

Island Investigators Mermaid Reef Project Plan
 Friends of the Environment
 June 30, 2015

ISLAND INVESTIGATORS AFTER-SCHOOL CLUB	Topic	Goals
Session 1 September 16	Introduction/refresher: Scientific Method, QUEST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduce students to Island Investigators Facebook page - understand how to formulate an informed hypothesis - make observations - Icebreaker experiments - Do a short outside inquiry at FRIENDS (maybe on Nature trail) - Discuss ideas for Mermaid Reef study, booklet, etc.
Session 2 Sept. 23	Mermaid Reef Site introduction/ Field Trip	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - snorkel around to get students oriented to site - Discuss usefulness of mapping - create map of site, including artificial reefs
Session 3 Sept. 30	Talk about functional groups, roles of animals on the reef	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do a fish survey - take photos for guide book - Do some algae scrubbing on the artificial reef balls - do underwater and coastal cleanups at Mermaid Reef for International Coastal Cleanup Month
Session 4 October 7	All About Corals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - understand reef-building/non-reef-building - basic coral biology (cross-section diagram) - symbiosis - species ID, focus on types that might be used for the planting activity
Session 5 October 14	Coral Planting exercise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - learn about coral restoration, pro's and con's, challenges, etc. - If time allows, map out where corals were planted
Session 6 October 21	Mermaid Reef Guide Book	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - work on storyboard for the guide book - what important points should we get across?
Session 7 October 28	Follow up surveys, or coral restoration mapping	Make decision based on what was accomplished during the last field trip.
Session 8 November 4	Coral Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - check health of planted corals - Discuss threats to coral health (bleaching, disease)
Session 9 November 11	Importance of outreach and sharing results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - put together a poster for Abaco Science Alliance Conference (ASAC). - Begin working on abstract to submit to ASAC
Session 10 November 18	Class overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What did we learn? - Next steps - write article or Facebook post about coral restoration project (individual or group project) - finalize ASAC poster