



Reptiles of the Swamp...

Probably the most noticeable animal within the Everglades and the Big Cypress Swamp is the American alligator. This large reptile is commonly seen during the winter dry seasons when water is scarce.

Other reptiles include snakes, crocodillians, skinks, geckos, turtles and lizards. Reptiles are animals that have scales and breath air. Many of the species classified in this group lay eggs.

These animals are often misunderstood and feared. However, they play a vital role in the environment. For example, if it were not for alligators making “gator holes” many species that depend on water would perish during South Florida’s dry season.



Compare the American crocodile photo (above) with the American alligator photo (cover page). Can you discern the differences in appearance?

Scientific Name

CROCODILIANS

Alligators

— American alligator *Alligator Mississippiensis*

Also known as: Florida, Louisiana, or Mississippi alligator, gator

Crocodiles

— American crocodile *Crocodylus acutus*

Also known as: Caiman de la costa, cocodrilo de tumbes, Central American alligator, cocodrilo, lagarto

Watching wildlife the responsible way...

The thrill of watching a wild animal in its native surroundings is spectacular and awe inspiring. While visiting Big Cypress National Preserve, or any other natural area, remember:

- All wildlife is wild and unpredictable. Stay a safe distance from any wild animal —15 feet is recommended.
- View wildlife with respect.
- Never feed wildlife.
- All plants and animals within national park areas are protected, it is illegal to collect any wildlife without special permits.

How You Behave Can Save Do Not Feed or Harass Wildlife



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA!

Big Cypress Reptiles



TURTLES, TORTOISES, TERRAPINS**Snapping turtles**

___ Florida snapping turtle

Chelydra serpentina osceola

Small Turtles

___ Striped mud turtle

Kinosternon baurii

___ Florida mud turtle

Kinosternon subrubrum steindachneri

___ Common musk turtle

Sternotherus odoratus

Box and water turtles

___ Peninsula cooter

Pseudemys floridana peninsularis

___ Florida red-bellied turtle

Pseudemys nelsoni

___ Florida chicken turtle

Deirochelys reticularia chrysea

___ Florida box turtle

Terrapene carolina bauri

Tortoises

___ Gopher tortoise

Gopherus polyphemus

Softshelled Turtles

___ Florida softshell turtle

Apalone ferox

LIZARDS**Geckos**

___ Indo-Pacific gecko*

Hemidactylus garnotii

___ Mediterranean gecko*

Hemidactylus turcicus turcicus

___ Cosmopolitan house gecko*

Hemidactylus mabouia

Anoles

___ Green anole

Anolis carolinensis

___ Brown anole*

Anolis sagrei

Iguanas

___ Green iguana*

Iguana iguana

Skinks

___ Southeastern five-lined skink

Eumeces inexpectatus

___ Ground skink

Scincella lateralis

reptile name* = introduced species

SCALED REPTILES**Legless Lizards**

___ Slender glass lizard

Ophisaurus attenuatus

___ Island glass lizard

Ophisaurus compressus

___ Eastern glass lizard

Ophisaurus ventralis

Snakes

___ Burmese python*

Python molurus bivittatus

___ Florida scarlet snake

Cemophora coccinea coccinea

___ Everglades racer, black racer

Coluber constrictor paludicola

___ Southern ringneck snake

Diadophis punctatus punctatus

___ Eastern inidgo snake

Drymarchon corais couperi

___ Corn snake

Elaphe guttata guttata

___ Yellow rat snake

Elaphe obsoleta quadrivittata

___ Everglades rat snake

Elaphe obsoleta rossalleni

___ Eastern mud snake

Farancia abacura abacura

___ Eastern hog-nosed snake

Heterodon platirhinos

___ Florida kingsnake

Lampropeltis getula floridana

___ Eastern kingsnake

Lampropeltis getula getula

___ Scarlet kingsnake

Lampropeltis triangulum elapsoides

___ Eastern coachwhip

Masticophis flagellum flagellum

___ Florida green water snake

Nerodia floridana

___ Mangrove salt marsh snake

Nerodia clarkii compressicauda

___ Brown water snake

Nerodia taxispilota

___ Rough green snake

Opheodrys aestivus

___ Striped crayfish snake

Regina alleni

___ South Florida swamp snake

Seminatrix pygaea cyclas

___ Florida brown snake

Storeria dekayi victa

___ Peninsula ribbon snake

Thamnophis sauritus sackenii

___ Common garter snake

Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis

Elapids *Venomous*

___ Eastern coral snake

Micrurus fulvius fulvius

Vipers *Venomous*

___ Dusky pigmy rattlesnake

Sistrurus miliarius barbouri

___ Eastern diamondback rattlesnake

Crotalus adamanteus

___ Florida cottomouth

Agkistrodon piscivorus conanti

Blind snakes

___ Brahminy blind snake*

Rhynchophis braminus

Reptiles of Big Cypress...

Left to right: Peninsula cooter (*Pseudemys floridana peninsularis*); corn snake (*Elaphe guttata*), scarlet kingsnake (*Lampropeltis triangulum elapsoides*); Eastern coral snake (*Micrurus fulvius fulvius*)

