

Guess the Organism

Subject: Language Arts, Science

Duration: 20 minutes

Location: Classroom / Outdoors

Key Vocabulary: Organism, food chain, energy, sawgrass, canal

Related Activities: Create A Food Chain; We're Sponging Off the Everglades

Florida Sunshine State Standards: LA.4.5.1, LA.4.1.6.2, LA.4.1.6.5, LA.5.1.5.1, LA.5.1.6.2, LA.5.1.6.5, LA.6.1.6.2, LA.6.1.6.5



Materials

- Print-out of “What Am I?”

Objectives. The student will listen to clues, make inferences, and draw conclusions about some organisms, elements, and forces commonly associated with the Everglades/South Florida environment.

Method. The students will become familiar with the Everglades/South Florida environment by listening to various riddles which describe things common to it.

Background. Riddles are a fun and challenging way of encouraging students to think about the South Florida environment. The following riddles may serve as a pre-trip exercise to visiting Everglades or one of the other national parks, or they may serve as an icebreaker and a general introduction to the study of the Everglades/South Florida environment.

Suggested Procedure

1. Read the riddles to your students. Ask students to guess the familiar Everglades/South Florida terms.

Evaluation

Riddles may lead to a discussion concerning characteristics common to the Everglades/South Florida environment. Discuss some of the defining characteristics that helped students solve the riddles.

Extension

Ask students to develop some of their own riddles relating to the Everglades/South Florida environment. Discuss and analyze their riddles as you did those found in “What Am I?”

WHAT AM I?

RANGERS:

In a way we're green, in a way we're grey.
We help with work and love to play.
Wise thoughts about reptiles, birds, and cats
Are piled and filed beneath our hats.

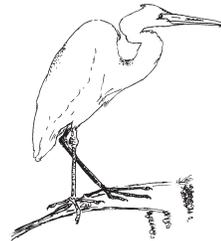


SAWGRASS:

We've teeth that cut, but we don't bite
We've sword-like blades but never fight
We toss our heads like waves at sea.
Now, can you guess who we may be?

CANALS:

Criss-crossing South Florida like a honeycomb
I might be right behind your home.
I continually drain with continuous motion,
The life of the Everglades into the ocean!
Who am I?

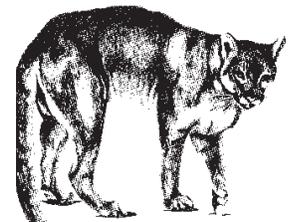


WADING BIRDS:

My neck's like a snake, my mouth's like a spear,
Ladies once held my feathers dear.
I walk in the mudflats, but nest in the trees.
Do you know what group we may be?

PANTHER:

I'm long and lean and brown or tan
Meat is my supper, my only enemy man.
From my head to my tail, I'm covered with hair,
in the wilds of the Everglades I'm very, very rare.



ALLIGATOR:

I'm brownish and longish and toothy and tough.
My eyes have three eyelids, my skin - it is rough.
I bask on the land, yet I live in the water.
Know who I am? Everyone ought'er.



ENERGY:

I take on many different forms:
I light your cities, I keep you warm.
As oil or coal, I'm running out -
If you know who I am, don't give a shout -
Just raise your hand.

GREEN PLANTS:

From the sun I get energy
To grow and live,
From the sun I make food -
My gift to give.
What am I?



FOOD CHAIN:

I begin with algae,
lying on the water's surface.
Small fish eat the algae, and
Larger fish feed on the smaller.
Wading birds may eat the fish,
And finally, the alligator
Feasts on the bird.
What am I?

RAIN:

I visit the Everglades often in summer,
I come periodically throughout the day.
I cause flowers to bloom, grasses to grow
And I replenish the slough.
What Am I?

TEACHER:

You may think I'm mean, but really I'm nice,
Unless I have to tell you twice
To shut your mouth and listen good -
To learn the things you know you should.
Who am I?

