

Shark Valley Essay Winner -February 2011

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Picture this: There is a place called the Everglades. Long time ago animals lived happy with all the water coming from Lake Okeechobee down to the Everglades to the plants and animals. Think of when people want to build and drain water from the habitat. Look what we would do to the residents that lived there. The water, algae, alligators, and birds would move and would have to find a place to live. This will all happen if you don't care about plants and animals that live there.

The reason why we should protect and respect the plants and animals is because if we don't care for them they'll end up getting hurt. If you damage the habitats like the hardwood hammock or sawgrass, that would be horrible especially to the water and algae. Every day when you take a shower or wash clothes and dishes you're taking away the water. Then the animals won't have any. For example, if you drain water, you take away the apple snail's home, and if they don't have a place to live, then they will die. Then the snail kite won't have any prey to eat.

If people take away the home of the residents and build roads the population of animals will decrease. The water will go down and so will the birds. The snail kite, roseate spoonbill, the great white egret and the great blue heron will have to struggle to find a fabulous place to live that has food, water, shelter, and space. Without the birds, the cycle wouldn't be complete.

The U.S. has damaged all the water by draining it out and hurt wading birds that look for their food in the water. Since damage has occurred animals will try to get back but so much has been lost, there's no way we can get it back to the way it was a long time ago.

The water and birds are destroyed but what about the carnivores? If all the herbivores die out, so will the carnivores. Like the panther and the 'gator. Soon there will be no more wildlife. That's why it is very valuable to share Florida with the animals because if you don't, awful things will occur.

In conclusion, we know why we should take care of the land we share. Whether it's saving water to taking care of litter we can still make gigantic change. We could at least try to come together and build up the everglades. If you build towers where the water flowed, it will affect the birds and alligators. That's why you should take care of the everglades.