

## Everglades Habitats Mapping Activity

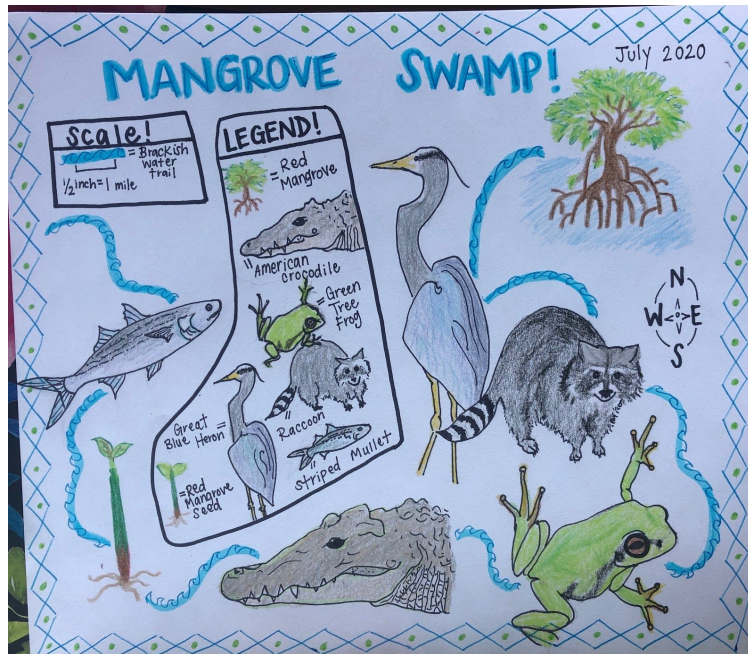
In this activity, students will create their own maps of Everglades habitats. Students will learn about the five important components of a map, review Everglades habitats, plants and animals, and use their creative skills to draw their own version of an Everglades habitat map.

**Grade Level:** 2-5

**Standards:**

SS.2.G.1.1, SC.2.L.17.2, LAFS.2.W.3.8, SS.3.G.1.1, SS.3.G.1.2, LAFS.3.W.1.2, LAFS.3.SL.1.1, SC.3.N.1.1, SS.4.G.1.1, SS.4.G.1.4, SS.5.G.1.4, SC.5.L.17.1

Before we begin, let's take a look at a sample map and point out the five components of a map. A **map** is a representation usually on a flat surface of the whole or part of an area.



1. **Title-** Every map needs a title, this explains the subject of the map.
2. **Date-** Dates are important on a map because maps change over time. A map made 20 years ago might not be accurate today.
3. **Compass Rose-** This shows the cardinal directions, meaning North, South, East, and West.
4. **Legend-** The map legend shows and explains the symbols used on the map.
5. **Scale-** The scale shows the relationship between distance on the map and the actual distance on the ground, for example:  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch on a map might represent 1 mile.

Using the [Powerpoint provided](#), share with students the five Everglades habitats and discover some of the plants and animals that live there. Be sure to discuss with students if the habitat is wet or dry, freshwater or saltwater, the types of plants and animals you see in each habitat, and a way to travel through the habitat. You will use this information to create your map.

### Everglades habitats:

1. Hardwood Hammock
  - a. There is an astonishing variety of trees, shrubs, vines, ferns, orchids, and air plants and a corresponding wealth of wildlife from the smallest of insects and spiders to the most colorful of birds to even the lumbering black bear.
  - b. This is a dry habitat.
  - c. Some ways to explore the habitat are by hiking trails, boardwalks, and bike trails.
2. Mangrove Swamp
  - a. Mangrove swamps are valuable habitat for a wide range of invertebrates, fish, reptiles, birds, and mammals, including the following vulnerable animals: the American crocodile, mangrove snapper, diamondback terrapin, and the West Indian manatee.
  - b. This is a wet habitat. It has brackish water, a mix between saltwater and freshwater.
  - c. Some ways to explore the mangrove swamp are by canoes and kayaks.
3. Pinelands
  - a. At first glance, the pinelands seem very plain; the only big trees are the slash pines, with saw palmetto below, but a look at the smaller plants reveals that the pinewoods are one of the most diverse of Florida landscapes, supporting hundreds of species of wildflowers and a wealth of wildlife.
  - b. This is a dry habitat.
  - c. Some ways to explore are hiking and nature trails.
4. Sawgrass Marsh
  - a. Marshes are open, grassy wetlands where the water stands too deep for too much of the time to allow the growth of trees. Sawgrass stretches as far as the eye can see, interrupted only by an occasional hardwood hammock, alligator hole, or cypress swamp.
  - b. This a wet habitat and the water is freshwater.
  - c. A great way to explore the sawgrass marsh is by airboat!
5. Cypress Swamp
  - a. Floating plants and cypress trees are characteristic of this habitat. You will find many wading birds, fish, and may even spot an American alligator.
  - b. The cypress swamp is without a doubt a wet habitat. Even in the dry season, you can find freshwater in the deeper parts of the swamp.
  - c. You can explore the cypress swamp by canoes or kayaks, or by grabbing your boots and going for a slough slog!



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Once you have reviewed with your students the Powerpoint and discussed the habitats, it is time for students to create their Everglades Habitat map! Have students follow the Student Procedures to create their own Everglades Habitat map.

This is their own map, be sure to remind students to have fun and be creative!

Each map should include the following:

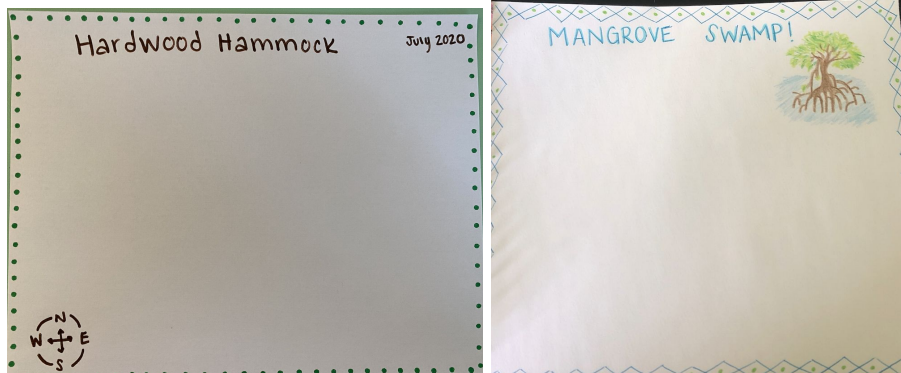
- The five components of a map: title, date, compass, legend, and scale.
- At least four animal species that are found in the habitat.
- At least two plant species that are found in the habitat.
- A way to tell if it is a wet or dry habitat and if it has freshwater, saltwater, brackish water, or no water.
- A way to explore the habitat- explained in the legend.

**Materials:** You will need a piece of paper, markers, crayons, and/or colored pencils, and a ruler.

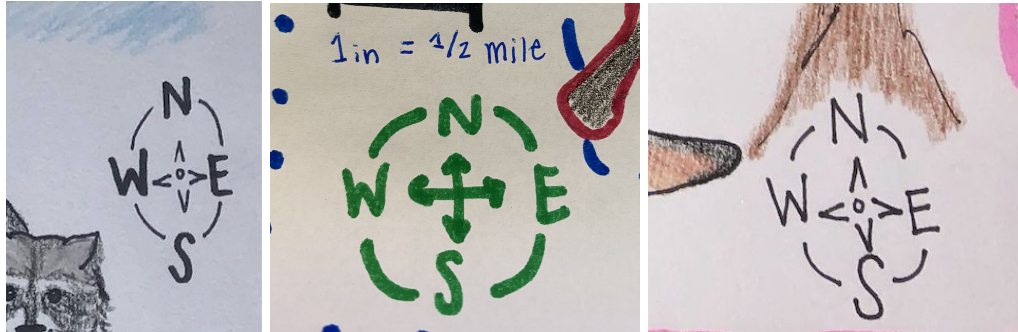
**Extensions:** Once you are done with your map you can add fun facts about the plants and animals on the backside.

## Everglades Habitat Mapping Activity Student Procedures

1. Choose which Everglades habitat you will create a map for.
2. Add a border, title, and date to your map.



3. Draw a compass rose on your map labeling North, South, East, and West.



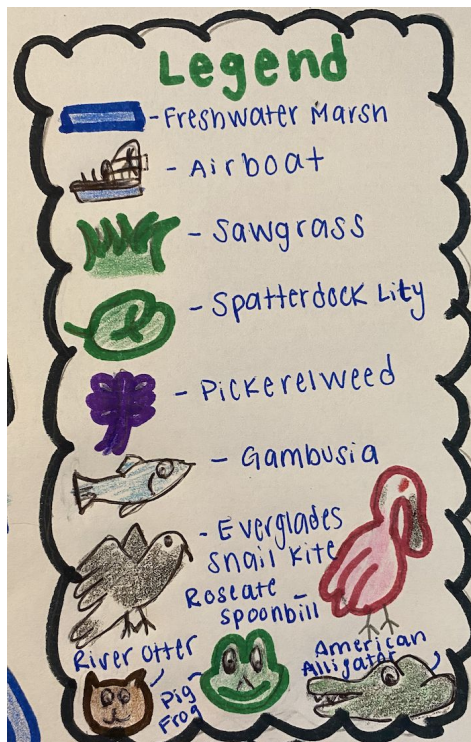
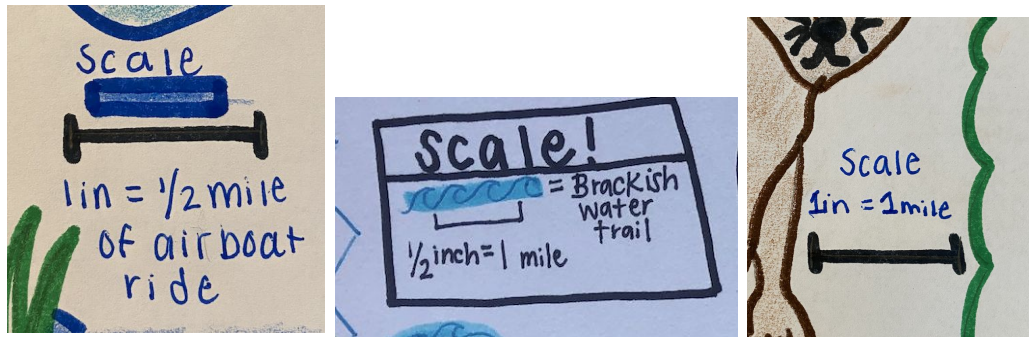
4. Now it is time to add your plants and animals! Be sure to save room for your legend and scale.



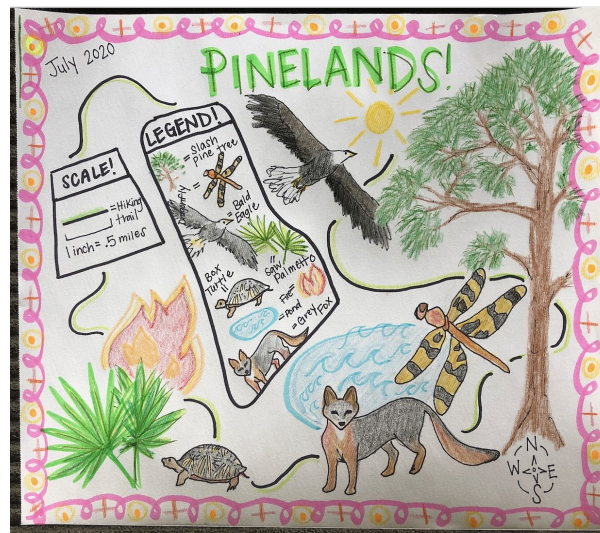
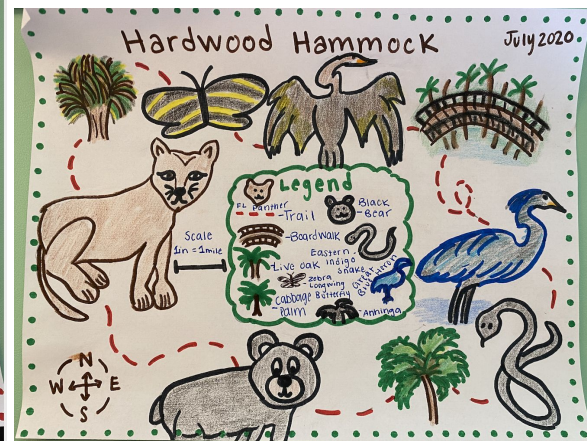
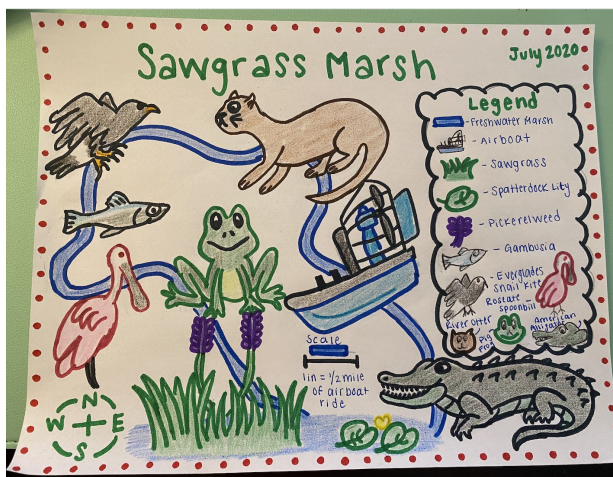
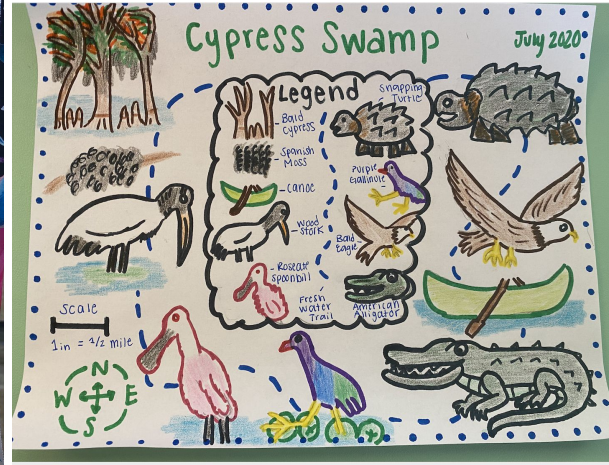
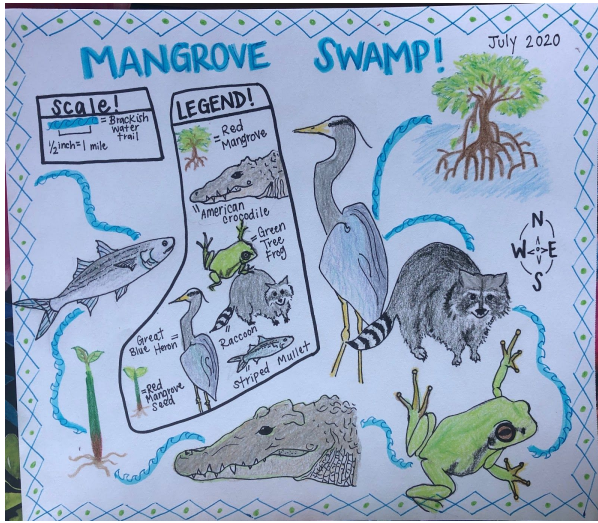
5. Next add your clues as to whether it is a wet or dry habitat, freshwater or saltwater, and how to explore the habitat. Don't forget to add trails, rivers, and paths as a way to explore the habitat.



6. Include your legend and scale.



## Everglades Habitat Map Completed Examples





# Everglades Habitats Mapping Activity

# What is the Everglades?



A special place  
in the 'heart' of  
southern Florida,  
a watery place full  
of wonder!



# What is a map?

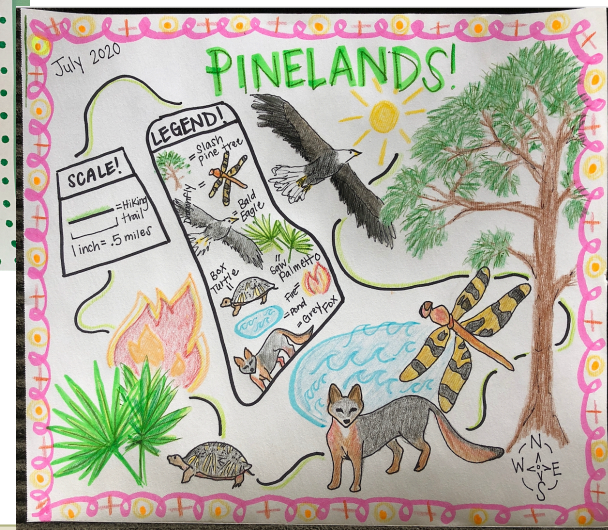
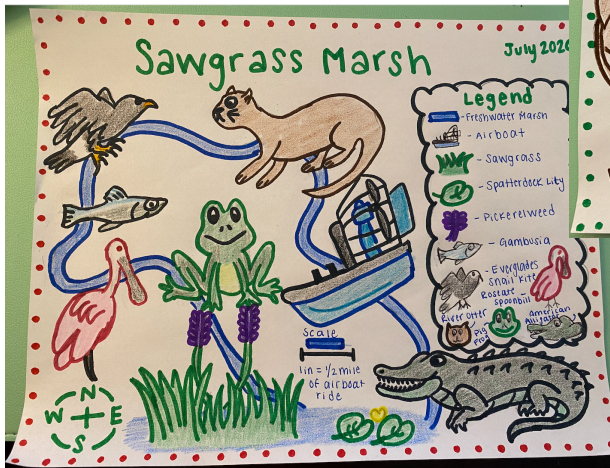
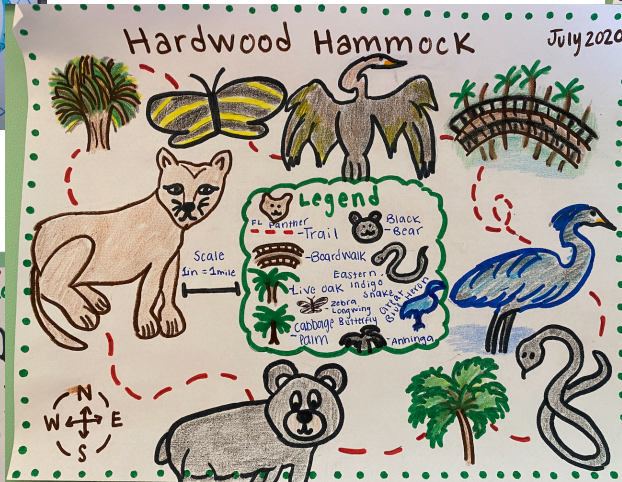
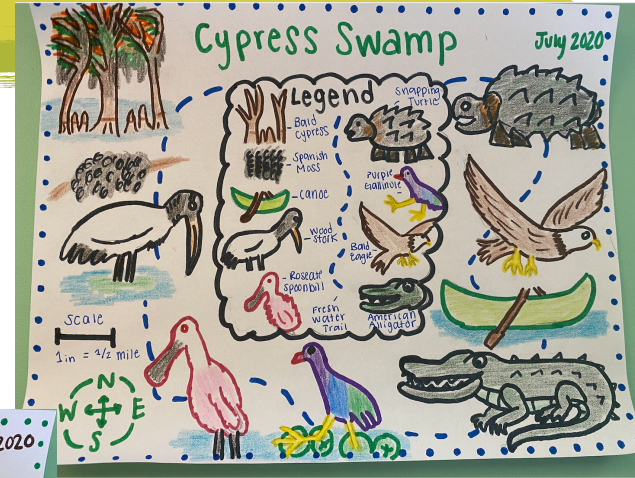
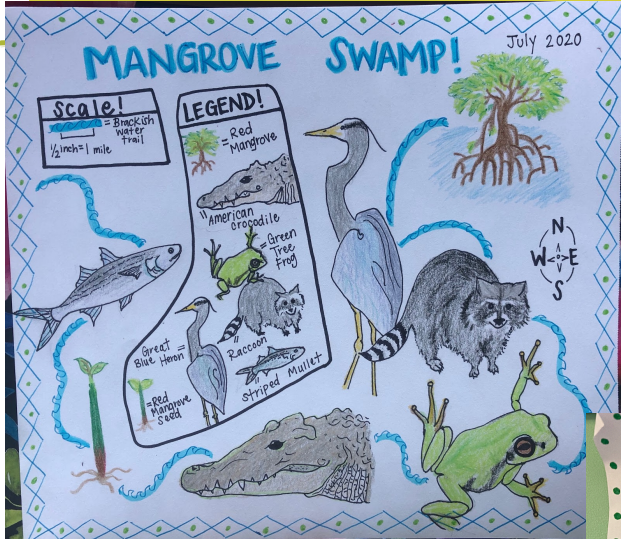


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There are 5 components of a map

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# Everglades Habitats Maps





What is a Habitat?

The **Everglades** is a **special home** to many different **plants** and **animals!**

They all live in certain areas of the Everglades—each special area is a **habitat.**

# Habitat #1:

# Hardwood Hammock



# Hardwood Hammock



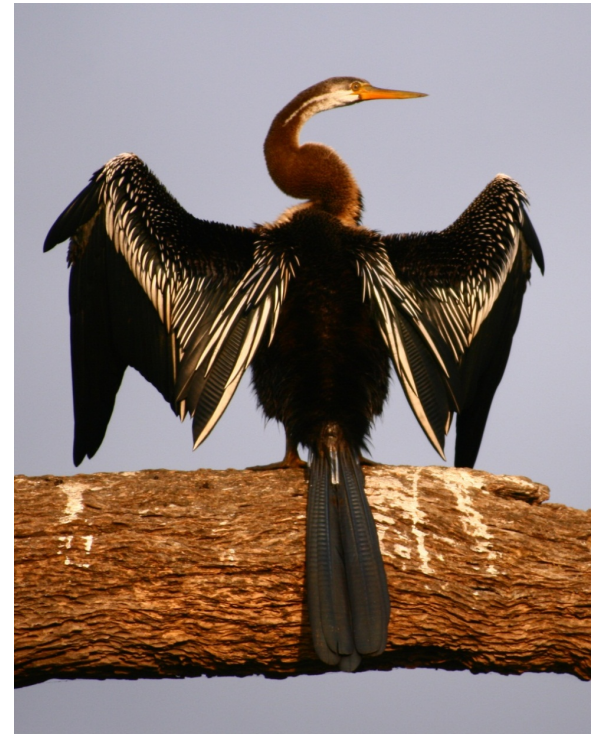
- In the hardwood hammock, the vegetation is thick - more than 150 species of trees and plants live here!
- Shaded from the sun by the tall trees, ferns and air plants thrive in these hammocks.
- There is an astonishing variety of trees, shrubs, vines, ferns, orchids, and air plants and a corresponding wealth of wildlife from the smallest of insects and spiders to the most colorful of birds to even the lumbering black bear.
- Hammocks are dominated by high elevation and a closed canopy. Because they are such moist habitats, they are protected from fire and do not readily burn if a wildfire sweeps through.

# Who lives in the Hardwood Hammock?

- Is this a wet or a dry habitat?
- If it is a wet habitat, does it have saltwater, brackish water, or freshwater?
- How would you explore the Hardwood Hammock?



# Anhinga





# Grey Fox



# Box Turtle



# Raccoon



# Barred Owl



# Oak Toad



# Great Blue Heron



# Florida Panther



# Dragonfly





# Eastern Indigo Snake



# Black Bear



# Osprey



# Zebra Longwing Butterfly



# Spanish Moss



# Live Oak



# Cabbage Palm



# Habitat #2:

## Mangrove Swamp





# Mangrove Swamp



- Mangrove swamps grow in zones of red, black and white mangroves where **freshwater** from rivers and other wetlands meets **saltwater** from the ocean. This is called **brackish water**.
- Mangrove swamps are valuable habitat for a wide range of invertebrates, fish, reptiles, birds and mammals, including the following endangered animals: the American crocodile, mangrove snapper, diamondback terrapin, and the West Indian manatee.

# Who lives in the Mangrove Swamp?

- Is this a wet or a dry habitat?
- If it is a wet habitat, does it have saltwater, brackish water, or freshwater?
- How would you explore the Mangrove Swamp?



# Mullet



# Bald Eagle



# American Crocodile



# West Indian Manatee



# Osprey



# Deer Fly





# Roseate Spoonbill



# Green Tree Frog



# Great Blue Heron



# Raccoon



# Red Mangroves



# Habitat #3:

## Pinelands



# Pinelands



- Pinelands are the most extensive terrestrial ecosystem in Florida.
- At first glance, the pinelands seem very plain; the only big trees are the slash pines, with saw palmetto below, but a look at the smaller plants reveals that the pinewoods are one of the most diverse of Florida landscapes, supporting hundreds of species of wildflowers and a wealth of wildlife.
- For example, it hosts the Bald Eagle, which in Florida prefers adult slash pines to all other trees as a place to build its massive nest.
- Pinelands occupy the highlands of the Everglades. They are also found along the edges of the Everglades.

# Who lives in the Pinelands?

- Is this a wet or a dry habitat?
- If it is a wet habitat, does it have saltwater, brackish water, or freshwater?
- How would you explore the Pinelands?





# Zebra Longwing Butterfly



# Florida Panther



# Eastern Indigo Snake



# Bald Eagle



# Black Bear



# Barred Owl



# Raccoon



# Box Turtle





# Oak Toad



# Grey Fox



# Dragonfly



# Slash Pine



# Saw Palmetto



# Habitat #4:

## Sawgrass Marsh



# Sawgrass Marsh



- Marshes are open, grassy wetlands where the water stands too deep for too much of the time to allow the growth of trees.
- These open areas are dominated by sawgrass.
- The largest freshwater marsh in the state is in the Everglades, where sawgrass stretches as far as the eye can see, interrupted only by an occasional hardwood hammock, alligator hole or cypress swamp.
- This is how the Everglades got its nickname: The River of Grass

# Who lives in the Sawgrass Marsh?

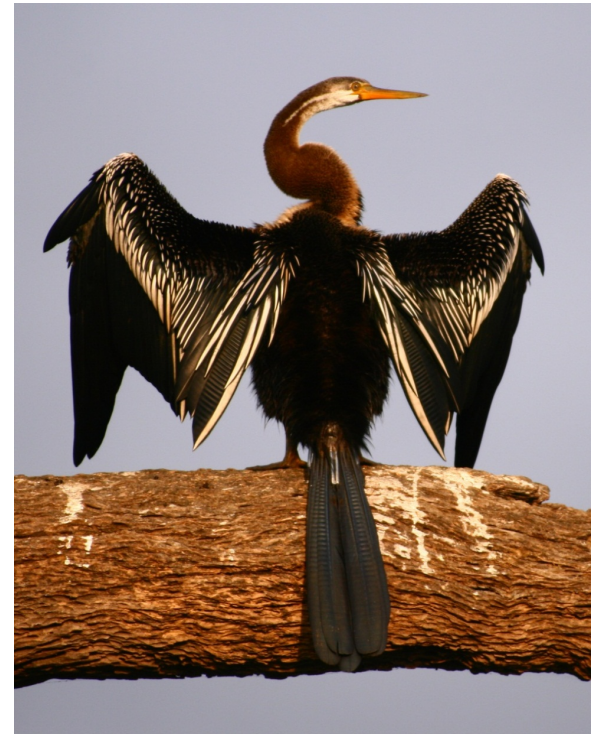


- Is this a wet or a dry habitat?
- If it is a wet habitat, does it have saltwater, brackish water, or freshwater?
- How would you explore the Sawgrass Marsh?





# Anhinga



# Pig Frog



# Osprey



# American Alligator



# Bald Eagle



# River Otter



# Great Blue Heron



# Wood Stork





# Gambusia



# Snail Kite



# Dragonfly



# Roseate Spoonbill



# Purple Gallinule



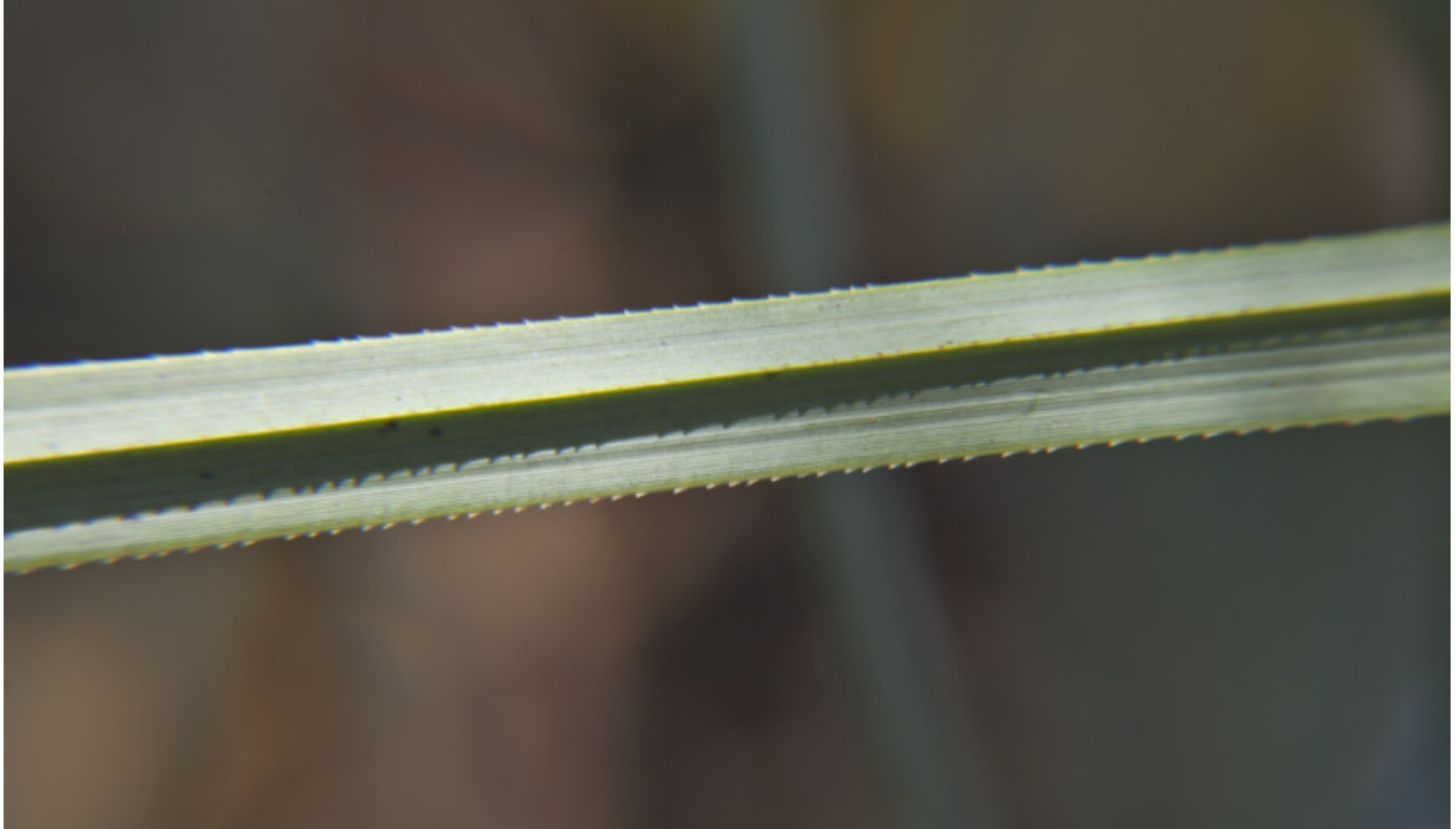
# Snapping Turtle



# Spatterdock Lily



# Sawgrass





# Pickerelweed



# Habitat #5:

## Cypress Swamp



# Cypress Swamp



- The cypress swamp is without a doubt a very wet habitat. Even in the dry season, you can find water in the deeper parts of the swamp.
- Floating plants and cypress trees are characteristic of this habitat.
- Cypress trees, the most flood-tolerant of all Everglades tree species, grow in areas that are covered in water for longer periods than the surrounding marshlands.
- Cypress trees are well adapted to the water-logged soils of the Everglades.

# Who lives in the Cypress Swamp?



- Is this a wet or a dry habitat?
- If it is a wet habitat, does it have saltwater, brackish water, or freshwater?
- How would you explore the Pinelands?



# Bald Eagle



# River Otter



# Great Blue Heron



# Pig Frog





# Anhinga



# Gambusia



# Purple Gallinule



# Snapping Turtle



# Osprey



# American Alligator



# Roseate Spoonbill



# Dragonfly





# Wood Stork



# Bald Cypress



# Spanish Moss



Now that you know the habits,  
the plants and animals that live in  
the habitats, and how to move  
through them, it's time to create  
your map!

