

# Vocabulary Words

**ADAPT:** To fit in; to be suited for getting the things one needs to survive.

**ADAPTATION:** Special characteristics that make an organism more suited to its environment.

**AIR:** Atmosphere. The gaseous envelope surrounding the earth. Part of the atmosphere is comprised of oxygen, a gas that almost all living things need to survive.

**ALGAE:** A group of plants found in water or damp places. They have chlorophyll, but lack true stems, roots, or leaves.

**ALLIGATOR:** (Reptile) Four legged, black-colored animal with a broad snout, a long tail, and a cream colored belly. Immature alligators are black with yellow stripes. Alligators keep water holes open, thus providing a habitat for other animals. A female builds a nest of vegetation close to the water and guards her eggs and young. Alligators are predators being at the top of the food chain; however, young alligators are prey to herons, hawks, and other alligators. Alligators can remain under water up to one hour.

**AMPHIBIANS:** Cold-blooded, smooth-skinned vertebrate organisms including frogs and salamanders.

**ANHINGA:** (Bird) Black feathered bird with a long neck, sharply pointed bill, and webbed feet. The female has a brown neck, the male has a black neck. Also called the “snake bird”. Anhingas swim underwater to spear small fish. When back on land they spread their wings out to dry. Like ducks, anhingas have an oil preening gland, however their feathers are not waterproof.

**ANIMAL:** A living thing having characteristics which distinguish it from a plant, including the ability to move voluntarily, the presence of a nervous system, and the need for nourishment obtained by eating plants or other animals.

**APPLESNAIL:** (Mollusk-Gastropod) A brown, rounded, hard shelled, soft-bodied, fresh-water snail that is the primary food of the Snail Kite. It lays its pearl-white eggs in clusters, on water plants.

**AQUIFER:** A water-bearing bed of gravel, rock, or sand capable of yielding considerable amounts of water to wells or springs.

**ARACHNID:** Spiders, scorpions, daddy-long-legs, and mites are all classified as arachnids. Spiders have eight legs, insects have six. Spiders have two main body parts, insects have three. Spiders do not have wings or antennae, while many insects have wings and almost all have feelers or antennae.

**BARRED OWL:** (Bird) A large brown, puffy-headed wood owl. It is one of only two kinds of owls with large brown eyes; marked by bars across the chest and head and lengthwise along the tail. It has saw-toothed leading edges on its primary (flight) feathers which allows it to fly soundlessly. It eats small rodents. Owls have excellent sight and hearing. Their eyes can only see straight ahead; however, they swivel their head 270 degrees to see from side to side.

**BASS:** (Fish) Bluish gray in color with a spiny dorsal fin separated from the soft dorsal fin by a deep notch. Bass are predators that feed on other fresh-water fish and, in turn, is prey to alligators.

**BLACK BEAR:** (Mammal - Omnivore) A threatened species. Four legged animals with black or brown colored fur, massive bodies, and short tails. Bears are omnivores and can climb trees. They are more commonly seen in Big Cypress than Everglades National Park, due to more suitable habitat.

**BLADDERWORT:** (Genus name Utricularia) A carnivorous free floating water plant with small yellow or purple flowers. This plant contains tiny bladders which lie below the water surface, trapping tiny animals including mosquito larvae!

**BOBCAT:** (Mammal - Carnivore) A four legged predator with a tawny colored black-spotted coat, and a short tail. This cat is a nocturnal feeder, needing over twenty square miles to find enough food.

**BOTTLE-NOSED DOLPHIN:** (Mammal) A grey-skinned predator inhabiting warm seas, often seen jumping above the water's surface. The bottle-nosed dolphin has the largest brain to body ratio of any animal, except for humans, and has a shorter snout than other local species of dolphins.

**BRACKISH WATER:** Mangrove habitat where the fresh water and the salt water meet, thus diluting the salt water and adding salt to the fresh water. This is a nursery zone of high animal productivity.

**BUOYANT:** An object that is able to float or rise in a liquid. The red mangrove seed, also called a propagule is buoyant, thus the wind and waves can easily move these floating seeds.

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**CAMOUFLAGE:** An organism's ability to blend with its environment, thus protecting it from predators. For example - a spotted fawn's dappled coat helps it to blend in when laying in sawgrass.

**CARNIVORE:** Any animal that eats meat.

**COCOPLUM:** Is a shrubby plant with green, round, waxy leaves and olive-sized oval fruit which changes from green to purple or white, when ripe. The fruits are eaten by birds and mammals, including humans. The plant grows in bayheads and hammocks.

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**COLD-BLOODED:** Having a body temperature that varies with the external environment. Reptiles and amphibians are cold-blooded animals.

**COMMUNITY:** A group of plants and animals living in a particular environment, working together to fulfill their individual needs.

**CONSERVATION:** The careful use of our natural resources.

**CONSUMER:** A user of goods and services. In a food chain, a consumer is an animal that must depend upon plant and/or other animals for its energy.

**CONTAMINATION:** To make something unpure or unclean.

**COVER:** A place of natural shelter for an animal or bird.

**CRAB:** Aquatic invertebrate crustacean having eyes on short stalks; a short, broad, flattened body; and five pairs of legs, two of which are modified into claws.

**CYCLE:** A recurring period of time in which certain events repeat themselves in the same order and at the same intervals. The water cycle, the phases of the moon, day and night, and the seasons occur in a cyclic nature.

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**DECOMPOSER:** A physical element, or organism, that causes other organisms, or physical elements, to break up and/or rot. Fungi/mushrooms for example, help to decompose dead logs.

**DEER:** White-tailed. (Mammal) A quick moving animal with a brown hide and four legs with hoofs. Males grow antlers. Deer are wary/shy, feeding at dawn and dusk, and are herbivores (plant eaters). Fawns are born with spots that provide camouflage.

**DETRITUS:** Bits of food, dead leaves, twigs, algae, remains of animals, etc. All are decomposing and releasing nutrients into the soil, which aids the growth of new plants.

**DEFENSE:** Resistance against attack, often used for protection.

**DIVERSITY:** A term referring to variety or differences in the natural world. Biological diversity refers to variety in living things; species diversity refers to variety among different species; genetic diversity refers to the variety within a single species, and ecosystem diversity refers to differences in living communities.

**DRAGONFLY:** One of the oldest groups of insects on earth. Fossilized remains have been found showing that they existed 300 million years ago. They live near water. Dragonflies have four large wings with a lace-like pattern of veins, long, slender bodies, large heads, and prominent eyes. The wings remain out-stretched while the insect is at rest. They can fly as fast as 60 M.P.H. over long distances (as far as twenty miles). Dragonflies are predators that eat insects.

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Their eyes are so sensitive that they can see and catch small insects, like mosquitoes, in full flight.

**DRY SEASON:** One of the two seasons in South Florida. It is a time of low rainfall extending from November through April or May, thus making this area different than other states in the U.S.A., which have four seasons - winter, spring, summer, and fall.

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**EAGLE, BALD:** Bird of prey. The mature eagle has a white feathered head and tail, a yellow hooked bill, and long, sharp talons which are used to catch fish. The bald eagle is the United States national emblem. This bird was recently removed from the endangered species list, but they are still listed as threatened throughout its range.

**ECOLOGY:** The study of inter-relationships of organisms and their environment.

**ECOSYSTEM:** The interaction of the biological community (all living things) and the physical environment (water, air, and minerals).

**EGRET:** Primarily wading birds with long beaks, necks, and legs. Four types of egrets are found in Everglades National Park: great egrets, reddish egrets, snowy egrets, and cattle egrets. All, except the the cattle egrets, feed in sawgrass prairies or on mud-flats in the park. Cattle egrets feed on dry land.

**ENDANGERED SPECIES:** A species of plant or animal that throughout a significant portion of its range is in danger of extinction. There are fourteen endangered species in Everglades National Park.

**ENERGY:** The power or ability to make things move or happen. All organisms need food, which is a source of energy, to stay alive.

**ENERGY CYCLE:** The sun's energy is used by plants to produce food, animals eat plants to produce energy, decomposers use the animal and plant matter to produce energy, and that matter is recycled to be used again by plants.

**ENVIRONMENT:** All those factors, both living and non-living, which make up the surroundings of an organism.

**EPIPHYTE:** Air plant - a plant growing on another plant, but not using the host plant for nourishment.

**ESTUARY:** The area of a wide, lower course of a river where its current is met and influenced by the sea. An arm of the sea that extends inward to meet the mouth of a river. (Where the fresh water meets the salt water combining to form brackish water.) A highly productive zone providing breeding grounds, food, and shelter for microscopic animals, mollusks, shrimp, fishes, and birds.

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**EVERGLADES:** A river of grass; a shallow, fresh water river in southern Florida. Also, used to designate other types of habitats in the same area.

**EXOTIC:** Not native, or something that did not grow in this area before humans brought it from another country.

**EXTINCT:** A species which has vanished from existence.

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**FAUNA:** Animal life.

**FERN:** A green plant characterized by fibrous roots and leaves called fronds. It usually thrives in the shade, does not flower, and has spores instead of seeds.

**FIREFLY:** (Insect) Fireflies are not flies at all, but soft-bodied beetles. The light-giving abilities of the fireflies may extend also to the eggs and larvae. Scientists are studying fireflies because of their ability to make light without heat.

**FISH:** An animal that swims, has gills, fins, a backbone, and is covered with scales.

**FLORA:** Plant life.

**FLORIDA TREE SNAIL:** See tree snail.

**FOOD:** Any substance absorbed by the body which yields materials for energy, growth, and repair of tissue and regulation of the life process without harming the organism.

**FOOD CHAIN:** Sequence of organisms starting with green plants in which each is food for higher and more complex organisms. (i.e. Sawgrass-deer-panther, algae-sunfish-garfish-great egret-alligator.)

**FOOD WEB:** The many connected food chains by which organisms of a community obtain their energy.

**FRESH WATER:** Water containing no salt or very little salt, has a salt concentration of 0 - 3 ppt or less.

**FROG:** A cold-blooded amphibian with powerful hind legs, living in or near water. Initially they breathe with gills, when mature they breathe with lungs. Life stages include egg, tadpole, and mature frog.

**FUNGI:** A group of plants that lack chlorophyll (are not green), and get nourishment from any organic source. They are important decomposers. Mushrooms are a type of fungi.

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**GAMBUSIA:** See mosquito fish.

**GARFISH:** (Fish) A spotted, cigar-shaped, brown colored fish which reaches lengths of thirty inches. Has sharp, pointed teeth. The garfish is a predator and is eaten by alligators and Miccosukee Indians.

**GARTER SNAKE:** (Reptile) A common, non-poisonous snake with three body length parallel stripes.

**GRASSHOPPER:** (Insect) An herbivorous (plant eating) insect with six legs and three body parts, the hind legs are adapted for leaping.

**GROUND WATER:** Water which enters the soil, following rain (precipitation).

**GUMBO LIMBO TREE:** This tree is sometimes called the “tourist tree” because its red, peeling bark looks like a tourist with a peeling sunburn. If a limb is cut off and stuck in the ground, it will generate roots and become a tree/living fence. It is commonly found in hardwood hammocks.

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**HABITAT:** The place where a plant or animal lives and can find food, water, shelter, and space.

**HABITAT DESTRUCTION:** The tearing apart or breaking down of an animal’s home or natural surroundings.

**HAMMOCK:** Scattered clumps of hardwood trees and dense undergrowth which thrive on slightly elevated ground in the sawgrass prairies/marshes, in pinelands, and on islands at Biscayne National Park and on the Keys.

**HAWK:** (Bird - Red-Shouldered) Their eyes are like binoculars, being able to see movement from high in the sky. Their claws are designed to grasp prey while their hooked-beaks tear it. These birds eat rodents, snakes, insects, other birds, and frogs.

**HERBIVORE:** An organism that eats plants. Examples include deer, rabbits, and squirrels.

**HERON:** (Bird) Wading birds which have long legs to wade in marshes and on mud-flats. Their beaks are long and pointed to nab fish. They have a long neck which they pull into an "S" shape when they fly.

**HIBERNATE:** To spend the cold months of the year in an inactive condition.

**HIGH TIDE:** Highest rise of ocean water, occurring every 12 hours, due to gravity, the sun, moon, and the rotation of the earth.

**HOME:** See habitat.

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**IBIS:** (Bird) Wading birds with long necks, legs, and decurved bills. The mature white ibis; which is the most common wading bird in the Everglades, has white feathers with black wing tips and has a red face and bill. Ibis fly in V formations or in long lines. Their primary foods are crayfish and snails.

**INDIGO SNAKE:** (Reptile) The eastern indigo snake grows to over eight feet long and is the largest snake found in the Everglades. It is shiny black in color, except for the sides of its head and chin which are reddish. This is a threatened species protected by law.

**INSECT:** A classification of animals with an exoskeleton, three body segments, and six legs.

**INSTINCT:** An inborn ability to do something.

**INTERDEPENDENCE:** The dependence of organisms on the activities of other organisms.

**INTER-RELATIONSHIPS:** The relationships or connections between organisms.

**IRRIGATION:** Water supplied to dry land by way of ditches, canals, and pumping systems.

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**JELLYFISH:** A marine (saltwater) animal with a soft, gelatinous structure - often with an umbrella-like body and long, trailing tentacles.

**JAY:** (Bird) A noisy, medium sized songbird, many species have a crest and blue feathers.

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**KITE:** Birds of prey with a hooked beak and talons. The snail kite, an endangered species, is linked to the apple snail which is its primary food, providing 99% of its diet. The swallowtail kite which migrates from South America, nests in South Florida in the summer months and has a magnificent split tail.

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**LARVA:** The immature, wingless, feeding stage of an insect before it undergoes metamorphosis.

**LIMESTONE:** Rock consisting mainly of calcium carbonate, may include fossilized shells.

**LIMPKINS:** (Bird) Two-foot-tall, brown feathered birds, living in wooded swamps, primarily feeding on snails, producing a loud, mournful, penetrating wail. The name is associated with the species gait.

**LIZARD:** (Reptile) A reptile with an elongate body, a long tapering tail, and two pairs of legs.

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**LOW TIDE:** Lowest ebb of ocean water, occurring every 12 hours, due to gravity, the sun, moon, and the rotation of the earth.

**LYSILOMA TREE:** This tree is in the legume (peas and bean) family and produces a 3" brown pod. Leaflets are compound with many small, feathery like leaflets in each stalk. Is sometimes called the "Tree Snail Tree" as it provides the primary habitat for tree snails.

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**MANGROVE:** A term for a variety of tree species and a habitat associated with brackish water. There are three main types of mangroves: red, black, and white. Mangroves provide a primary line of defense against hurricanes.

**MARSH RABBIT:** See rabbit.

**MARINE:** Living in brackish or salt water.

**MICROSCOPIC:** Tiny. Too small to be seen without the aid of a magnifying lens or microscope.

**MOLLUSK:** A classification of animals with exoskeletons and shells. Univalve and bivalve snails and clams are examples.

**MOSQUITO:** Insects with a proboscis (mouthparts adapted for piercing and sucking). Is one of the links in many Everglades food chains. Only the female bites, a drop of blood giving her enough protein to make 200 to 400 eggs. Males feed on flower nectar. There are forty-seven different species of mosquitoes in Everglades National Park, but only thirteen species feed on human blood.

**MOSQUITOFISH:** (Fish) Also called Gambusia. They eat aquatic invertebrates, including mosquito larvae, have an upturned mouth, are a light olive color, and grow to 2 1/2" (6.5 cm).

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**NATIONAL PARK:** A federally funded area maintained in its natural state; public property for the benefit of all. South Florida contains three national parks; Everglades National Park established in 1947, Biscayne National Park established in 1980, and Dry Tortugas National Park established in 1992.

**NATIONAL PRESERVE:** A federally funded area maintained for multiple use including resource protection and visitation, and may include hunting, cattle grazing, oil drilling, etc. South Florida contains Big Cypress National Preserve, which was established in 1974. The preserve shares a boundary with Everglades National Park and assists in providing protection to that national park.

**NATURAL RESOURCE:** Resources found in our natural environment.

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**NICHE:** The interaction of a specific organism with its environment; the organism's special function/place within that environment.

**NOURISHMENT:** Food.

**NURSE SHARK:** (Fish) Grayish brown to yellowish in color, with rounded fins, the first dorsal fin sitting far back of the pectoral fin. Nurse sharks are found in shallow waters around southern Florida and are the most frequently encountered type of shark seen by Florida divers. The nurse shark is a sedentary, nonaggressive animal, unless provoked, wherein it can inflict serious wounds.

**NURSERY:** See estuary.

**NYMPH:** An intermediate, aquatic stage between egg and adult insects. Example: dragonfly nymph.

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**ODOR:** Smell produced by a plant or animal. Scent.

**OMNIVORE:** An animal that eats plants and animals. Examples include many humans, bears, some turtles, and some species of fish.

**OPOSSUM:** (Mammal - Omnivore) The only marsupial (pouched animal) in the Everglades. Also has a prehensile tail, a pointed snout, grey fur except on the tail, and often feigns death when in danger.

**ORGANISM:** Any living thing.

**OSPREY:** (Bird of prey) A large bird with a hooked bill and long talons, which plunges feet first into the water to catch its prey, fish. Also called the "fish hawk". Is affected by pesticides, like eagles.

**OTTER:** (Mammal - Carnivore) Dark brown (often appearing black when wet) stream-lined animals adapted to living in the water, having webbed back feet. Primarily feeding on fish, turtles, and frogs.

**OVAL:** Egg shaped.

**OWL:** (Bird of prey - Carnivore) Primarily nocturnal, (night feeding), with hooked bill and talons. Feeds on mice, snakes, small birds, reptiles, and insects. The barred owl, with an eight-hoot call series, is one of the most frequently heard owls in South Florida.

**OXYGEN:** A gas in the air that almost all living things need to survive.

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**PALM TREE:** Tall, unbranched trees with a crown of fronds (leaves). The state tree of Florida is the sable palm, also called the cabbage palm.

**PANTHER:** (Mammal - Carnivore) Tawny colored, four legged animal with a long tail, in the cat family. Panthers are nocturnal (night feeding) predators, eating deer, hogs, raccoons etc. Florida panthers are an endangered species, becoming rare due to habitat loss and as they were extensively hunted at one time. Each panther requires 150 - 250 square miles of territory.

**PELICAN:** (Bird - Carnivore) Very large water birds, with long necks, bulky bodies, short legs, webbed feet, and at the base of the throat - a sac capable of holding 3 gallons of water. This adaptation works as a scoop, taking in fish and water, with the water escaping when the pelican lifts its head above the water surface. Two species of pelicans, the brown and the white, are often seen in Florida.

**PESTICIDES:** Chemicals that are used to kill pests, especially insects.

**PHOTOSYNTHESIS:** The process by which plants with chlorophyll use the sun's energy (light) to manufacture food (carbohydrates) and release oxygen.

**PINELANDS:** A high, dry habitat in the Everglades ecosystem, with pine trees being the dominant tree species.

**PLANTS:** Primarily photosynthetic organisms, reproducing by means of spores or seeds, having complex cellular arrangements, anchoring soil, moderating the water cycle, providing a major source of the world's oxygen, and providing direct or indirect food for most species of terrestrial life along with a variety of habitats for animal species. Also, see producer.

**PLANT EATER:** See herbivore.

**POISON IVY:** A plant which grows as a vine, having leaflets grouped in three's. The oils from this plant are a skin irritant to those who are allergic.

**POLLINATION:** The process of transferring pollen from the anther to the stigma of plants, often completed by animals including insects, birds, and mammals. Is necessary for the plants to produce seeds.

**POLLUTION:** Contamination of soil, air, or water by a chemical or chemicals which may be detrimental to plants or animals.

**POPULATION:** The total number of organisms living within a given area.

**PREDATOR:** Any organism which hunts live animals for its food.

**PRESERVATION:** A process of saving or protecting something in its natural state.

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**PREY:** A predator's victim.

**PRIMARY:** First, earliest, largest grouping.

**PRODUCER:** An organism that produces or makes food used by or for other organisms. Plants are producers, whereas animals are consumers.

**PROPAGULE:** A reproductive structure, the seed of the red mangrove - a green, long, pencil-shaped seed that floats.

**PROP ROOTS:** Arching, spider-like, roots of the red mangrove which buffer wind and wave action, and provide shelter for many marine organisms including clams, oysters, and barnacles.

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**QUEEN BUTTERFLY:** Brownish-orange winged insect - wings having black margins and fine white dots. Life cycle includes egg, caterpillar (which feeds on milkweed plants), chrysalis, and butterfly.

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**RABBIT:** (Mammal - Herbivore) Small, brown, furry animal which are prey for bobcats and foxes. They can swim, thus they are adapted for living in a wetland habitat.

**RACCOON:** (Mammal - Omnivore) Four legged animal with brown fur, black face mask, a black and grey striped tail, and a humped back shape when walking. Primarily nocturnal (night feeding) eating turtle eggs, crabs, and fruits, along with scavenging.

**RATTLESNAKE:** (Reptile - Carnivore) Pit vipers having triangular shaped heads and rattles made of interlocking scales. They have poisonous fangs that lie back in their mouths until needed, then are erected in a striking position. Diamondback rattlesnakes prey upon lizards, mice, rabbits, and other small mammals; while pigmy rattlesnakes feed on insects, frogs, lizards, and mice. Both snakes may become prey to owls and hawks.

**ROSEATE SPOONBILL:** (Wading Bird) Pink feathered, long legged bird with a spatulate bill. The spoonbill is a touch feeder eating insect larvae, shrimps, and shellfish. Also, is a colonial nester.

**RECYCLE:** To use over again.

**REPELLANT:** A lotion or spray that is distasteful or that drives away insects or other animals.

**REPTILE:** An animal classification in which the animals are cold-blooded and are covered by smooth, dry, skin or scales. Alligators, crocodiles, snakes and lizards are all reptiles.

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**SABAL PALM:** The most common large palm found in the Everglades, also called the cabbage palm. It is Florida's state tree.

**SALTWATER:** Saline water containing concentrations of at least 35 ppt, or more, of salt.

**SAWGRASS:** A greenish-brown sedge which has three sawtooth edges that can cut. Is the primary plant covering the Everglades area between Lake Okeechobee and the brackish water to the south.

**SECONDARY:** Next after the first in order, place, time, or importance.

**SEEDS:** A reproductive package containing a plant embryo along with its food supply, wrapped in a protective seed coat.

**SENSES:** Any of the faculties in which humans or animals perceive stimuli. Humans primary senses include hearing, smelling, seeing, tasting, and touching.

**SLOUGH:** Wide, deeper drainage channel of water, flowing through the slow moving "River of Grass".

**SNAIL KITE:** (See kite).

**SNAKE:** Limbless, scaled, cold-blooded, elongated reptile.

**SOIL:** Portion of the earth's surface consisting of disintegrated rock and humus or periphyton. Their are two primary types of soil in the Everglades, peat and marl.

**SPECIES:** A genetically and adaptively unique plant or animal which is able to reproduce itself and to evolve. For example: all human beings are of the same species.

**SWAMP:** A wetland where the water may be fresh or salty.

**SUN:** The star that is the central body of our solar system, around which the planets revolve and from which they receive light and heat.

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**TERRITORY:** Area defended by one or more animals against intruders.

**THREATENED SPECIES:** A species that may become endangered in the near future unless the species or its habitat is protected and managed for its survival.

**TREE FROG:** (Amphibian) Green colored amphibian, with powerful hind legs. Tree frogs are climbers and have suction-cup pads on the tips of their toes. Also, see frog.

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**TREE SNAIL:** (Mollusk - Herbivore) A univalve mollusk whose shells have many different color combinations, thus being nicknamed "the jewels of the Everglades". Tree snails live in tropical hardwood hammocks, feeding on microscopic lichen and algae growing on trees. They lay eggs in the soil. They also estivate (seal themselves off and remain motionless), during the dry season.

**TURTLE:** (Reptile) Any reptile having its trunk encased in a shell. Most turtles have four legs, however, sea turtles have flippers.

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**UTRICULARIA SPP.:** Scientific name of bladderwort. See bladderwort for more information.

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**VULTURE:** (Bird) Bald headed, black feathered birds which are often seen riding the thermals (air currents) and who feed on carrion. These birds have excellent senses of sight and smell. Two vultures are found in South Florida: the turkey vulture has a red head, while the black vulture's head is black.

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**WATER:** A transparent, odorless, tasteless, liquid made up of two parts hydrogen to one part oxygen. Water is a basic necessity for life and is the lifeblood of the Everglades ecosystem.

**WATER CYCLE:** The never ending circle of change which water repeatedly undergoes.

**WEB OF LIFE:** Interrelated food chains which sustain life, provide energy, and promote growth.

**WETLANDS:** An area of land that is wet at least part of the year, often containing unique soils, vegetation, and wildlife; sometimes referred to as swamps, bogs, marshes, or prairies.

**WET SEASON:** An extended rainy period of time, in a particular place. In South Florida, the wet season typically extends from June through November.

**WILDLIFE:** Wild animals. One of the reasons parks and preserves are often established is to protect the diversity and the amount of wild animals and plants living in a natural area.

**WOODSTORK:** (Bird) Black, bald headed, white feathered wading bird, with wing and tail feathers trimmed in black. Is a touch feeder. The woodstork is endangered primarily due to changes in water flow patterns thus affecting its feeding habits. If enough food is not available, they will abandon their nests or not even attempt to nest.

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XANTHOPASTIS TIMAIS: (Insect) Scientific name for a colorful moth having pink forewings with black polka dots ringed in yellow. Two common names for this species are Spanish moth and hippie moth. These animals feed on figs, spider lilies, and narcissus plants.

XIMENIA AMERICANA: (Plant) Scientific name of an evergreen shrub or small tree growing to heights of 25 feet primarily in tropical hardwood hammock habitats. Has irregular branches with alternate leaves which have sharp spines in the leaf axils, and has yellowish-white four-petaled hairy flowers. Two common names for this tree species are Tallowwood and Hog Plum.

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**YELLOW RAT SNAKE**: (Reptile) Non-poisonous, yellow, limbless, scaly, cold-blooded, arboreal, constrictor growing to 84 inches (213 cm) in length. Feeds on birds, their eggs, and small rodents.

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**ZEBRA BUTTERFLY**: (Insect) A tropical butterfly with yellow and black markings on its wings. Within the United States, is found only in South Florida.

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