



Teacher's Packet

**...what a discovery you
have made!**



Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve

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Provides a guideline for use of the facility and tips for field trip preparation.

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Pre Activities:



"A Slough for All Seasons"

A 15-minute video introducing the Slough and all it has to offer.

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Slough Word Search

*An 18-word search familiarizing students with Slough vocabulary.

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Design Name Tags

Name tags are a great way to personalize your students' visit to the Slough. Our guides will be able to easily communicate and congratulate your students on their knowledge and questions. **Required.**

Post Activities:



Fill-in-the-Blank

*Students will use the vocabulary words from the "Slough Word Search" to fill in these paragraphs about the Slough.

9-10



Create-a-Food Web

*Students will create their own food webs, using the information provided.

11-13



Journaling

Students can remember their trip to the Slough --all that they learned and saw in a journaling activity. Students should be encouraged to illustrate their entry for emphasis!

14



View of the Slough

Have your students draw a picture that illustrates the trip to the Slough...for example: their favorite plant, animal, or part of the trip.

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Resource Lists

Student and Teacher Resources



Sunshine State Standards Correlations

Chart provided with correlations for activities and programs.

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◆ **Answer Keys are provided.**



Group Use Guidelines for Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve

This facility is not staffed by a maintenance worker on a full-time basis. You and your group are responsible to help with the up-keep of this site.

Please Help in These Ways:



- Consume food in the PICNIC AREAS ONLY
- NO gum, candy, or food is permitted on the boardwalk trail.



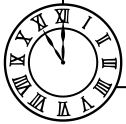
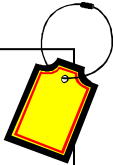
- Make sure that ALL LITTER is deposited in trash containers.
- Please: **ADULT LEADERS ONLY:** take the "*Explorers Companion*" trail guide booklet for their group's guidance along the way.



- The Preserve is a safe haven for plants or wildlife. NO COLLECTING or harassing of any kind is permitted!
- Please respect the space and quiet observation needs of individual visitors along the way. They are there to learn and enjoy the Slough, too.

Before the Field Trip:

- ◇ Make nametags for each student, adult chaperones and teacher.
- ◇ Review your confirmation to be sure you will arrive on



Upon Arrival:

- ◇ Have a designated person pay the program fee (if required)
- ◇ Situate chaperones for crowd control (Staff and volunteers of the Slough are there to impart information)



Field Trip Day:

- ◇ Wear your name tags
- ◇ Be sure chaperones receive their guide



Additional Suggestions:

- ◇ Ask students to wear sturdy, closed-toe shoes
- ◇ Hats and sunscreen are a good idea



Any questions or concerns with cancellations due to weather, or for any other reason, must be addressed by calling the:

STAFF CELL PHONE @ 239-699-9205!

(No staff will be in the office on the day of your trip to answer your call.)

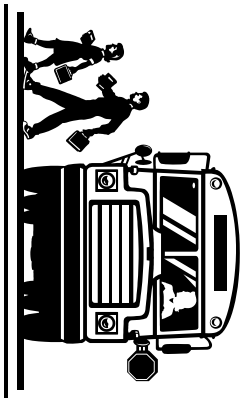




Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve

Chaperone Guide

Chaperones...



We would like to thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to be here today.

Your presence is extremely important to the students for a couple of reasons:

- It makes the trip possible
- They look up to you...you are now a role model!

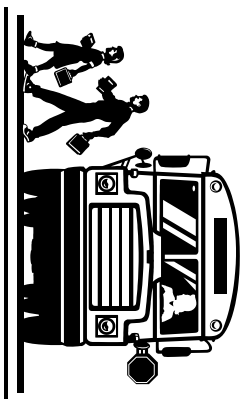
OVER ↘



Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve

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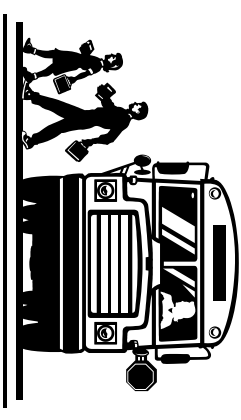
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OVER ↘

As a role model, please keep these things in mind:

- To keep the focus on the topic, make sure CELL PHONES ARE TURNED OFF



- The guide is looking for your help to:

- * Prevent distractions



- * Model the correct way to listen



- * Meet the needs of the students (for example—restroom escort)

Have a wonderful time!
Thanks,



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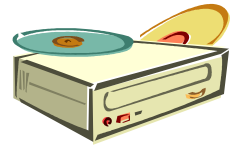
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Have a wonderful time!
Thanks,





Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve



Video Summary

"A Slough for All Seasons"

This 15-minute dynamic and educational video about the Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve explains:



- ◆ What the Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve is, and why it was saved.
- ◆ The dramatic role water plays in our wetland ecosystem.
- ◆ How changing water levels affect the plants and animals that live there.
- ◆ Hints for finding wildlife.
- ◆ Why the Slough is so special.

This video is an ideal preview for school field trips to excite the students about their upcoming adventure. A little background information will deepen their learning experience.

["A Slough For All Seasons"](#) was produced by Ilene Safron, owner and president of Mail Sail Video Productions, Inc. Ms. Safron has received several prestigious awards for her environmental productions.

All of this was made possible by a grant from the **South Florida Water Management District** through their **Water Resources Education Partner Project**.



Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve



Word Search

A Slough is a unique type of environment similar to a swamp. The difference is that the water in the Slough flows in times of high water. Below is a list of words associated with the Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve.

See if you can find the words in the word search.

Z X A N M S T N A L P T E I N G D N P J
 C R V B E F I L O P S A R W Q L Y M U K
 D E H Y T I S R E V I D O I B E W I L S
 J C T R A T U G J A Q C F L U H A D O P
 I U C A R R Y I N G C A P A C I T Y A K
 L D E K D E T A O D M R E H O F E H P I
 Y O D P E A F T H E D I Y B S U R L C Z
 T R I F W O P R E S E R V E I R C E O T
 D P Y I N M I T L U T E A K D O Y V N E
 F J B L A C E G A L F U O M A C C O S I
 E E V T I H G O P T O D I A B W L E U J
 S H C E D A A B D R I G K Z P G E B M I
 T I S R O L E W O E R O R U K O N M E B
 U L L X E W D L E B K J N L E N A K R O
 A R K I D U L E N L E M I S O S F I U D
 R E S O P M O C E D M T A H C L R T I L
 Y G O W U D R I R O H E K O J O E W K U
 D F F T I K B U G I T G I G E U H O L T
 S S E R P Y C T Y U E A Y S I G S Q U E
 N E A S T I L E R Y R E T A W H S E R F

Adaptations

Biodiversity

Camouflage

Carrying capacity

Consumer

Cypress

Decomposer

Energy

Estuary

Filter

Food Web

Fresh Water

Plants

Preserve

Producer

Slough

Sun

Water Cycle



Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve

Answer Key



Word Search

				S	T	N	A	L	P						N	
	R															U
	E		Y	T	I	S	R	E	V	I	D	O	I	B	W	S
	C														A	
	U	C	A	R	R	Y	I	N	G	C	A	P	A	C	I	T
	D			D											E	
	O				A										R	C
	R		F			P	R	E	S	E	R	V	E		C	O
	P		I				T								Y	N
			L			E	G	A	L	F	U	O	M	A	C	S
E			T					T							L	U
S			E				B			I					E	M
T			R			E					O					E
U					W			E				N				R
A				D				N				S	S			
R	E	S	O	P	M	O	C	E	D					L		
Y		O						R						O		
	F							G						U		
S	S	E	R	P	Y	C		Y						G		
										R	E	T	A	W	H	S
															E	R
															F	

Vocabulary List

Adaptations
 Biodiversity
 Camouflage
 Carrying capacity
 Consumer
 Cypress

Decomposer
 Energy
 Estuary
 Filter
 Food Web
 Fresh Water

Plants
 Preserve
 Producer
 Slough
 Sun
 Water Cycle



Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve



Fill-in-the-Blank

The Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve is a safe haven for plants and animals and provides a corridor for animals to travel from one area to another in search of food. The water that fills the Slough is _____ from rain.



As the water flows through the _____ it takes chemicals and pollutants out of the water and therefore acts like a _____. The water flows to Estero Bay and forms an _____. This is a place where most of all sea life begins and it is a very fragile environment.



At the Slough, there are many _____ and animals that have special _____ that allow them to survive in such a unique environment. One adaptation is that some animals are able to look like their surroundings and _____ themselves to hide so that predators cannot see them.



The interactions of plants and animals in the slough can best be described as a _____. All plants in a food web are _____ and rely on the _____ for their _____. Organisms that rely on plants for food are _____, and organisms like bacteria (or _____) break down the organic matter into materials that plants can use to grow. This is how nature recycles itself.



adaptations
camouflage
consumers
decomposers
energy

estuary
filter
food Web
fresh Water

plants
preserve
producers
sun



Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve

Answer Key



Fill-in-the-Blank Answer Key

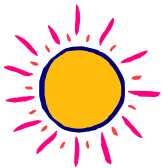
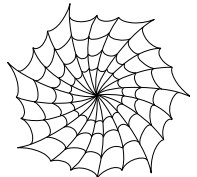
The Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve is a safe haven for plants and animals and provides a corridor for animals to travel from one area to another in search of food. The water that fills the Slough is **fresh water** from rain.



As the water flows through the **preserve** it takes chemicals and pollutants out of the water and therefore acts like a **filter**. The water flows to Estero Bay and forms an **estuary**. This is a place where most of all sea life begins and it is a very fragile environment.



At the Slough, there are many **plants** and animals that have special **adaptations** that allow them to survive in such a unique environment. One adaptation is that some animals are able to look like their surroundings and **camouflage** themselves to hide so that predators cannot see them.



The interactions of plants and animals in the slough can best be described as a **food web**. All plants in a food web are **producers** and rely on the **sun** for their **energy**. Organisms that rely on plants for food are **consumers**, and organisms like bacteria (or **decomposers**) break down the organic matter into materials that plants can use to grow. This is how nature recycles itself.



adaptations
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estuary
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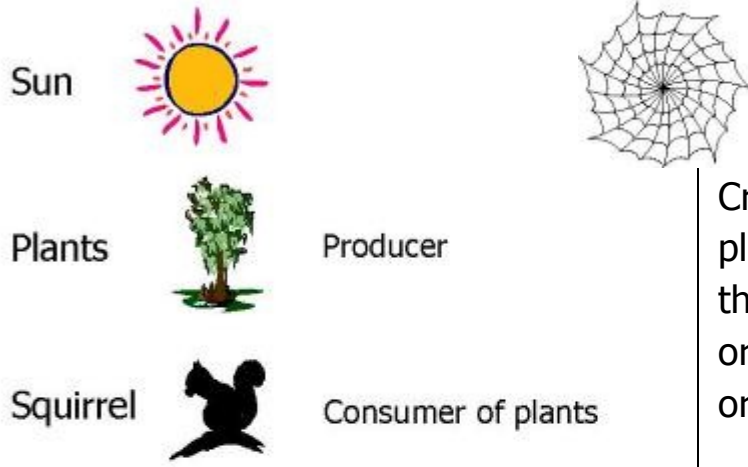


Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve



Food Chains and Food Webs

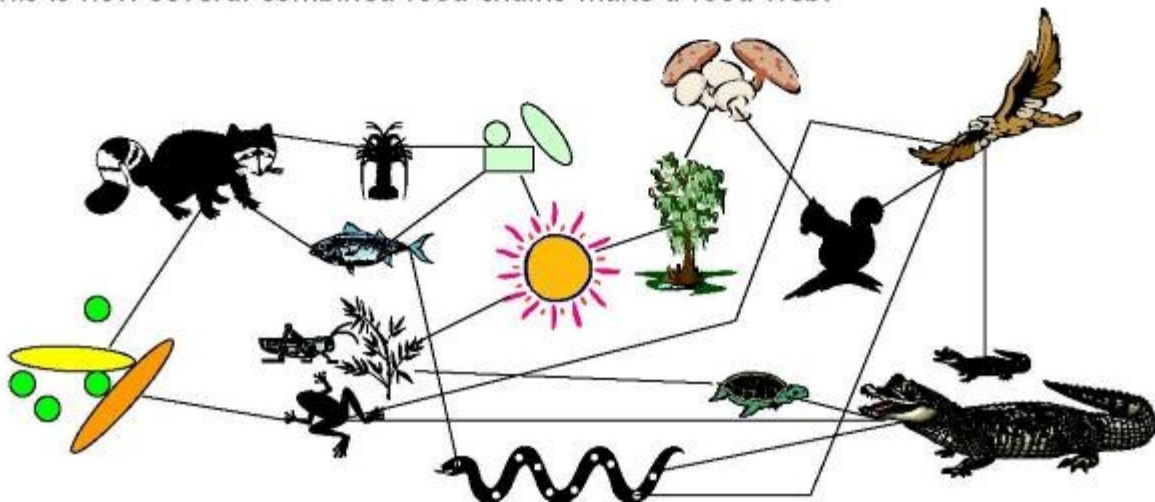
A food web is a way of illustrating the interconnectedness of living things. A food web at its very simplest form is a food chain. So let's begin there. A food chain is made up of producers, consumers and decomposers.



Food Web Activity

Create your own food web using plants and animals you found at the Slough. Try to connect each organism with as many other organisms as you can!

There are other animals that may eat the same things, and animals also eat other animals. So this is how several combined food chains make a food web.

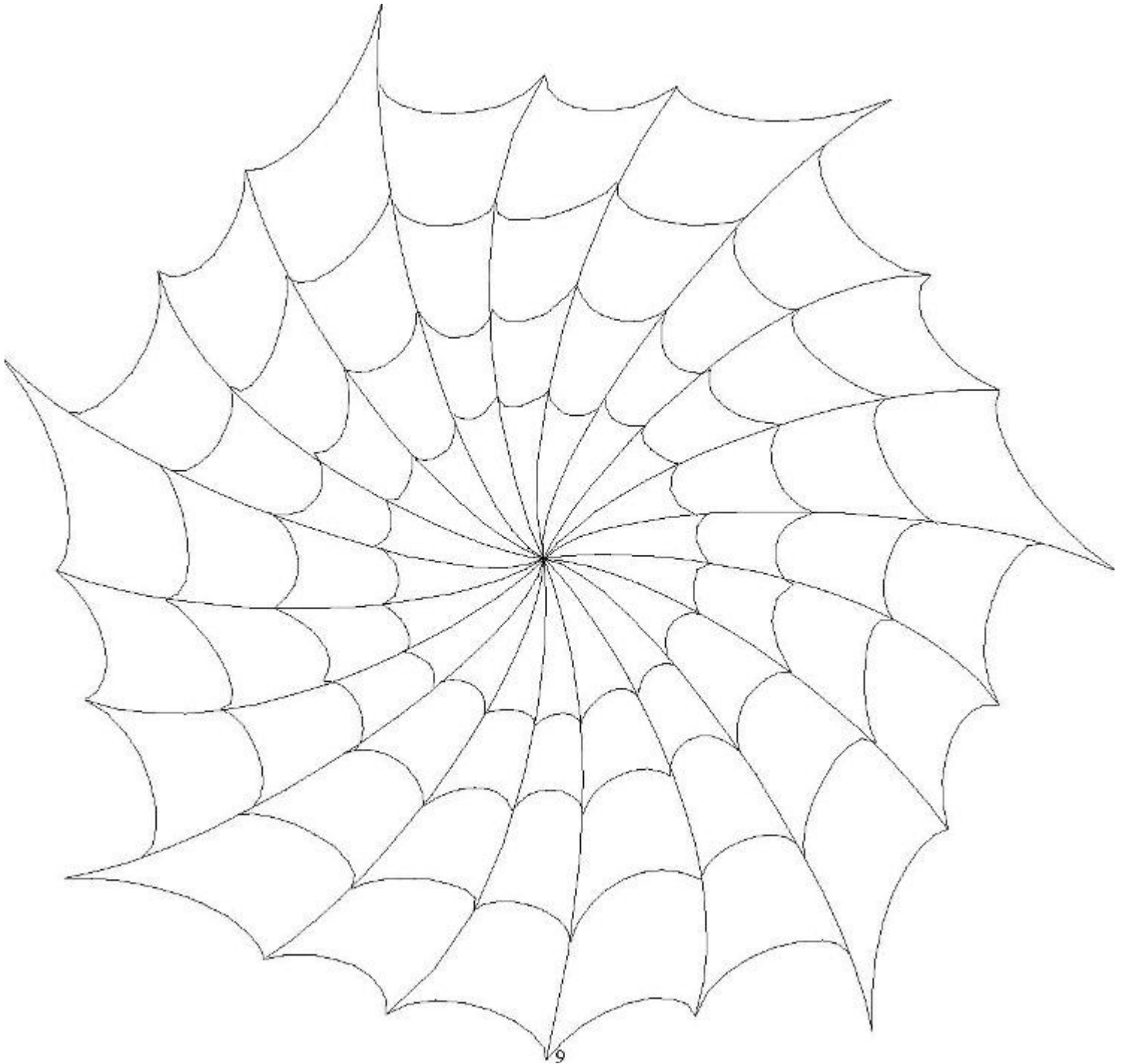




Food Web Activity



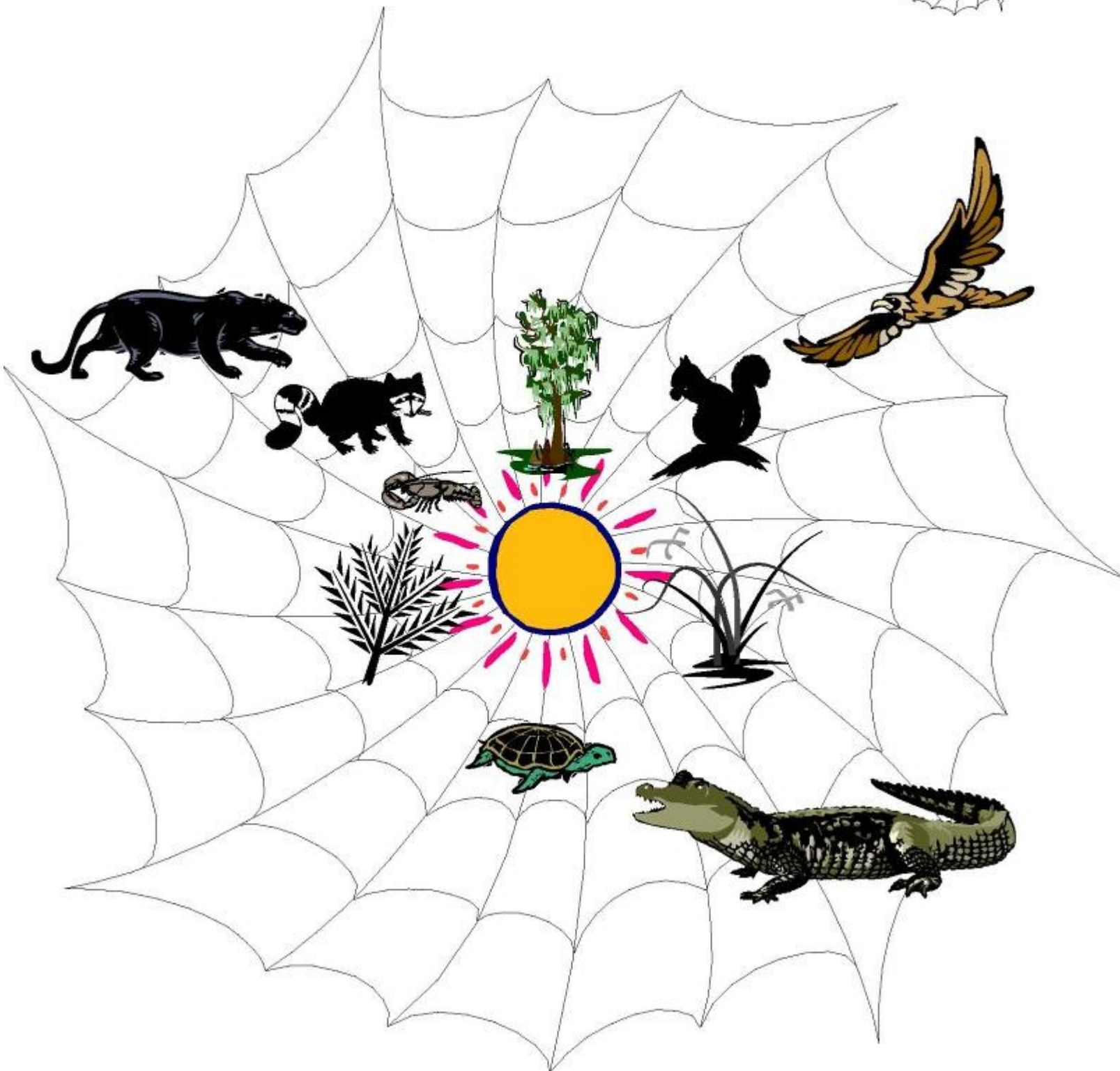
Create your own food web using plants and animals you saw at the Slough.
Try to connect each organism with as many other organisms as you can!





Answer Key

Food Web Key





Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve **Journaling Entries**



Pre-entries:

- What would I like to see at the Slough?
- What excites me most about visiting the Slough?
- What do I envision the Slough to be?

Post-entries:

- What was my favorite plant and/or animal at the Slough?
- Why?
- What about the trip made me feel really good?
- What fascinated me most about the Slough?
- Why do I believe a preserve like the Slough is important?



Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve



Resource List



PreK-2nd Grade Books

Marshes and Swamps by Gail Gibbons (New York: Holiday House, 1998)

Squishy, Misty, Damp, and Muddy: The In-Between World of Wetlands by Molly Cone (Sierra Club, 1996)

3rd – 5th Grade Books

And So They Build by Bert Kitchen describes, in text and illustrations, twelve animal architects and why and how they build their unusual structures. (Candlewick Press, 1993)

One Small Square: Swamp by Donald M. Silver An excellent resource which includes full-color illustrations, motivating experiments and activities, an illustrated picture field guide to the habitat, a glossary-index and a resource list. (Learning Triangle Press, 1997)

The Florida Water Story: From Raindrops to the Sea by Peggy Sias Lantz and Wendy A. Hale (Sarasota FL: Pineapple Press, Inc., 1998)

The Unhuggables The truth about snakes, slugs, skunks, spiders, and other animals that are hard to love. (The National Wildlife Federation 1998)
Water up, water down: the hydrologic cycle by Sally M. Walker (Minneapolis: Carolrhoda Books, 1992)

Wetlands by Emilie Utteg (Chicago: Children's Press, 1993)

Wild and Swampy by Jim Arnosky offers children ages 6-10 a close-up picture of the natural wonders found in Southern swamplands. (Harpers Collins Publishers 2000)



Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve



Resource List (continued)



Guide Books

Golden Guides, Golden Press New York, NY Golden Field Guides, Golden Press New York, NY The Audubon Society Beginner Guides, Random House New York, NY The Audubon Society Field Guides, Alfred A. Kinopf, New York, NY The Peterson Field Guides, Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, MA

Florida's Fabulous Series has wonderful pictures and factual information in a concise format. (World Publications)

Teacher's Resource

Florida's Unsung Wilderness *The Swamps* by Connie Bransilver and Larry W. Richardson "Invites the reader to explore the exquisite beauty of South-west Florida's swamplands." (Westcliffe Publishers 2000)

Activity Books

Wading into Wetlands (Ranger Rick's Nature Scope) (Washington, DC: National Wildlife Federation, 1989) Grades K-8

A wonderful catalog for classroom resources is available from Acorn Naturalists. Order a catalog by calling (800) 452-2802 or view their resources over the internet at www.acornnaturalists.com



Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve



Sunshine State Standards Correlations

Benchmarks	Activities					
	Video	Word Search	Fill-in-the blank	Create-a-Food Web	Journaling	View of the Slough
SC.B.1.2.1	X		X	X		
SC.B.2.2.1	X		X	X		
SC.F.1.2.2	X		X	X		
SC.G.1.2.1	X		X	X		
SC.G.1.2.3	X					
SC.G.1.2.4			X	X		
SC.G.1.2.5	X		X	X		
SC.G.2.2.1			X	X		
SC.G.2.2.3	X					
LA.A.1.2.1			X			
LA.A.1.2.2		X				
LA.B.2.2.1					X	
LA.C.2.2.1	X					
VA.A.1.2.1						X
VA.B.1.2.1						X
VA.B.1.2.4						X



Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve

Sunshine State Standards Correlations (continued)



Benchmarks Grades 3-5	Programs						
	Bird Beaks and Feet	Wildlife Tracks & Scat, Oh My!	Slough in a Nutshell	Adaptable Animals	Night Visitors	Sense-ational Exploration	Guided Walk
SC.B.1.2.1	X	X				X	X
SC.B.2.2.1	X	X				X	X
SC.E.1.2.1						X	X
SC.F.1.2.2	X		X	X		X	X
SC.F.1.2.3	X	X					
SC.G.1.2.1						X	X
SC.G.1.2.3	X					X	X
SC.G.1.2.4						X	X
SC.G.1.2.5	X			X	X	X	X
SC.G.2.2.1	X	X		X	X	X	X
SC.G.2.2.2	X					X	X
SC.G.2.2.3	X					X	X
L.A.C.1.2.4	X	X	X	X	X	X	X



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