

WELCOME

Dear Teacher,

Welcome to the *Everglades Restoration Curriculum for South Florida*. This set of lesson plans is designed for K-12 teachers to help raise awareness about America's most important wetland ecosystem. The Everglades are a national treasure. The Greater Everglades Ecosystem is home to hundreds of species of beautiful and fascinating birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, amphibians and plants. It provides habitat to many threatened and endangered species, provides fresh water to millions of Floridians and is an international biosphere reserve. These lesson plans will lead K-12 students to explore key aspects of the Everglades, the issues surrounding this vast ecosystem, and ways to take action to help preserve it.

These lessons were designed with the desired outcome of moving students toward Everglades literacy. Students who complete these lessons from kindergarten through twelfth grade will graduate with a greater understanding and appreciation of the Everglades and the roles it plays in our quality of life.

The first step to this project was creating the Everglades Literacy Conceptual Framework to define what being "Everglades Literate" means. Seven fundamental concepts are identified in the Framework. Please read the Framework and use it as a roadmap for implementing these lessons. All of the lessons are aligned to the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards, the Common Core Standards, and the Everglades Literacy Conceptual Framework Fundamental Concepts.

A brief overview of this curriculum:

1. These lessons have all been piloted with teachers from across South Florida. After the pilot, the lessons were revised in response to teachers' feedback. The lessons were all originally designed to take approximately 60 minutes to implement. During the pilot phase, however, the duration of time to implement varied. Some teachers reported that they took more or less time depending on their students. Please feel free to adapt these lessons to fit your time needs.
2. The lessons are broken up into thematic units per grade level. Although they were written in units, we strongly encourage you to look through different grade level lessons. You may find lessons in other grade levels that you wish to adapt for use in your classroom.
3. The lessons are written with a suggested sequence, but feel free to change the order of the lessons if it suits your needs.

We hope you and your students not only enjoy, but learn from these Everglades lessons. Thank you for helping us grow the future generation of Everglades stewards.

The *Everglades Restoration Curriculum for South Florida* is presented by the Everglades Foundation and was developed in partnership with Florida Atlantic University/Pine Jog Environmental Education Center. Project team members were: Vivian Miller, Director of Education and Outreach, Everglades Foundation; From Florida Atlantic University/Pine Jog Environmental Education Center: Susan Toth, Director of Education; Veronica Frehm, Program Coordinator; Anne Henderson, Assistant Director of Education; and Eileen Cassidy, Graduate Student.

