
Foreword

“There are no other Everglades in the world.” Those are the words of Marjory Stoneman Douglas in 1947. Everglades National Park became the first national park set aside specifically to protect a unique diversity of plants and animals. More recently, the United Nations has recognized the area as an International Biosphere Reserve and a World Heritage site. Its 1,509,000 acres of wild land have been and still are the subject of heated debate in one of, if not the most threatened national parks. Additional information about the Everglades can be found on our web site at <http://www.nps.gov/ever>.

Many of the threats facing the South Florida parks originate outside the park’s borders. Humans have had a greater impact on the park than any other species. While there are grave concerns facing the park, there is also a great deal of hope. The greatest hope for the future of our national parks is the children. As resource-users and future decision-makers, the fate of the parks lies in their hands. This guide will help educators teach their students about the parks and the responsible action they can take to ensure their survival.

Over the years a myriad of people have contributed to the development of the curriculum materials found in this guide. This guide would not exist without the support and help of all the teachers, students, parents, volunteers, and park staff who have participated in the park's programs over the past thirty-five years. It is to them, that this K-3 Activity Guide is dedicated.

If you have any comments or suggestions for the next edition please contact the park’s Environmental Education office at (305) 242-7753 or write to:

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