

Shark Valley Essay Winner – April 2011

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Why the Everglades Is So Important

What would it be like if there was no Everglades National Park? It would be horrible, right? Why is the Everglades so important? I'll show you.

The Everglades is a National Park, that's why it's so important. The Everglades protects animals and plants so we can have a beautiful world. It conserves our beautiful things. Think about it: when you water your plants they're beautiful, right? Now imagine all of your plants gone. Now, that's bad. Same with animals: when you feed your dog, he/she's healthy, right? Now imagine all the animals in the world gone. Now that's also bad.

The natural flow of water to the Everglades is damaged. Before, when the wet season came around, Lake Okeechobee flooded. Some of the water from Lake Okeechobee flowed into the Everglades. Not many people lived in South Florida at that time and now more people are living in South Florida. Developers need more water to make cement, tourists need water to take their hot baths and to go swimming in pools, farmers need water to grow their crops, and last but not least, animals need water to live. So if the natural flow of water to the Everglades is damaged, the animals don't get much water. We can save water to help the natural flow. We can turn off the water when we're brushing our teeth, we can fix leaky faucets, we can turn off the sink all the way, and more and more! There are so many possibilities!

So there you have it. That is why the Everglades is so important. I hope you enjoyed my essay!