

Shark Valley Essay Winner – November 2010

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What is so special about Everglades National Park?

Everglades National Park is special because it is the home to some endangered and unique animals. At this beautiful National Park the rangers also do an incredible job in encouraging people; both young and old to be eco-friendly. This is one of the greatest parks in the world.

To begin with, I love to visit this “River of Grass” because it is a home to some beautiful and endangered animals. My favorite is the Florida panther. There are less than 80 panthers left in the Everglades. Major threat is health and habitat. These beautiful creatures get sick from high mercury that is deposited in canals. They need a large area and habitat to live and hunt. Flooding can destroy the grassy area of their habitat. Another animal that one can find in this neck of the woods is the wood stork. In Florida the wood stork breeds during the late winter dry season when its prey; the fish, are concentrated in shrinking pools. The female’s neck is brown and the male’s neck is black. Wood storks have been known to fly as high as 6,000 feet. They will fly as much as 50 miles in search of food and luckily this habitat meets the needs of these special creatures.

Finally, this breath-taking habitat encourages people to be eco-friendly. As good citizens we need to learn on how to conserve water, which is the “Life blood of the Everglades.” Turning off the water while brushing your teeth, washing your hands and taking a shower helps the animal, plants and habitat of this gorgeous place. This is evident because when I went to the Everglades on a field trip, I saw that they had old fashion toilets that you can’t flush. We had to flap and dry our hands like an aninga because they didn’t have paper towels. When I went to Shark Valley, I learned that we are a big part of this community. The rangers told us that animals have become endangered because of man. We clear the land and build houses, roads, malls and much more which is terrible for this habitat and the living organisms that live here. The population of animals has gone down and we have to help. If we try, we can make the Everglades stay alive and healthy for many years to come so that these special species have a home where they could be protected and can always have their needs met.

In conclusion, Everglades National Park is a special place because it provides a shelter to some endangered animals. It is also special place because it encourages everyone to be eco-friendly. Let’s try to take care of this beautiful place by doing our part and educate those around us like our family and friends. Let’s make the Everglades last for eternity.