

Everglades Hydrology Discussion

The Everglades is a unique ecosystem we are fortunate to have in the state of Florida. The wetland is hugely diverse but diversity is decreasing as human pressure increases. With an instructor, students will discuss what makes the Everglades so unique, the changes to South Florida watershed that have affected this ecosystem and the current threats this habitat is facing. We encourage all of our groups to take a self guided tour of the Everglades while they are in South Florida – ask any of our staff for information on where to go, how to get there, etc.

Grade Level: All

Timing: Discussion is one hour

Concepts Covered:

- Hydrology through South Florida
- The water cycle
- Importance of natural fires
- Habitats within the Everglades
- Flora and fauna within the Everglades
- Human impacts to South Florida watershed and current threats to the Everglades
- Work being done to enhance Everglades National Park

Vocabulary: wetland, hydrology, precipitation, sheet flow, hydroperiod, peat, marl, periphyton, solution hole, hammock, slough, keystone species, hydroreversal, exotic species, water management, levee

Extensions: MarineLab can provide a “box lunch” for groups to take to the Everglades

Resources: <https://www.nps.gov/ever/index.htm>