

# Thirst Game (Periphyton)

**Which Habitat Video:** Slough

**Subject:** Science, Archeology

**Duration:** 2 hours

**Location:** Classroom, Outdoors

**Grades:** Kindergarten

**Next Generation Sunshine State Standards:**

SC.912.L.17.4

**Key Vocabulary:** periphyton, food chain, seasons

## Materials

- Measuring Cup
- Note Pad
- Pen
- Ruler
- Periphyton (Not to be removed from a National Park)

## Objectives

Measure the amount of water soaked in a quantity of five pieces of Periphyton.

## Method

Students will practice counting, measuring, and learn the importance of water for all life.

## Background

Water is a necessity for all life in the Everglades. Periphyton is a colony of blue-green algae, during the dry season, periphyton will store water like a sponge, distributing nutrients to all life forms. When most parts of the Everglades have dried out, periphyton will still have water and a vital food source for all living creatures. This will result in life flourishing until the next rain falls.

## Suggested Procedures

1. Present Everglades Video "Mountains and Valleys: Slough" to students  
<http://www.nps.gov/ever/photosmultimedia/mountainsandvalleys.htm>
2. Divide students at Everglades National Park into groups of 2 or 3 depending on class size.
3. Students will pick a spot on the slough covered with Periphyton.
4. Students will pick up five pieces of Periphyton.
5. One student will measure the Periphyton, 3 inches in length each. Plus or minus 1/4 inch
6. The students will hold in their hand five pieces of Periphyton.
7. One student will hold the measuring cup under the hand.
8. The student will squeeze their hand removing the water from the five pieces of periphyton.
9. Repeat 3 times. Until completely drained of water.
10. The measuring cup will show how much water is collected from five pieces of Periphyton.
11. Each group of students will repeat the process and compare their results.
12. Bonus points for any living creatures that fall into the measuring cup!!
13. One student will write the amount of water collected on the paper.
14. The student will write, and draw on the paper any living creature that was collected in the measuring cup.

## Evaluation

Students will evaluate and share their knowledge on how delicate the ecosystem in the Everglades is. Periphyton is a tool that enables life to flourish when water is at a desperate level, a reserve tank of moisture, nutrients and food.