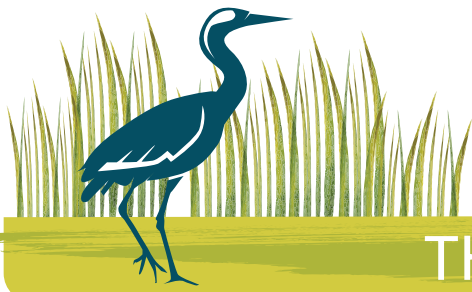


Name: _____



THE MANGROVE SWAMP

The Everglades has many **habitats** for plants and animals to call home. One is the **mangrove swamp**. Mangrove swamps are **wetland** forests. Mangrove swamps can be found near coastal areas where freshwater from other wetlands meets saltwater from the ocean. They get their name from the red, black, and white mangrove trees that live there.



The mangrove habitat is a wetland forest.

Mangrove trees are different from the trees you will find in any other Everglades habitat. They can survive in salty or **brackish** water (a mixture of fresh and saltwater). Other trees would die in these conditions, but not mangrove trees. They have special characteristics for surviving. For example, red mangrove trees have **stilt-like** roots that “lift” their green leafy branches above the tide.



American crocodiles live in brackish water.



The red mangrove tree with stilt-like roots.

Mangrove swamps are valuable habitat for a wide range of plants and animals. Many animals find shelter either in the roots or branches of mangroves. Mangrove branches are **rookeries**, or nesting areas, for many birds, such as the **Roseate** Spoonbill. The **endangered** American crocodile and the West Indian manatee make their home in mangrove swamps. Mangrove swamps are also habitat for many kinds of baby fishes. They live protected in the mangrove swamps until they grow big enough to move out into the ocean.



Name: _____



The Mangrove Swamp Questions

Directions: Answer the following questions about the Mangrove Swamp habitat in the Everglades.

Remember to use your vocabulary glossary if you need help with a vocabulary word.

Circle the Correct Answer

1. What phrases best describe a mangrove swamp? Select all that apply.
 - a. Wetland Forest
 - b. Dry habitat
 - c. Brackish water
 - d. Coastal habitat
- 2a. Based on the information in this text, with which statement would the author agree?
 - a. In mangrove swamps you will find trees that you won't find in any other habitat.
 - b. You won't have a large number of trees in a mangrove swamp.
 - c. The trees in the mangrove swamp do not really help wildlife.
 - d. You could take a drink from the water in a mangrove swamp.
- 2b. What piece of evidence from the text supports your answer in 2a?
 - a. Mangrove swamps are wetland forests.
 - b. The water in a mangrove swamp is brackish.
 - c. Mangrove trees can survive in salty or brackish water.
 - d. Mangrove branches are rookeries for many birds.
3. What can you tell about the roots of the red mangrove tree using info from the text and the pictures? Select all that apply.
 - a. Their roots can be found underground.
 - b. Their roots look similar to the roots of other trees.
 - c. Their roots look like stilts.
 - d. Their roots keep the leafy branches from getting wet.
4. The author claims, "*Mangrove swamps are valuable habitat for a wide range of plants and animals.*" Give two examples of evidence used to support this claim.



Name: _____

The Mangrove Swamp Teacher Guide

Standards:

- ELA.3.R.2.2 - Identify the central idea and explain how relevant details support that idea in a text.
- ELA.3.R.3.2 – Summarize a text to enhance comprehension.

Answer Key

1. What phrases best describe a mangrove swamp? Select all that apply.
 - a. **Wetland Forest**
 - b. Dry habitat
 - c. **Brackish water**
 - d. **Coastal habitat**
- 2a. Based on the information in this text, with which statement would the author agree?
 - a. **In mangrove swamps you will find trees that you won't find in any other habitat.**
 - b. You won't have a large number of trees in a mangrove swamp.
 - c. The trees in the mangrove swamp do not really help wildlife.
 - d. You could take a drink from the water in a mangrove swamp.
- 2b. What piece of evidence from the text supports your answer in 2a?
 - a. Mangrove swamps are wetland forests.
 - b. The water in a mangrove swamp is brackish.
 - c. **Mangrove trees can survive in salty or brackish water.**
 - d. Mangrove branches are rookeries for many birds.
3. What can you tell about the roots of the red mangrove tree using info from the text and the pictures? Select all that apply.
 - a. Their roots can be found underground.
 - b. Their roots look similar to the roots of other trees.
 - c. **Their roots look like stilts.**
 - d. **Their roots keep the leafy branches from getting wet.**
4. The author claims, "*Mangrove swamps are valuable habitat for a wide range of plants and animals.*" Give two examples of evidence used to support this claim.

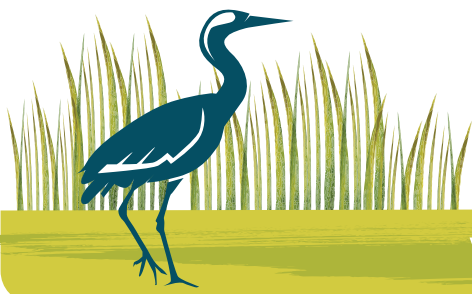
Answers may vary:

Mangrove roots and branches provide shelter for many animals.

Mangrove branches are rookeries for many birds.

Endangered animals like the West Indian manatee live here.

Mangrove swamps are home to baby fishes who will stay there until they are big enough to enter the ocean.



Name: _____

Vocabulary Glossary

Use the glossary below to look up the vocabulary words from the habitat factsheets.

Vocabulary for Mangrove Swamp

Brackish	A mix between salt and fresh water
Endangered	Close to becoming extinct; gone forever
Habitat	The place where a plant or animal lives where it can find food, water, shelter, and space
Mangrove	A tropical tree that has roots which grow from its branches and that grows in swamps or shallow salt water
Mangrove Swamp	A habitat found near coastal areas where freshwater from other wetlands meets saltwater from the ocean
Rookeries	The nests or breeding places of many birds or mammal species
Roseate	Resembling a rose especially in color; red or pink in color
Stilt-like	Like a stake or post used to support a structure (as a building) above ground or water level
Wetland	An area of land (such as a marsh or swamp) that is covered with shallow water