

A Review of our Botany Day
With Discussions on the Watershed and Invasive Plants
By Jack

I really enjoyed our botany class this Wednesday. First, everyone read their folders that they had created on different areas where plants are found. I did the Maple/ Mixed Hardwood Forest, but I liked the beach one the best!

After we finished that, we all gathered around Miss Jen, as she did a presentation on the watershed and invasive plants. She had a big model of the watershed (a watershed is an area where all the water drains into one body of water), with dogs, cows, a factory and a farmer's field. She talked about how the pesticides the farmer uses, the waste from the factory, the manure from the dogs and farm animals and the salt on the roads all go into your watershed and muck it up. She showed us some water insects that are early warning signs of water pollution, like a weird insect shaped like a tiny lobster.

She then tied that seamlessly into her talk on invasive plants. She explained that when the watershed and soil becomes polluted, invasive plants exploit the opening. She showed us some species of invasive plants, like Tree-of-Heaven, which smells like peanut butter. After that, Liz finished it off with a slide show on native plants. I really enjoyed my day.