

Everglades Field Trip

Grade Level: All Levels

Timing: Discussion is one hour. Self-guided tour is 1-2 hours

Summary: The Everglades is a unique ecosystem we are fortunate to have in the state of Florida. The wetland is hugely diverse but diversity is decreasing as human pressure increases. With an instructor, students will discuss what makes the Everglades so unique, the changes to South Florida watershed that have effected this ecosystem and the current threats this habitat is facing. The group will then go on a self-guided tour through the Anhinga trail within Everglades National Park.

Program Objectives:

After completion, students will be able to:

- Name 5 plants and 5 animals that live within the Everglades
- Understand the changes in hydrology that South Florida has experienced since the 1900s
- Describe the impacts of human pressure on the Everglades
- Provide detailed reasoning for what makes the Everglades so unique
- Experience the Everglades firsthand

Concepts Covered:

- Hydrology through South Florida
- The water cycle
- Importance of natural fires
- Habitats within the Everglades
- Flora and fauna within the Everglades
- Human impacts to South Florida watershed and current threats to the Everglades
- Work being done to enhance Everglades National Park
- Saltwater intrusion

Vocabulary: wetland, hydrology, precipitation, sheet flow, hydroperiod, peat, marl, periphyton, solution hole, hammock, slough, keystone species, hydroreversal, exotic species, water management, levee

Procedures: Students will learn about the diverse flora and fauna that make the Everglades so unique and some of the organisms they can be on the lookout for, with insight on how to “spot” said organisms, during an hour long discussion on Everglades Hydrology with a MarineLab instructor. The group will then go on a self-guided tour on a marked trail in Everglades National Park.

Extensions: MarineLab can provide a “box lunch” for groups to take to the Everglades

Resources: <https://www.nps.gov/ever/index.htm>



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