

SUMMER ADVENTURES
ON THE ROAD

Along the Way...





Road trips are a fun time to play games with family and friends along the way. Enjoy these games and activities whether you are on a real road trip or on a virtual exploration.

READY TO EXPLORE?



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A Tale About Tails

Ages 4-8

PG 6

Fire!

All Ages

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Mangrove Ecosystem

All Ages

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Manatee Puppet

All Ages

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Tongue Tied

All Ages

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The Art of Bird-Watching

Ages 9+

PG 12

Name That Habitat

Ages 9+

PG 13

Answers (no peeking!)

Book List

A TALE ABOUT TAILS

ACTIVITY | Ages 4-8

MATERIALS

Pen or pencil, crayons or colored pencils
Device with internet connection (optional)



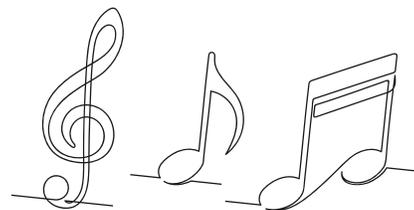
TO DO

Fill in the blanks to complete this tale about animals that live in or near the waterways of the Everglades. Make this tale about tails as serious or silly as you want! Is there more to this story? Can you make up an ending?

A TALE ABOUT TALES

Once upon a time in a _____ in the Everglades, there lived a frog named _____. She was a southern leopard frog and spent her days _____ . She loved to play hide-and-seek with her frog friends because her spots and green skin made her almost _____ in the grasses along the _____. In the evenings, she would join a chorus of other frogs, filling the _____ with deep-throated frog songs.

Listen to a **frog chorus!**



One day, as the frog was happily hopping about the _____ , she heard a voice call out, saying “ _____ !” At first she didn’t see who it was, until a green turtle poked his head up out of _____ and said, “ _____ .” “Well, hello,” she said. After introducing herself, the frog asked the turtle, “How are you today?”

“I’m _____ ,” he replied, “but I must ask you something: Why don’t you have a tail? I have a tail, and it’s just what I need to _____ .” “Well...” But before she could answer, a green anole lizard stuck her head out from a tree and said, “Right, why don’t you have a tail? Look at mine! It’s so long and _____ .”

“Mmm...” And, again, before she could answer, a Gulf toadfish leapt out of the water and said, “Look at my tail! It’s the _____ of all! I can flip it, swish it, and...” With that, he splashed back into the water and waved goodbye with his tail sticking up above the water.

Listen to the Gulf toadfish!

“I can see that you all have such nice tails,” the frog said to the turtle and the lizard. “I had a tail once when I was just a _____ . But one day it _____ . I grew legs and my skin _____ . So now I don’t need a tail to hop and swim in my home in the Everglades.”

Is there more to this story? Can you make up an ending?



FIRE!

ACTIVITY | Ages 4-8

During your virtual (or real) visit to the Everglades, did you see smoke on the horizon? It was probably what the park rangers call a “controlled burn.” Every year the park sets fires to get rid of invasive plants and protect nearby communities. Nevertheless, natural fires caused by lightning and those caused by humans can be dangerous.



MATERIALS

A single die

A small token for each player to mark their way around the board such as a coin

HOW TO PLAY

Get to know more about fires in the Everglades by playing this board game by yourself or with friends. If there are multiple players, throw the die to decide who goes first. The person with the highest number goes first. The first player to complete the board wins! You can make this more challenging by going around the board two times.

- 1 Each player chooses a token.
- 2 Take turns by throwing the die until a 1, 2, or 3 appears, and move the token accordingly. If you roll 4, 5, or 6 keep rolling; they don't count.
- 3 To win, a player must have the exact number on the die to land back at the Homestead Entrance.

RESOURCES

[Everglades National Park | Prescribed Fire](#)

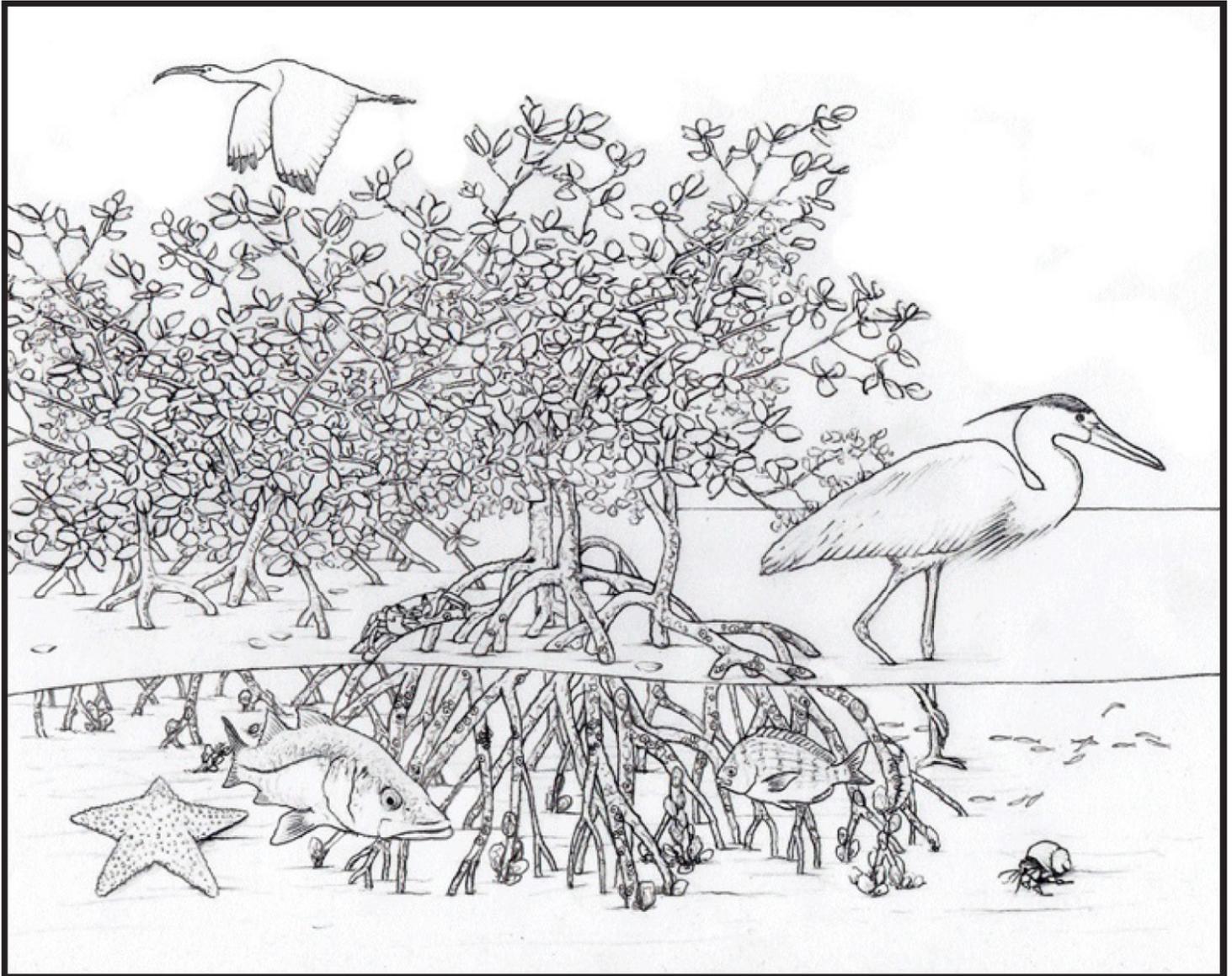
[The River of Fire](#)

<p>START </p> <p>Homestead Entrance</p> <p>-----</p> <p>END!</p>	<p>It's so dry!</p> <p>There might be a lot of fires this year. Describe what you think the park should do.</p> <p></p>	<p>You joined the Fire Management Program.</p> <p>Move ahead 3 spaces.</p> <p></p>	<p>FIRE STATION 1</p> <p></p> <p>Collect your fire gear and tools. What kind of gear and tools do you need?</p>	<p>Now you know:</p> <p>Controlled fires can improve the soil by adding nutrients.</p>	<p></p> <p>Fire near Hidden Lake caused by an unkempt campfire.</p> <p>Go back 2 spaces.</p>
<p>Oh no! Fire sighted along State Road 9336. Take the helicopter to check it out.</p> <p>Go back 2 spaces.</p> <p></p>					<p>Now you know:</p> <p>Controlled fires can manage invasive plant populations.</p>
<p>You are assigned to explain to the community the benefits of controlled fires.</p> <p>Explain two benefits.</p>					<p>Now you know:</p> <p>You are a burn boss for the day and are assigned to Delta 3-2 to manage a prescribed fire.</p> <p></p>
<p>Lose a turn.</p> <p>The controlled fire needs attention.</p> <p> </p>	<p>Lightning fire spotted near Shark Valley Observation Tower. Return to Fire Station 2 for new gear and tools.</p>	<p>Storms in the forecast.</p> <p>Go back 3 spaces.</p> <p>You've run out of water.</p> <p>Go to Fire Station 2.</p> <p></p>			
<p>FIRE STATION 3</p> <p></p> <p>Take a fire break. Sit out a turn.</p>		<p>Now you know:</p> <p>Controlled fires can promote flowering and fruiting of plant species.</p>	<p></p> <p>Lightning fire is burning 65 acres in Delta 3-2. Stay a turn to manage the fire.</p>	<p>FIRE STATION 2</p> <p></p> <p>Collect new gear and tools. Stay a turn.</p>	<p>Now you know:</p> <p>Controlled fires can protect neighboring houses.</p>

MANGROVE ECOSYSTEM

ACTIVITY | All Ages

Color the mangrove and the animals that live in its ecosystem. Fish, shrimp, crabs, and mollusks are just some of the animals that take shelter within mangrove roots in and out of the water. Birds like to rest and fish for food in their branches. Can you find the wading bird, the sea star, and the hermit crab?



MANATEE PUPPET

ACTIVITY | All Ages

MATERIALS

Gray sock
A toilet paper tube
Paper or cardboard
Black and gray markers
Stapler
Tape



A manatee is a mammal that lives in warm waters, and the Everglades is a perfect place for manatees. Since ancient times, people have made puppets to tell stories. Make a manatee puppet of your own and then make up a story to tell with your puppet.

TO DO

- 1 Study a picture of a manatee from an online source or book. What features do you see? Where are its eyes? Does it have ears? Does it have legs or fins? Does it have a tail? What shape is it?
- 2 A manatee is a chubby animal with a roundish head. To make its head, stuff the sock's toe with tissue paper, crumpled newspaper, or a small ball.
- 3 Insert a toilet paper roll into the sock so it touches the material at the toe.
- 4 Notice where a manatee's eyes, nose, and mouth are. Draw its face on its head with a black marker. A fine-tipped permanent marker works best.
- 5 Did you notice that you can't see a manatee's ears? A manatee does not have ears sticking out like a lot of animals. Its ears are small slits you can hardly see.
- 6 But a manatee does have a tail. It is an important feature because it helps the manatee steer its body in the water. Cut a tail from gray paper or cardboard, then staple, pin, or tape it onto the body about halfway up the sock on the back.
- 7 A manatee has a pair of armlike fins. Cut out two fins and staple, pin, or stitch them onto the sock.
- 8 Now, put your hand inside the puppet and tell its story!

EXPLORE MORE

- [Manatees 101](#)
- [Make Forest Animals with Egg Cartons](#)
- [Egg Box Crocodile](#)
- [How to Make a Crocodile Out of Paper](#)

TONGUE TIED

ACTIVITY 1 All Ages



TO DO

Each sentence includes the name of a species living in the Everglades. Fill in the blank in each sentence with a word that begins with the letter at the beginning. Then, have some fun and try to say these silly sentences three times as fast as you can!

1. Awesome **A** _____ the alligator ate her apple audaciously.
2. Silly sea turtles swim **s** _____ .
3. Frankie's **f** _____ flamingo flew farther fast.
4. **C** _____ crocodiles crawl cautiously.
5. Harry the Heron had a **h** _____ day hunting **h** _____ .
6. Tommy's toad **t** _____ on top of a tree.
7. Lilly the lizard leapt **l** _____ onto the leaf.
8. Delila dragonfly dared to dine with **d** _____ .
9. Bet your buttons on **B** _____ the beetle!
10. Newt the newt never needs **n** _____ .
11. Manny Manatee made **m** _____ .
12. Ernie Egret eagerly **e** _____ Elena Egret.
13. Ollie Otter overslept in the **o** _____ .
14. Pedro Panther picked a **p** _____ by the pond.
15. Rattler Rob rattling rattles means **r** _____ .

THE ART OF BIRD-WATCHING

ACTIVITY | Ages 9+

People have recorded more than 360 bird species in the Everglades, and artists have been captivated by their beauty as well as their strangeness. In the early 1800s the ornithologist, naturalist, and painter John James Audubon painted birds around the U.S. and beyond, including those in the Everglades. He provided not only a record of birds but also an artist's rendering of what made them interesting. You can see in his image of a flamingo, for example, its vibrant pink feathers and long, thin legs, as well as how the bird's neck appears engineered to catch fish.



Photo courtesy of the National Audubon Society, Inc.

MATERIALS

Device with internet connection (optional)

Colored pencils, crayons, or any other art supplies to create a piece of art

TO DO

Do a different kind of bird-watching! After researching birds of the Everglades, create a piece of art portraying a bird that interests you in some way. Whatever medium and style you choose, strive to convey what you find intriguing about the bird.

1 RESEARCH

Search online for “artworks and birds” or view the links listed here for ideas.

[40 Birds To See In Everglades National Park](#)

[Florida, for the Birds](#)

[Everglades National Park | Birds](#)

[John J. Audubon's Birds of America](#)

2 CHOOSE A STYLE

Artists work in a variety of styles.

Research these styles at museum sites and art organizations and decide what style best conveys your idea.

- realism
- impressionism
- surrealism
- cubism
- pop art
- mixed media

3 CHOOSE A MEDIUM

What medium do you want to use?

Research these mediums to learn more about them:

- watercolor
- paints
- charcoal and colored pencils
- video and photography
- papier-mâché
- clay or play dough
- fabrics and yarns

4 GET TO WORK!

- Make a preliminary sketch and note materials.
- Find a space to work, especially if your work is going to take more than a day.
- Go with the flow! Adjust or make changes in your work as you go. Sometimes mistakes can lead to new ideas or effects.
- Document your work and share it with family and friends.

NAME THAT HABITAT

ACTIVITY | Ages 9+

MATERIALS

Device with internet connection (optional)



TO DO

The Everglades ecosystem hosts freshwater and terrestrial habitats that support diverse animal and plant life. Match the name of the habitat with the clues describing it.

CLUES

1. ___ A type of wetland that can be tidal or non-tidal.
2. ___ This refers to any wetland dominated by woody plants.
3. ___ A type of wetland that is fed continuously by groundwater and can take thousands of years to form.
4. ___ A peat-forming wetland that gets most of its water from precipitation.
5. ___ Deep marsh habitats of the Everglades such as “Shark River” and “Taylor”.
6. ___ An Everglades habitat named for a plant with sharp-edged blades.
7. ___ A habitat that has shallower water and shorter vegetation than its cousin the slough.
8. ___ Some of the highest elevations in the Everglades occur in a habitat that sounds like something that you might lie in.
9. ___ An Everglades habitat located just inland from tidal mud flats that succulents and other salt-tolerant plants predominate.
10. ___ A habitat that features a canopy dominated by slash pine.
11. ___ “Red,” “black,” and “white” are examples of the title tree occur in this marine habitat.
12. ___ An Everglades marine habitat lying between the southern tip of the Florida peninsula and the Florida Keys.

HABITATS

- A. sawgrass
- B. pine rocklands
- C. slough
- D. marsh
- E. Florida Bay
- F. coastal lowlands
- G. bog
- H. swamp
- I. fen
- J. hammock
- K. mangrove forest
- L. fresh water marl prairie

EXPLORE MORE

- [Everglades National Park | Habitats and Plant Communities](#)
- [Everglades National Park | Sawgrass Prairie](#)
- [How Wetlands Work](#)

ANSWERS

PG 10

1. marsh
2. swamp
3. fen
4. bog
5. slough
6. sawgrass
7. freshwater marl prairie
8. hammock
9. coastal lowlands
10. pine rocklands
11. mangrove forest
12. Florida Bay

PG 17 - POSSIBLE ANSWERS

1. Alice
2. sideways
3. fabulous
4. Curious
5. happy, horseflies
6. toddled
7. lightly
8. Danny Dolphin
9. Bart
10. nothin'!
11. mudpies
12. encountered
13. ocean
14. pepper
15. ready or not

FULL LINKS

PG 3

Frog chorus

<https://www.nps.gov/ever/learn/nature/amphibians.htm>

PG 4

Gulf toadfish

<https://www.nps.gov/ever/learn/nature/fish.htm>

PG 6

Everglades National Park | Prescribed Fire

<https://www.nps.gov/ever/learn/management/prescribedfire.htm>

The River of Fire

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y61hIWot3m4>

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Manatees 101

<https://oceantoday.noaa.gov/manatees101/welcome.html>

Make Forest Animals with Egg Cartons

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ebEWUCFxRoI>

Egg Box Crocodile

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GehNFRgmrDg>

How to Make a Crocodile Out of Paper

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mr8AbVSfts4>

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Everglades National Park | Habitats and Plant Communities

<https://www.nps.gov/ever/learn/nature/habitats.htm>

Everglades National Park | Sawgrass Prairie

<https://www.nps.gov/ever/learn/kidsyouth/sawgrass-prairie.htm>

How Wetlands Work

<https://science.howstuffworks.com/environmental/green-science/wetland2.htm>