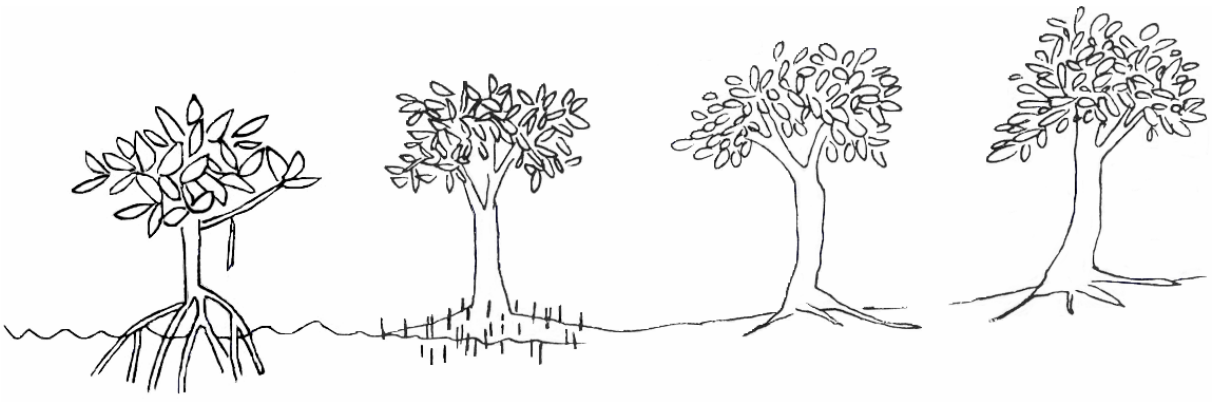
A Tree That Walks



Florida Sunshine State Standards: *SC.G.*1.3

Time: 45 minutes

Objectives:
The students will be able to: identify the four kinds of mangrove trees found in South Florida and state at least one adaptation for each.

Materials:
Paper, pencil, magnifier, Mangrove ID cards, and Native Trees of South Florida ID Card

Procedure:
1. From the visitor center look towards the shoreline. See the striking red mangrove trees and their unusual prop roots. Take a walk to get a closer look at the trees.
   A good place to see all four kinds is at the end of the jetty bridge (see map). On the Mangrove ID cards you will find descriptions and pictures

Background
- *Mangrove trees help to stabilize and protect the shoreline from the effects of storms.*
- *The decaying leaves dropped by the mangroves serve as the beginning of the food web.*
- *The roots of these trees provide shelter for many organisms.*
- *Mangroves have special characteristics or adaptations that help them survive in or near salt water.*

of all four mangrove trees . You can also find descriptions and pictures on the Native Trees of South Florida ID Card.

2. Observe a red mangrove tree. What types of things do you see on and around the prop roots? Try to find a seedling (cigar-shaped) that has dropped off the tree into the water and make a drawing of it on your paper.

3. Look for a red mangrove leaf on the ground and do a leaf rubbing on your paper.
4. Find a black mangrove tree by looking for a tree with black, scaly bark, and pencil-like structures called pneumetaphores *(also known as snorkel tubes)* sticking up from the ground around the stem of the tree. What do you think is the function of these structures?
5. Look at the underside of a black mangrove leaf with your magnifier. Rub your finger along the bottom of the leaf then taste your finger. What does it taste like? (salt)
6. Try to find a leaf that has dropped off the tree and do a leaf rubbing.
7. Find a white mangrove. It is usually found further inland from the bay than the red and black mangroves. The bark has a light color and its roots are beneath the soil. The white mangrove may have pneumatophores but they are usually smaller and fewer in number than those of the black mangrove.

8. Look at the white mangrove leaf. Observe that each leaf has a bump on both sides of the base of the stem. These are the salt secreting glands. Find a leaf and do a leaf rubbing.
9. Typically found still further inland is the buttonwood tree, also classified as a mangrove. Like the white mangrove, the buttonwood leaves have salt glands. Look on the ground for a leaf and do your final mangrove leaf rubbing on your paper. Look at the seeds of the buttonwood tree. How do you think it got its name?