

# Contents

---

Foreword.....	i
Acknowledgements.....	ii
<b>An Introduction to Using This Guide.....</b>	<b>iv</b>
An Overview of the Sections.....	iv
Organization of Individual Activities.....	v
Activity Guide Evaluation Form.....	vi

## **SECTION I**

<b>BACKGROUND INFORMATION.....</b>	<b>1-12</b>
Exotic Species List.....	1
Exotic Species in Everglades Background Information.....	2
Meet Python Pete.....	12

## **SECTION II**

<b>ACTIVITIES.....</b>	<b>13-25</b>
Unwanted Guest.....	13
Go Back Home.....	15
Going...Going...Gone!.....	23
Break the Chain.....	30
Everglades “Most Wanted”.....	32
Population Explosion.....	37
Fishy Business.....	43

## **SECTION III**

<b>SUPPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES.....</b>	<b>45-63</b>
Crossword Puzzle.....	45
Word Find.....	48
Riddles.....	50
What Doesn’t Belong.....	56

## **SECTION IV**

<b>VOCABULARY.....</b>	<b>64</b>
------------------------	-----------

## **SECTION V**

### **RESOURCES**

Web Resources for Teachers.....	66
Ways to Help Combat Invasives.....	67

## **SECTION VI**

<b>PRE-TEST/POST-TEST.....</b>	<b>69-72</b>
Test.....	69
Pledge.....	72

<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY.....</b>	<b>73</b>
--------------------------	-----------

# An Introduction to Using This Guide

---

For over thirty years, Everglades National Park has cooperated with schools from surrounding counties to conduct a dynamic education program. Starting with a few trips to the park in 1970, the formal program has evolved into an effort, which touches more than 15,000 teachers and students annually.

This new guide is designed to help teachers conduct lessons on threats to the park. We have also added the Florida Sunshine State Standard(s) for each activity, a background information section, and blackline masters. While targeted specifically towards fifth through eighth graders, many of the activities can be readily adapted for other grade levels.

Everglades National Park is presenting this guide as a resource for teachers. It reflects our growing concerns for exotic species invading the park. It is our goal to:

1. Acquaint students with threats to Everglades/South Florida ecosystem through hands on interactive activities.
2. Develop within the students an understanding of the impact of invasive species to the Everglades and South Florida.
3. Direct students towards a status of active thinking and, hopefully, active participation relating to the introduction of invasive species.

The individual activities were selected to meet Florida Sunshine State Standards and the curriculum of Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Other school systems will find that most of the activities can readily fit into their science objectives for grades fifth through eighth. An interdisciplinary approach was taken when creating the guide so that materials can be easily integrated into varied school and subject skill areas.

## **An Overview of the Sections**

This guide has been divided into six sections. The activities that are found in section two of this guide can easily be integrated into other activities that are available in other activity guides.

**Background Information:** This section contains information about the exotic species that are found in Everglades National Park. Only 26 exotic species are covered in this guide. These exotics are considered the most troublesome. This section can be used by the students for information before activities.

**Activities:** In this section six activities can be found that concentrate on how exotics are harmful to Everglades National Park. These activities will help students understand exotic species and how they affect the Everglades ecosystem. They will analyze the components of the Everglades natural environment, discover how those components are interrelated, understand threats to the food chain from exotic species and make recommendations for future control.

**Supplementary Activities:** This section contains additional classroom materials, activities, and drawings the teacher may wish to use to reinforce student learning retention.

**Vocabulary:** This section has a list of words and their definitions which may be used as a reference throughout the study of the exotics found in Everglades/South Florida.

**Resources:** This section contains a list of web resources that can be used by both teachers and students as well as a list of ways that students can help to combat exotic species.

**Pre-test/Post-test:** This section contains a test for students that can be taken before the activities to find out what they may already know about exotic species and taken again afterwards to see how much information they learned on exotics. Also included in this section is the “Don’t Let It Loose Pledge” which students are encouraged to sign once they have completed this study of the invasive species in the park.

### **Organization of Individual Activities**

Each activity begins with an overview which contains; **subject matter, duration, location, key vocabulary, related activities** and the **Florida Sunshine State Standard(s)** which that activity meets.

Following the overview are **instructional objectives, method, background information, materials needed, procedure**, an **evaluation** section, and in some cases an **extension** activity is listed. The instructor is encouraged to maximize student critical thinking and creativity in each activity. Blackline masters are provided for many of the activities.

### **Activity Guide Evaluation Form**

Educators are asked to complete and return the Activity Guide Evaluation Form on page VI. Completion of the evaluation form will help us improve future editions.