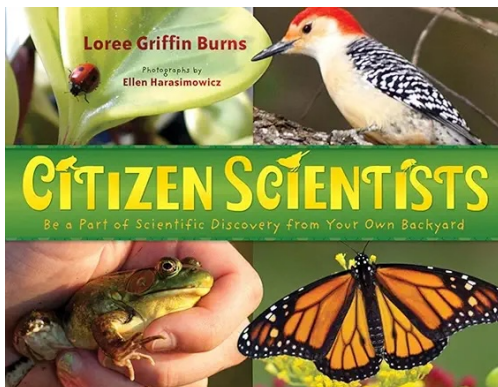
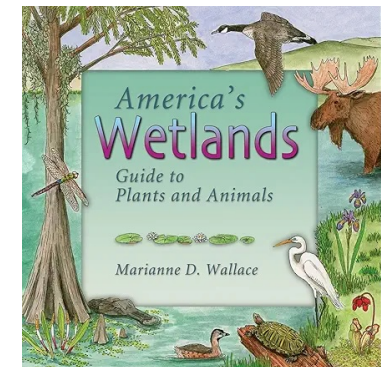
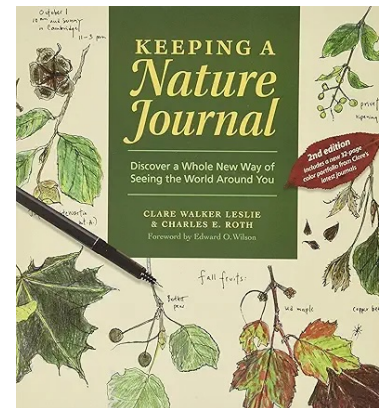
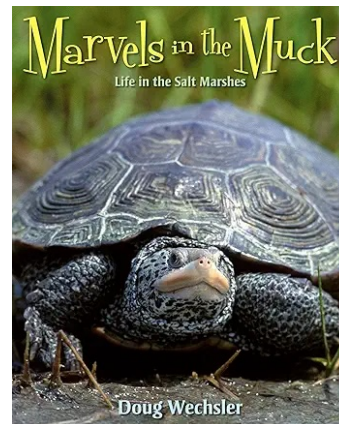
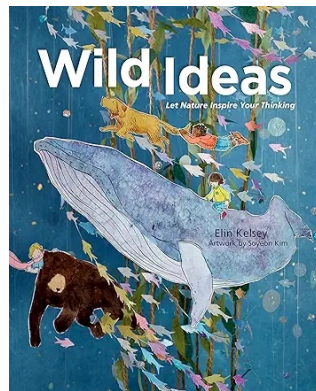
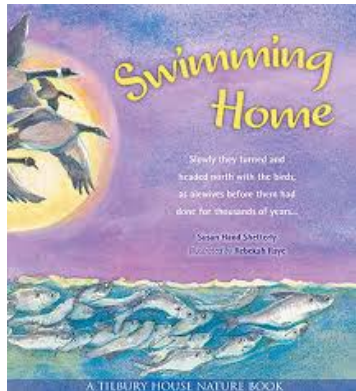
Kids Do Ecology - Estuaries

Video: What is an Estuary? So Now You Know! - Produced by the Association of National Estuary Programs as a fun explanation of what estuaries are and why they are important.

Video: Intertidal Biome - The tides are generated by the gravitational forces between the moon, sun, and Earth. The intertidal zone is the coastal area between the high tide mark and the low tide mark. Not a huge area maybe, but for the organisms that live here it means putting up with some serious physical and biological stresses. Have a look!

Sweetgrass grows near estuaries and is frequently used in Maine basket weaving.

LET'S READ MORE! Text to Text Connections



The Secret Bay

O	Y	R	K	K	C	O	R	M	O	R	A	N	T
S	P	E	R	I	W	I	N	K	L	E	L	W	T
O	O	T	I	R	E	H	S	I	F	G	N	I	K
N	E	S	E	H	H	W	E	M	E	E	S	Y	A
I	A	Y	E	I	N	W	Y	E	R	P	S	O	O
P	N	O	W	I	I	T	E	M	K	W	K	E	F
A	Y	W	E	D	E	S	K	P	I	N	H	I	S
R	E	Y	R	W	D	A	M	S	E	L	F	L	Y
R	E	F	I	W	E	L	A	G	G	N	E	W	N
E	I	L	E	E	D	U	N	N	L	R	W	C	S
T	R	R	R	I	U	E	L	K	S	T	O	A	Y
I	M	I	A	P	I	C	K	L	E	W	E	E	D
I	A	S	R	O	F	K	L	O	T	W	K	E	O
C	I	P	M	K	M	U	M	M	I	C	H	O	G

PERIWINKLE

DAMSELFLY

PICKLEWEED

ALEWIFE

MUMMICHOG

KINGFISHER

OYSTER

TERRAPIN

OSPREY

CORMORANT

VOCABULARY MATCH

Draw a line from the word on the left to the definition on the right that best matches.

amphipod	organisms (such as mold, mushrooms) that feed on decaying matter
brackish	plant-eater
carnivore	one shell mollusc (such as a snail)
herbivore	a group of salt-tolerant marsh grasses
detritus	baby eel
spartina	small crustacean that resembles a shrimp
fungi	a plant that can grow in a salty environment
elver	meat-eater
gastropod	water that is somewhat salty
halophyte	particles of dead plant and animal matter that are decomposing

SPOT OBSERVATIONS

“Accuracy of observation is the equivalent of accuracy of thinking” – Wallace Stevens, American Poet

Like a scientist, you can use a variety of methods, tools, and techniques to understand your natural world. With just a rope and a field journal you can begin to observe and gather data through “Spot Observations.”

1. Choose a spot you can keep a close eye on.
2. Take a rope or string that is about 3-4 ft. long and tie the ends together to form a circle.
3. Lay the circle you have made on the spot you have chosen.
4. Visit the spot at different times of the day and over several days. Notice changes that are taking place (are insects living there, anything growing, any evidence of life, is the spot sunny or in the shade)
5. Record your observations, questions, and hypothesis in your field journal

