

Grade Levels: 3 - 7

Time: 1 hour



Florida's Changing Environment

Goal:

Objectives:

- Students will understand an animal must have ~~food, water, shelter~~ and a safe space in order to survive.
- Students will discover what characteristics help and animal survive in this unique habitat.
- Students will discover the importance of maintaining ecological balance.
- Students will recognize how our actions can alter an ecosystem and learn what can be done to assist in conservation efforts.

PLANNING YOUR RESERVATION

*Fall and spring fill quickly

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PLEASE REGISTER EARLY

*Groups must register
2 WEEKS IN ADVANCE

*Programs require a
MINIMUM OF 15 PEOPLE

*Programs are available
ON AND OFF-SITE

*Visit our website for
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

*Proper adult supervision
REQUIRED AT ALL TIMES

Discover the Brevard Zoo's diverse wetlands and wild animals. Students will become familiar with animals they might find in their own back yard and the importance of the wetland.

Curriculum Alignment:

SC.3.N.1.1, SC.3.N.1.2, SC.3.N.1.3, SC.3.N.1.4, SC.3.N.1.5, SC.3.N.1.6, SC.3.N.1.6, SC.3.L.17.1, SC.4.1.1, SC.4.N.1.2, SC.4.N.1.3, SC.4.N.1.4, SC.4.N.1.5, SC.4.N.1.6, SC.4.N.1.7, SS.4.A.9.1, SC.4.E.6.5, SC.5.N.1.1, SC.5.N.1.5, SC.5.N.1.6, SC.5.N.2.1, SC.5.L.15.1, SC.5.L.17.1, SC.5.E.7.5, SC.7.L.15.3, SC.7.L.17.3, SC.6.N.1.3, SC.6.N.1.4, SC.6.N.1.4, SC.6.N.2.1, SC.6.N.2.1, SC.6.N.2.2, SC.6.N.2.3, SC.6.N.3.1, SC.6.N.3.4, SC.6.N.3.4, SC.6.E.6.1, SC.6.E.6.2, SC.7.N.1.1, SC.7.N.1.3, SC.7.N.1.5, SC.7.N.1.6, SC.7.N.1.7, SC.7.L.15.1, SC.7.L.15.2, SC.7.L.15.3, SC.7.L.17.2, SC.7.L.17.3

Where education and conservation collide!

Key Words:
Adaptation, Climate, Invasive Species, Ecosystem, Environment, Habitat, Wetlands,

This program, presented by Brevard Zoo Education staff, is an enhanced experience of the distinct and unique wildlife habitats found at Brevard Zoo. Students delve into the concept through fun, interactive activities, questions and participatory responses, and hands-on activities. Programs are designed to supplement in-class learning. Depth and structure vary depending on grade and age range.

The Florida Everglades, known as The River of Grass, once covered almost 11,000 square miles of South Florida, connecting the Kissimmee River to Lake Okeechobee and flowing south throughout the Everglades marsh. It is known for it's abundant variety of bird life and due to the mix of salt and freshwater it is the only place where alligator and crocodiles coexist.

In the early 1900's, as the population of Florida grew, the need for flood control also grew. The Federal government created a water management system with a network of canals and levees dumping billions of gallons of water, daily, from the Everglades into the Ocean which changed the natural habitat of birds, fish and animals living there. Along with the draining of water, pollution created by farms and cities stifled the growth of native plants. Today the Everglades is half the size it was a century ago.

In the 1970's, after a proposal to build a jet port in the Big Cypress Swamp, the Everglades gained national attentions. Studies indicated the airport would have destroyed the Everglades ecosystem. After decades of Everglade destruction, state and federal agencies began looking for ways to restore and balance the needs of the natural environment and the urban development.

In 2000, the US Congress authorized the Comprehensive Plan (CERP). It was estimated the plan would take 50 years to implement the restoration of the Everglades ecosystem in South Florida. As of 2012, a report shows that little progress has been made in restoring what remains of the Everglades ecosystem.

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