



Reptiles of the Swamp...

Probably the most noticeable animal within the Everglades and the Big Cypress Swamp is the American alligator. This large reptile is commonly seen during the winter dry seasons when water is scarce.

Other reptiles include snakes, crocodilians, skinks, geckos, turtles and lizards. Reptiles are animals that have scales and breathe air. Many of the species classified in this group lay eggs.

These animals are often misunderstood and feared. However, they play a vital role in the environment. For example, if it were not for alligators making "gator holes" many species that depend on water would perish during South Florida's dry season.



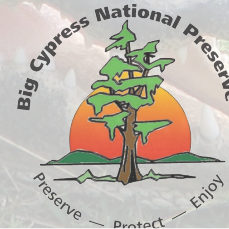
Compare the American crocodile photo (above) with the American alligator photo (cover page). Can you discern the differences in appearance?

Watching wildlife the responsible way...

The thrill of watching a wild animal in its native surroundings is spectacular and awe inspiring. While visiting Big Cypress National Preserve, or any other natural area, remember:

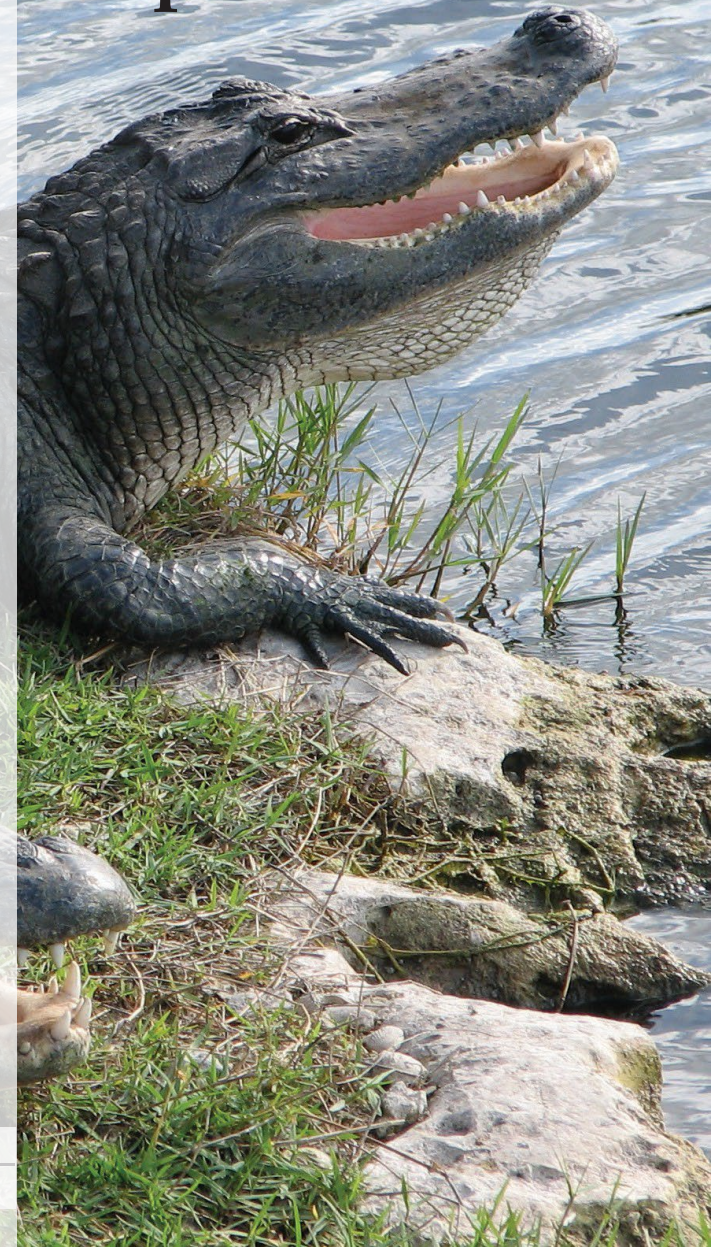
- All wildlife is wild and unpredictable. Stay a safe distance from any wild animal — 15 feet is recommended.
- View wildlife with respect.
- Never feed wildlife.
- All plants and animals within national park areas are protected, it is illegal to collect any wildlife without special permits.

**How You Behave
Can Save
Do Not Feed or
Harass Wildlife**



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA!

Big Cypress Reptiles



Scientific Name

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TURTLES, TORTOISES, TERRAPINS

___ Florida snapping turtle	<i>Chelydra serpentina osceola</i>
___ Striped mud turtle	<i>Kinosternon baurii</i>
___ Florida mud turtle	<i>Kinosternon subrubrum steindachneri</i>
___ Common musk turtle	<i>Sternotherus odoratus</i>
___ Peninsula cooter	<i>Pseudemys peninsularis</i>
___ Florida red-bellied turtle	<i>Pseudemys nelsoni</i>
___ Florida chicken turtle	<i>Deirochelys reticularia chrysea</i>
___ Florida box turtle	<i>Terrapene carolina bauri</i>
___ Gopher tortoise	<i>Gopherus polyphemus</i>
___ Florida softshell turtle	<i>Apalone ferox</i>
___ Mangrove diamondback terrapin	<i>Malaclemys terrapin rhizophorarum</i>

LIZARDS

___ Indo-Pacific gecko*	<i>Hemidactylus garnotii</i>
___ Mediterranean gecko*	<i>Hemidactylus turcicus turcicus</i>
___ Tropical house gecko*	<i>Hemidactylus mabouia</i>
___ Green anole	<i>Anolis carolinensis</i>
___ Brown anole*	<i>Anolis sagrei</i>
___ Six-lined racerunner	<i>Aspidoscelis sexlineata</i>
___ Argentine black and white tegu*	<i>Salvator merianae</i>
___ Black spiny-tailed iguana*	<i>Ctenosaura similis</i>
___ Green iguana*	<i>Iguana iguana</i>
___ Northern curly-tailed lizard*	<i>Leiocephalus carinatus</i>
___ Peters's rock agama*	<i>Agama picticauda</i>
___ Brown basilisk*	<i>Basiliscus vittatus</i>
___ Veiled chameleon*	<i>Chamaeleo calypttratus</i>
___ Southeastern five-lined skink	<i>Plestiodon inexpectatus</i>
___ Little brown skink	<i>Scincella lateralis</i>
___ Slender glass lizard	<i>Ophisaurus attenuatus</i>
___ Island glass lizard	<i>Ophisaurus compressus</i>
___ Eastern glass lizard	<i>Ophisaurus ventralis</i>

SNAKES

___ Brahminy blind snake*	<i>Indotyphlops braminus</i>
___ Burmese python*	<i>Python bivittatus</i>
___ Florida scarlet snake	<i>Cemophora coccinea</i>
___ Everglades racer	<i>Coluber constrictor paludicola</i>
___ Eastern coachwhip	<i>Coluber flagellum flagellum</i>
___ Southern ringneck snake	<i>Diadophis punctatus punctatus</i>
___ Eastern indigo snake	<i>Drymarchon couperi</i>
___ Eastern mud snake	<i>Farancia abacura abacura</i>
___ Florida kingsnake	<i>Lampropeltis floridana</i>
___ Scarlet kingsnake	<i>Lampropeltis elapsoides</i>
___ Mangrove saltmarsh snake	<i>Nerodia clarkii compressicauda</i>
___ Florida green watersnake	<i>Nerodia floridana</i>
___ Brown watersnake	<i>Nerodia taxispilota</i>
___ Rough green snake	<i>Opheodrys aestivus</i>
___ Yellow rat snake	<i>Pantherophis quadrivittata</i>
___ Corn snake	<i>Pantherophis guttatus</i>
___ Striped crayfish snake	<i>Regina alleni</i>
___ South Florida swamp snake	<i>Seminatrix pygaea cyclas</i>
___ Florida brownsnake	<i>Storeria dekayi victa</i>
___ Peninsula ribbonsnake	<i>Thamnophis sauritus sackenii</i>
___ Eastern gartersnake	<i>Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis</i>

Venomous

___ Eastern coral snake	<i>Micrurus fulvius fulvius</i>
___ Florida cottonmouth	<i>Agkistrodon conanti</i>
___ Eastern diamondback rattlesnake	<i>Crotalus adamanteus</i>
___ Dusky pygmy rattlesnake	<i>Sistrurus miliarius barbourin</i>

CROCODILIANS

___ American alligator	<i>Alligator Mississippiensis</i>
___ American crocodile	<i>Crocodylus acutus</i>

reptile name* = introduced species



Reptiles of Big Cypress...

Left to right: Peninsula cooter (*Pseudemys peninsularis*); Corn snake (*Pantherophis guttatus*); Florida Scarlet Snake (*Cemophora coccinea*); Eastern coral snake (*Micrurus fulvius*).