

Shark Valley Essay Winner – January 2011

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What is so special about Everglades National Park?

Picture this: You're talking to your friend about the Everglades and then he asks you "What's so special about the Everglades?" Well here are 3 good answers for that question.

One of the special things about the Everglades is its water. Most people don't know that the water we drink comes from the Everglades. The Everglades is a wetland eco system. The water shapes the land, keeps the plants alive and is a habitat for the animals that live there such as fish, manatees, alligators and waiting birds.

Another special feature about the Everglades is Periphyton. Periphyton is food for some animals. Without it, there will be no Everglades. Periphyton is what warns animals if the water is clean or dirty. I remember one thing that is funny about Periphyton. It's that if you see a picture it looks like French fries and it can also absorb like a sponge. Periphyton is also habitant for microscopic creatures.

Last but not least is protecting the Everglades. Most of the animals there are endangered. But if we don't take care of the Everglades those animals will become very rare in south Florida. I remember when I learned about a 79 year old woman named Marjory Stoneman Douglas. She protected the Everglades from being destroyed. She spoke with strong words about it in her speech. But now instead of fighting for the Everglades she is the Everglades.

Hmmmmmm, I wonder what other places she fought for? This is what is so special about the Everglades.