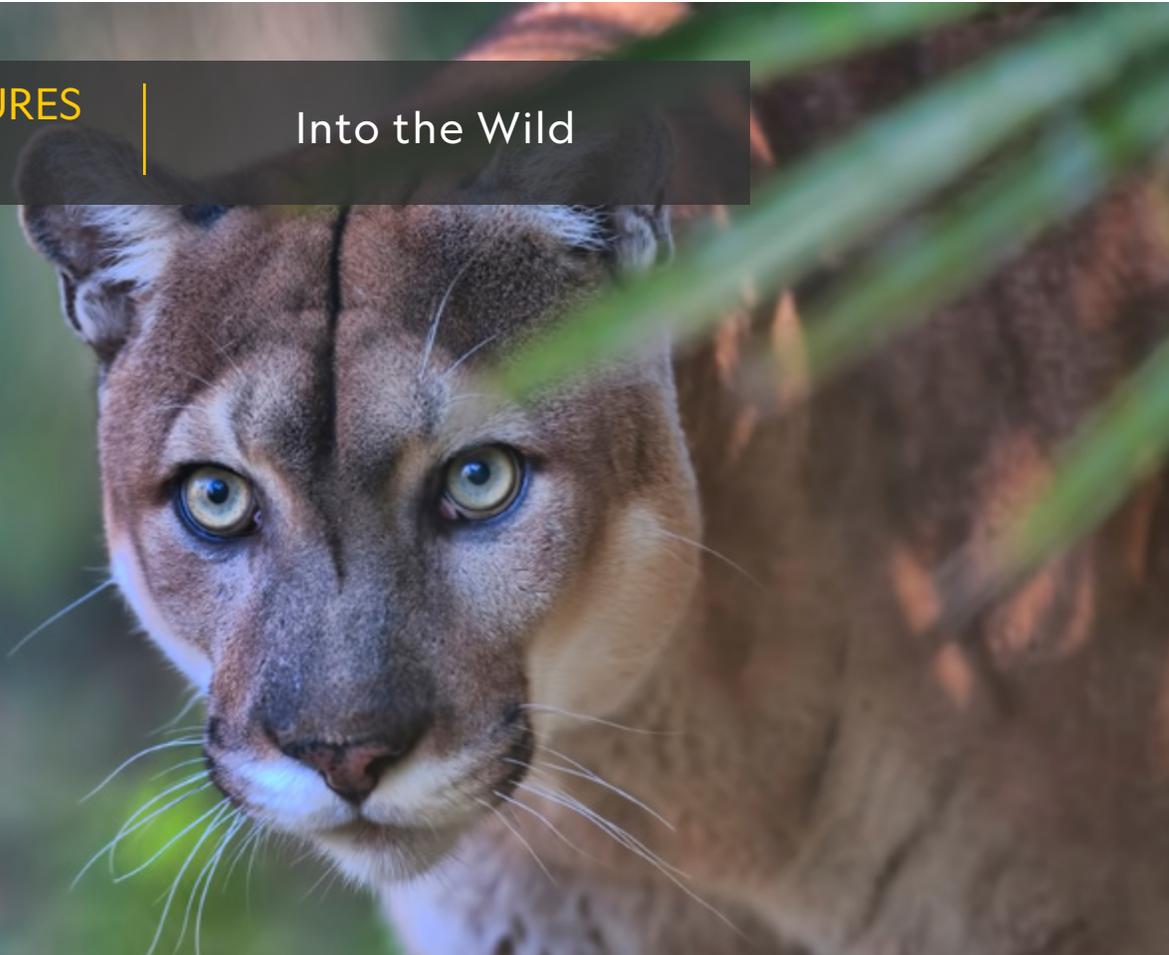


SUMMER ADVENTURES

ON THE ROAD

Into the Wild





EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

DID YOU KNOW?

Everglades National Park is known all over the world for the variety and uniqueness of its wildlife. The Everglades' bays, swamps, marshes, and landforms are just some of the ecosystems that provide the food sources and habitats these animals need to sustain their lives.

Although the crocodile and alligator are the best known of the animals, many other animals, including amphibians, mammals, other reptiles, and insects, inhabit the park. More than 360 bird species can be found in Everglades alone. Fish abound in this environment. Not only do the many varieties of fish provide a rich source of food, but fish also have contributed to the human history of the area. Mammals, including the Florida panther, roam about in search of prey, and snakes, lizards, and amphibians live in its shallower waters. No one knows how many of the smallest animals live in the park, but scientists have grouped them into categories that include millipedes, centipedes, arachnids, and insects.

PG 3

What in the Wild
Ages 4-8

PG 4

Cause & Effect
Ages 4-8

PG 5

Sea Turtle Needs Some Color!
All Ages

PG 6

Consumer Creatures
Ages 9+

PG 8

Cause & Effect
Ages 9+

Book List

READY TO EXPLORE?



WHAT IN THE WILD

ACTIVITY | Ages 4-8

MATERIALS

Device with internet connection (optional)

TO DO

The subtropical ecosystem of the Everglades supports many native plants and animals. However, over the years, non-native, invasive species have made their way into the park and threaten the native species. In this activity, put an X on the invasive animal species to get it out of the park. Not sure? Read the resources listed below for help.

RESOURCES

[Invasive Species](#)

[Everglades National Park Animals](#)



WEST INDIAN MANATEE



EASTERN CORAL SNAKE



AMERICAN ALLIGATOR



REDBAY AMBROSIA BEETLE



BURMESE PYTHON



LIONFISH



FLORIDA PANTHER



AMERICAN FLAMINGO

CAUSE & EFFECT

ACTIVITY | Ages 4-8

TO DO

Within the Everglades ecosystem, changes caused by climate change, weather, and humans influence the balance necessary to sustain animal and plant life. Consider how each listed cause affects the Everglades. Match cause and effect by writing the number of the effect next to the most applicable cause.

With a friend or family member, reflect further on the extent to which these causes affect the Everglades. To help your discussion, visit the park [website](#).

CAUSE

- _____ melting ice sheets in Antarctica and Greenland
- _____ salinization
- _____ agricultural development near the Everglades
- _____ temperatures above or below normal
- _____ increased human traffic
- _____ hurricane
- _____ invasion of kudzu

EFFECT

- 1 Its high winds and powerful forces destroy habitats.
- 2 Plants and animals wither or freeze.
- 3 Trash and other pollution accumulate.
- 4 An alien has landed! Native plants are devastated.
- 5 Sea level rises, submerging parts of the Everglades.
- 6 Salt water mixes with freshwater in the park's rivers and marshes.
- 7 Cropland replaces natural wetlands.

SEA TURTLE

ACTIVITY | Ages 4-8

TO DO

Start by exploring sea turtles and their habitats using the links below, then color a sea turtle!

[Sea Turtles 101](#)

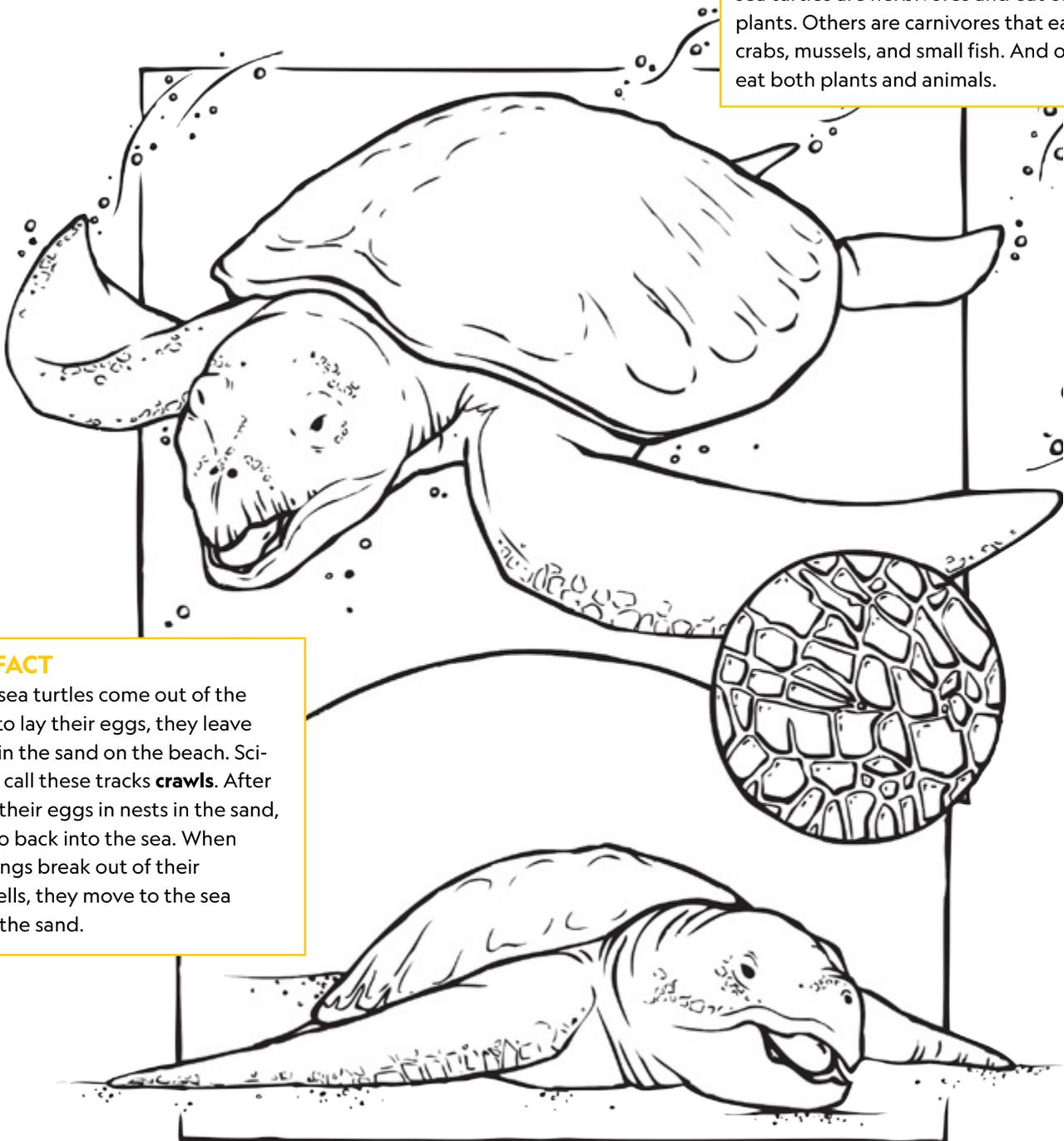
[Sea Turtles | Disney Animals](#)

[Green Turtle | NOAA](#)

[Loggerhead Turtle | WWF](#)

FUN FACT

Sea turtles swim in the warm waters in and around the Everglades. Some sea turtles are herbivores and eat only plants. Others are carnivores that eat crabs, mussels, and small fish. And others eat both plants and animals.



FUN FACT

When sea turtles come out of the water to lay their eggs, they leave tracks in the sand on the beach. Scientists call these tracks **crawls**. After laying their eggs in nests in the sand, they go back into the sea. When hatchlings break out of their eggshells, they move to the sea across the sand.

Illustration by Mary Crooks

CONSUMER CREATURES

ACTIVITY | Ages 9+

On a sawgrass prairie in the Florida Everglades, an alligator lazes on the bank of a slow-moving water channel. A great egret stalks fish in the shallows. A grasshopper chews on an aster leaf. A raccoon digs in the mud for freshwater mussels. These animals are quite different from one another and spend their lives in different ways, but they have something in common: In this ecosystem, they are all **consumers**.

Within every ecosystem, consumers move energy around. A **trophic pyramid** shows the progression of food energy lost and transferred up a chain consisting of producers, primary consumers, secondary consumers, and tertiary consumers. The consumers in the highest trophic level on the pyramid possess the lowest amount of available energy.

Most producers get their food through photosynthesis. Primary consumers are usually herbivores. Secondary consumers are carnivores, though some feed on plants and other organisms as well. Tertiary consumers generally eat other carnivores.

TO DO

Using the sheet on the following page, produce a trophic pyramid representing a hierarchy of Everglades organisms by placing each organism in its section of the pyramid. Need to research? Check out the resources below. What other organisms can you add to the pyramid?

RESOURCES

[Food Web](#) | National Geographic

[Consumers](#) | National Geographic

[Trophic Pyramid](#)

ORGANISMS

grasshopper

algae

sawgrass

manatee

egret

bald eagle

alligator

puma

raccoon

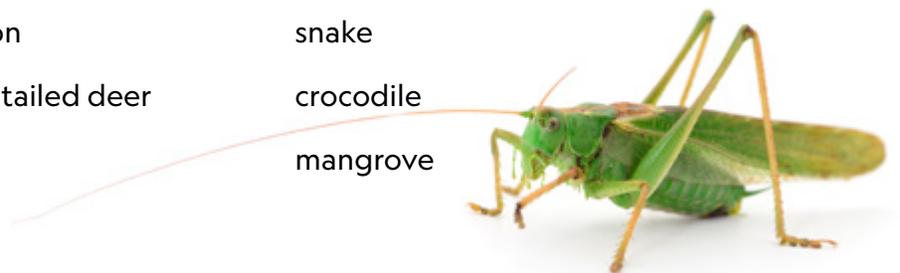
snake

white-tailed deer

crocodile

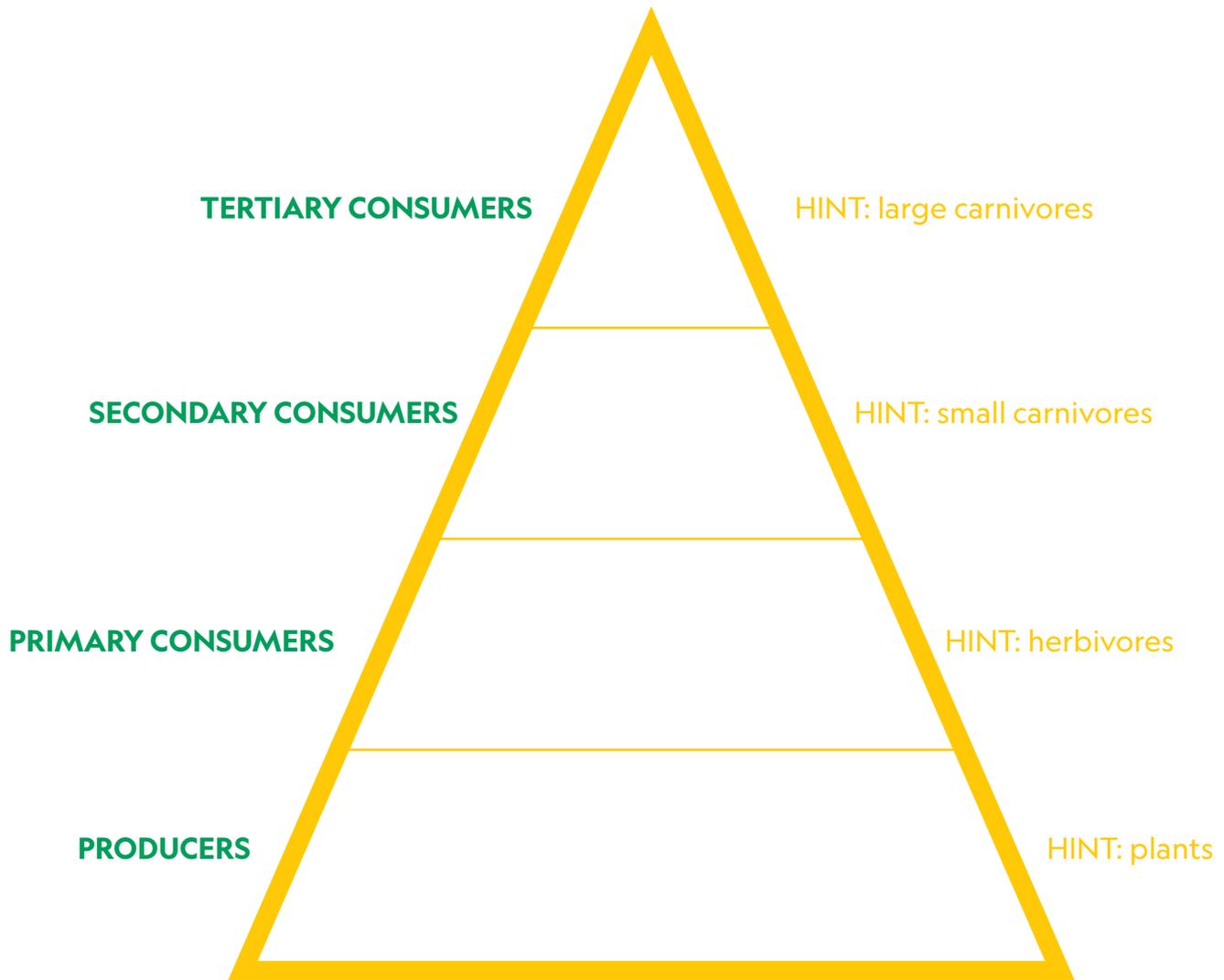
rabbit

mangrove



CONSUMER CREATURES

ACTIVITY 1 | Ages 9+



ORGANISMS

grasshopper

algae

raccoon

crocodile

sawgrass

manatee

rabbit

mangrove

egret

bald eagle

white-tailed deer

alligator

puma

snake

CAUSE & EFFECT

ACTIVITY | Ages 9+

TO DO

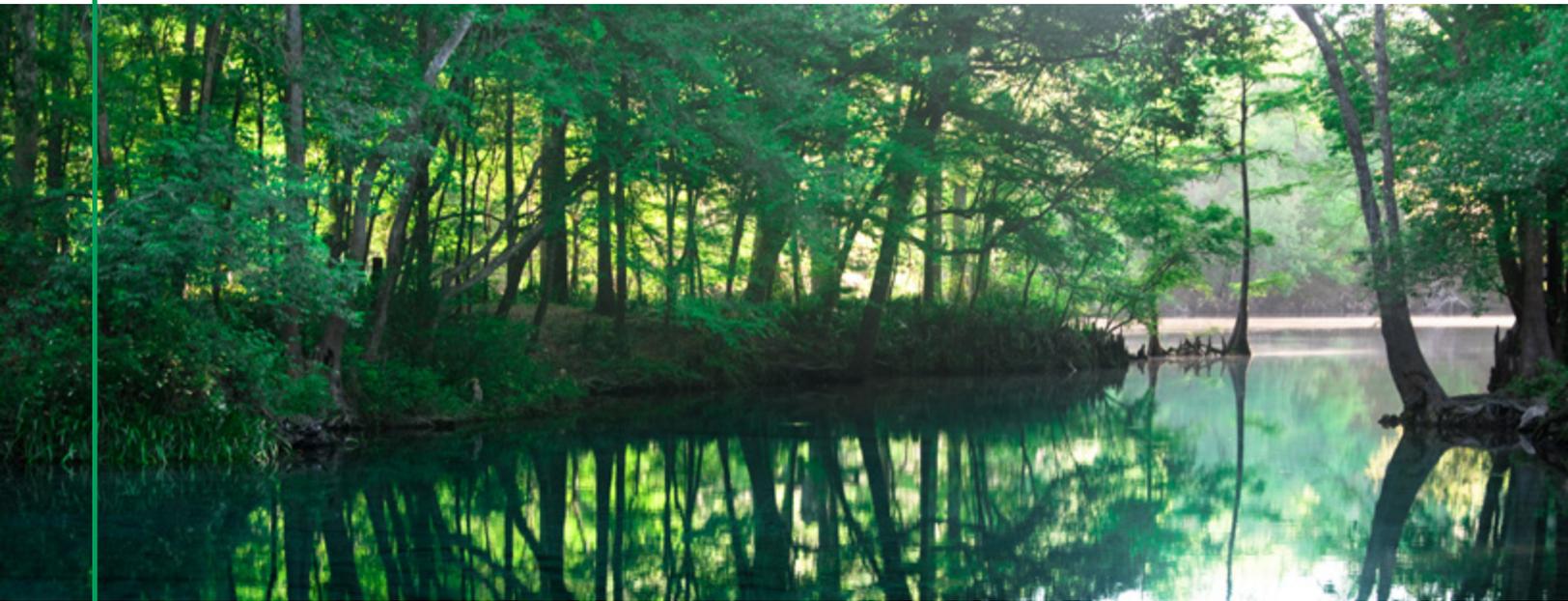
The Everglades is a subtropical environment with a rich ecosystem. Changes, whether small or big, can affect the balance necessary for its habitats to sustain animal and plant life. Some changes result in benefits; others are detrimental to the ecosystem and its habitats. Consider each cause statement on the following page and reflect on how that condition might influence the health of the Everglades. Write an effect or result for each cause and indicate if the effect is a benefit, a detriment, or both. You can find information, and answers, in the resources listed below.

RESOURCES

[Everglades National Park](#)

[Everglades National Park | Climate Change](#)

[Protecting the Everglades](#)



CAUSE & EFFECT

CAUSE	EFFECT	BENEFIT, DETRIMENT, OR BOTH?
Melting ice sheets in Antarctica		
Controlled fires		
Salinization of waterways		
Road-building near the Everglades		
Presence of reservoirs		
Rising temperatures		
Growth of mangroves		
Re-plumbing of waterways		
Human disturbance		
Hurricanes		

BLANK PAGE TO CAPTURE YOUR NOTES



ANSWERS

PG 3

Invasive Species (X):

Lionfish
Redbay ambrosia beetle
Burmese python

PG 4

- 5 melting ice sheets in Antarctica and Greenland
- 6 salinization
- 7 agricultural development near the Everglades
- 2 temperatures above or below normal
- 3 increased human traffic
- 1 hurricane
- 4 invasion of kudzu

PG 3

Producer:

sawgrass
mangrove
algae

Primary Consumer:

grasshopper
white-tailed deer
rabbit
manatee

Secondary Consumer:

egret
raccoon
snake

Tertiary Consumer:

alligator
bald eagle
puma
crocodile

FULL LINKS

PG 3

Invasive Species

<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/invasive-species/>

Everglades National Park Animals

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

PG 4

Park website

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

PG 5

Sea Turtles 101

<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/video/sea-turtles-101/>

Sea Turtles | Disney Animals

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

Green Turtle | NOAA

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/green-turtle>

Loggerhead Turtle | WWF

<https://www.worldwildlife.org/species/loggerhead-turtle>

PG 6

Food Web | National Geographic

<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/food-web/>

Consumers | National Geographic

<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/consumers/>

Trophic Pyramid

<https://www.britannica.com/science/trophic-pyramid>

PG 8

Everglades National Park

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

Everglades National Park | Climate Change

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

Protecting the Everglades | The National Wildlife Federation

<https://www.nwf.org/Our-Work/Waters/Great-Waters-Restoration/Everglades>