



ACTIVITY GUIDE FOR TEACHERS



Foreword

“There are no other Everglades in the world.” Those were the words of Marjory Stoneman Douglas in 1947. Everglades National Park became the first national park set aside specifically to protect a unique diversity of plants and animals. More recently, the United Nations has recognized the area as an International Biosphere Reserve and a World Heritage Site. Its 1,509,000 acres of wild land are the subject of heated debate in one of, if not the most, threatened national parks. Additional information about Everglades can be found on our web site at <http://www.nps.gov/ever>.

Many of the threats facing the South Florida national parks originate outside their borders. Humans have had a greater impact on the parks than any other species. While there are grave concerns facing the parks, there is also a great deal of hope. The greatest hope for the future of our national parks is our children. As resource users and future decision-makers, the fate of the parks lies in their hands. This guide will help educators teach their students about exotic plants and animals occurring in the park and hopefully lead the students to responsible actions they can take to ensure the parks’ survival.

Over the year, a myriad of people have contributed to the development of the curriculum materials found in this guide. This guide would not exist without the support and help of all the teachers, students, parents, volunteers, and park staff who have participated in the parks’ programs over the past thirty years. This activity guide is dedicated to them.

If you have any comments or suggestions for the next edition, please contact the Environmental Education Office at (305) 242-7753, or write to:

Everglades National Park
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Acknowledgements

**This guide is dedicated to those teachers
who share their sense of wonder with their students.**

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