




# Fort Ross Conservancy's Marine Ecology Program Distance Learning Experience



Fort Ross Conservancy now offers distance learning opportunities! We want to support California parents and teachers by bringing the park to you through a one hour distance learning program.



We know the last few months have been incredibly difficult and there are still many unknowns related to the school year. But there is one thing we do know - outdoor education is essential to the health, happiness, and development of all our youth. Now more than ever, we need to experience nature. Together, we can bring nature to your home or classroom by providing an interactive trip to Fort Ross your students will never forget.

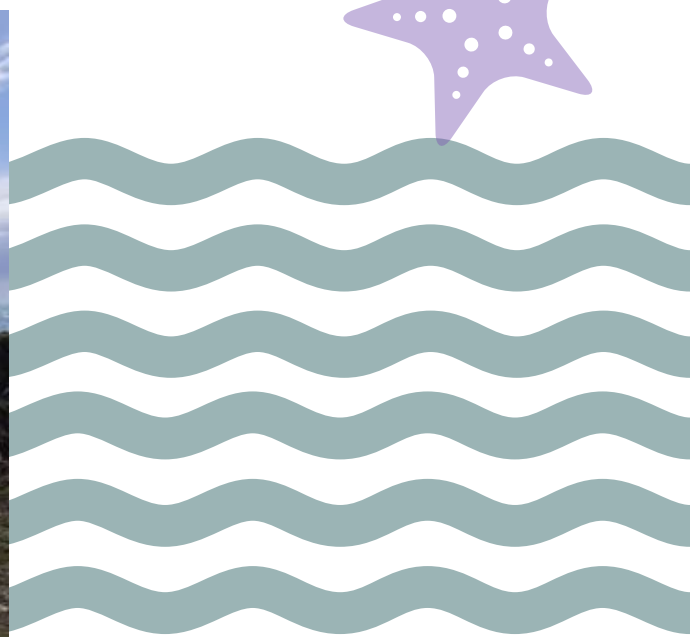
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## Your Marine Ecology Program Distance Learning Experience Includes -

Learn how the history of Fort Ross is still, to this day, tied to the marine ecology along the Sonoma County coast.

A Fort Ross Conservancy MEP Instructor takes you on a journey through this California history which is carefully interwoven with local ocean ecology. Together we witness how the intersection of cultural and natural history offer a unique opportunity to learn ocean stewardship.



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- **Fort Ross: Its History and Ecology** - Fort Ross' history provides a lens through which to examine the ways humans have cared for or exploited the environment around them. Its rich history -- starting with the Kashia Pomo, followed by the Russians, Alaska Native and early California period -- all instruct us to better understand how human impacts have lasting effects on ecosystems.
- **Keystone Species Keep an Ecosystem in Balance** - Learn how keystone species are integral to the health and balance of every ecosystem. We explore how historic overhunting and climate change have led to the decline of two keystone species along the Sonoma Coast.
- **Citizen Science & Ocean Stewardship** - We need ocean stewards to care for all the marine life (plant and animal) for the health of the whole planet! At Fort Ross, our team works together with volunteers and students to observe, protect, and preserve these important ecosystems.



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## Pre & Post Distance Learning Experience Activities (Optional) -

- Create your own Field Journal
- Go for nature walk explorations & record your observations
- Make a free account on [iNaturalist](#) & record all species observations
- Sit in nature for 15 minutes every day
- Introduce & further research the concepts of: Citizen Science & Keystone Species
- Compile a list of ideas: what can we do to protect & restore our oceans?
- Record your birding observations on [eBird](#) at the beach or in your backyard
- Read more about the history of Fort Ross, its land and its people



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**Cost - \$5/person/hour** - Fort Ross Conservancy is dedicated to providing outdoor youth education for all. The Fort Ross Distance Learning fees ensure FRC is able to continue providing excellent programming which utilizes Fort Ross' unique cultural and natural history to teach important ocean stewardship lessons. [Fee Waivers Available!](#)



Contact Song Hunter for more information at [songh@fortross.org](mailto:songh@fortross.org)