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# Introduction:

# Everglades ABC's - Activity Guide for Grades K-3 Teachers

## Development and Objectives

For over thirty years, Everglades National Park, has cooperated with schools from surrounding counties to conduct environmental education programs. Starting with field trips to the park in 1970, the program has evolved into an effort which touches more than 13,000 teachers and students annually.

- **The Kindergarten - 3rd Grade Activity Guide** is designed to meet the needs of teachers and students throughout Florida who may never have an opportunity to visit South Florida National Parks. Completion of these activities will satisfy state mandated objectives. While targeted specifically toward Kindergarten - 3rd Grade, the activities may be modified for other grade levels. We encourage you, the teacher, to adapt the materials to meet your needs.

- **The objectives of this Activity Guide for teachers are to:**

1. Acquaint students with the Everglades ecosystem through hands-on interactive activities.
2. Develop within students an understanding of the value of the Everglades to all of South Florida.
3. Develop within students an appreciation of national park areas with special emphasis on those located within the state of Florida.
4. Direct students toward a status of active thinking and active participation relating to environmental issues affecting South Florida.

The individual activities were selected to meet curriculum objectives of Dade and Collier counties in Florida; however, other school systems will find that most of the activities can readily fit into their curriculum. An interdisciplinary approach was taken when creating the guide so that materials are easily integrated into varied school and subject skill areas.

# Section Information

## Sections 1 & 2: Alphabet Picture Cards

- Section 1 contains 26 colored alphabet picture cards which are designed to be cut out and laminated.
- Section 2 contains 26 black-and-white picture cards which are designed to be cut out, colored, and laminated.

## Sections 3 - 6: The Activities

- Each activity includes a brief description, objectives, materials needed, methodology, subjects from which the activity is drawn, duration of each activity, location of where the activity should be presented, related activities, and numbered Florida Sunshine State Standards.
- The next section of each activity includes background information which can be supplemented with the natural history information (Section 7), and the vocabulary definitions (Section 8), procedures to follow - the "how to" for each activity, "important words" that should be introduced and defined for or by the students, and an extension, if time is available. The instructor is encouraged to maximize student critical thinking and creativity in each activity. For several activities, blackline masters are included.

## Sections 7, 8, & 9: Natural History, Vocabulary, Resources

- Section 7 contains natural history information and fun facts which will assist the teacher in gaining background information that will enhance the activities. These pages are titled by subject and may be copied for student use, assisting them with study topics.
- Section 8 contains definitions of vocabulary words.
- Section 9 lists additional resources for teachers and students.

# How to Use this Guide

1. Make black line masters of the alphabet picture cards in Sections 1 and 2. If possible, use a color printer for the Colored Alphabet Picture Cards in Section 1.
2. Cut out the two sets of alphabet picture cards, Sections 1 and 2, to use with the activities.
3. Have students color the 26 black-and-white alphabet picture cards from Section 2.
4. We highly recommend that you laminate both sets of original alphabet picture cards.
5. Read and complete the activities for your grade level. You may also want to modify activities targeted for other grade levels to use with your students.
6. Use the Natural History information (Section 7), and the Vocabulary definitions (Section 8), to answer questions about the Everglades and to broaden your students' background knowledge base. You may want to introduce these sections first, before doing the activities.

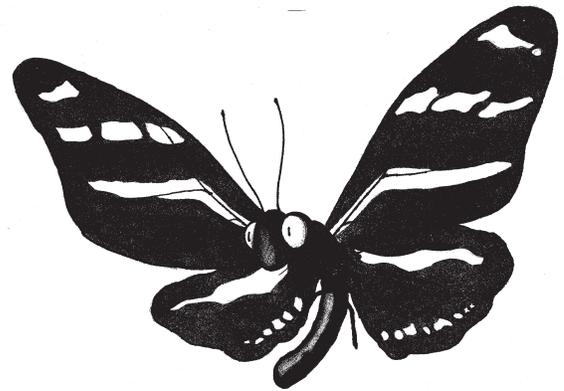
7. If you have comments or suggestions, please call the Everglades National Park Education Office at: (305) 242-7753.

**Special Note:** Everglades National Park education staff and Dade County educators have also developed a 4th - 6th Grade Activity Guide. If you switch grade levels and are teaching 4th, 5th, or 6th grades, please check your school libraries as this guide should be available.

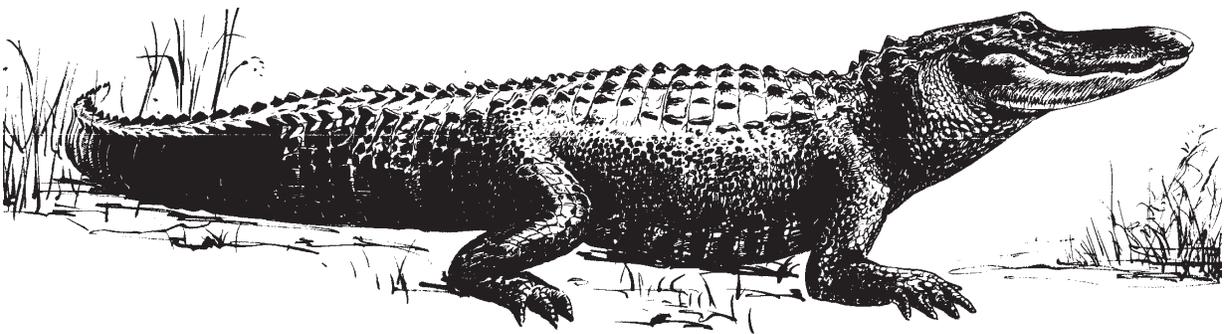


**It is the hope of the staff at Everglades National Park that this curriculum guide will help you and your students discover the wonders of South Florida National Parks, understand them, appreciate them, and most importantly, take action to protect them.**

**From "A - Z",  
enjoy using  
this guide!**



Zebra butterfly



Alligator