

# Barrier Island Basics

## Barrier Island Features

### Overview

Students will construct a box model of Assateague Island.

### Grade Level

7th - 12th

### Materials

- cardstock paper
- scissors
- tape
- cross-section aerial photo of Assateague Island

### Time Required

45 minutes

### Objectives

Students will demonstrate their understanding of the basic topographical features of a barrier island.

### National Science Education Standards

#### Standard A: Science as Inquiry

- Abilities necessary to do scientific inquiry
- Understandings about scientific inquiry

#### Standard B: Physical Science

- Motions and forces
- Interactions of energy and matter
- Represents a central event or phenomenon in the natural world.

#### Standard D: Earth and Space Science

- Energy in the earth system

### Procedure

1. Print out the aerial photo of Assateague Island.
2. Students can work individually or in groups of two.
3. Students will use scissors to cut out the corner pieces.
4. Have students fold down the paper at the dotted lines.
5. Students will tape the folded corners of the box together to form the box shape.



6. See if the students can identify the following features:

Beach	Bay	Inlet
Dunes	Ocean	Marsh

### Discussion

Why do you think that this barrier island is shaped the way it is?

Will it continue to change shape?

What are the overlying causes of the changes?



National Park Service  
[www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)



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