



Exploring Florida's Wildlife

Please share this pre-visit guide with other teachers from your school who will be joining you on this trip. Thanks!

Recommended Grade Level: First through Third

Program Description: This program introduces the fundamental aspects of our natural environments in Florida. The students will sort out which animals and plants belong in all of our different local habitats.

Learning Goals: At the end of our program the students should be able to have an understanding of the following:

1. All living things require basic needs, just like humans do, and if needs are not met they will die.
2. There are many different kinds of plants and animals in each different habitat.
3. Animals are all different, but have similar basic structures.

Pre-Visit Activities:

1. Review vocabulary list on back.
2. Go over the different environments in Florida, such as Beach/Ocean, Rivers, Forest, Marsh, and Urban.
3. Discuss how all animals have different adaptations for their specific environments.

Post-Visit Activities:

1. Review vocabulary again.
2. Ask the students what types of animals and plants live in our local habitats. Which animals have they seen in their back yard or on local nature trails?
3. Discuss how all animals depend on one another and depend on plants for survival.
4. Do the activities in the Exploring Florida's Wildlife Post-Visit Guide.

Vocabulary:

Adaptation: traits that allow the animal to survive better in the wild.

Carnivore: An animal that eats mostly other animals.

Ecosystem: A community of organisms in their natural environment.

Endangered: A group of animals or plants in danger of becoming extinct.

Extinct: The death and disappearance of a species.

Habitat: Where an animal lives.

Herbivore: An animal that eats mostly plants.

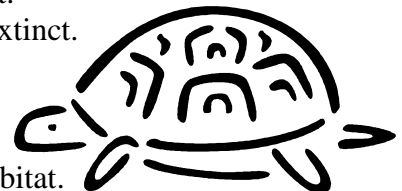
Food Web: The many different overlapping food chains within a habitat.

Nocturnal: An animal that is active at night.

Niche: The place that an animal holds or occupies in the environment.

Omnivore: An animal that feeds on both plants and animals.

Predator: An organism that feeds on other organisms.



For SSS benchmarks, background information, and additional activities please refer to the "Happenin' Habitats" Visit Guide.