

# What's So Special About the Everglades?



**Subject:** Language Arts

**Duration:** 45 Minutes

**Location:** Classroom

**Key Vocabulary:** Everglades, values, environment

**Related Activities:** Locating South Florida's National Parks

**Florida Sunshine State Standards:** LA.4.3.1.1, LA.5.3.1.1, LA.6.3.1.1

## Materials

- 3x5 index cards
- Pencils
- Masking tape

**Objectives:** The students will recognize and identify one valuable aspect of a national park's environment, and draw conclusions as to why they value that aspect of the environment.

**Method:** Students will draw a favorite plant, animal, or activity common to the Everglades environment and explain, in writing, the reason they chose it.

**Background:** The Everglades is many different things to many people: an escape from their urban habitat; a place to photograph, canoe, or fish; a place for birdwatching; a place of beauty, of peace; a place to see "dangerous" animals. Encouraging students to discover what they value in our national parks is a first step toward a commitment to preserving this part of our South Florida environment.

## Suggested Procedure

1. Instruct the students to draw (from memory) and label a favorite plant, animal, or activity common to Everglades/South Florida national parks on a 3 x 5 card. Do not inform students what is intended by this activity.
2. Tell the students to label their drawing and write below the drawing a few words to describe why they chose it.
3. Ask students to tape their 3 x 5 card on their shirt, and allow them time to wander around reading each other's cards.

## Evaluation

Re-assemble into a large group, and begin a discussion. Ask students to identify the purpose of the activity. Compare/contrast the various values which students have described on their cards. Ask students to draw conclusions based on the described values.

## Extension

Instruct students to write a short essay on this activity, summarizing what they have learned about values. Ask students to identify ways of preserving their own values concerning the environment.