

Florida's Wetlands

Develop a scenario that pertains to wetlands and their destruction. Ex. Developers in New York want to fill in wetlands to build a mall. Then assign each student a different role to play that would be involved in this scenario.

Ex:

Developer

Contractor

Bank providing the funding

County commissioner(s)

Community member(s)

FWC biologist

Interest group member(s)

 Ducks Unlimited

 Sierra Club

SWFWMD employee

Potential mall store owner

Farmer/ Rancher downstream

Botanist

USGS researcher

Each student should then research their role in order to act out the position each player might have in this scenario. Students should decide if their position is for or against the development and represent their group accordingly. The students can dress accordingly if they choose and plan to present their case to the rest of the class. In the end a vote could be taken based on the information provided to see if the developer should be able to proceed with his plans for a mall.

After the scenario has been acted out and a decision has been reached create a discussion amongst the class about the results as well as why each person chose to take the stand that they did. This should result in an example of the many players involved in developing wetlands and the different points of view each player may have as well as the complexity in making decisions related to the environment.

Florida's Wetlands Vocabulary

Reptile - any cold-blooded vertebrate comprising the turtles/ tortoises, snakes, lizards, crocodilians, tuatara, and various extinct members including the dinosaurs that lay eggs and has scales.

Amphibian - An animal capable of living both on land and in water.

Exotic – Something not found in the area naturally; may have originated from another country.

Native - originating naturally in a particular country or region

Scute – Bony external plate or scale found on the shell of turtles and tortoises.

Omnivore – An animal that eats both plants and animals.

Carnivore – An animal that eats only other animals or meat.

Herbivore – An animal that eats only plants.

Invasive – Any native and non-native species that heavily take over an area.

Incubate – To hatch eggs by sitting on them or by artificial heat.

Shed – To remove skin.

Endangered – A species at risk of extinction due to human activity, climate changes, etc.

Threatened – A species, likely, in the near future to become endangered within all or much of its range.

Extinct – No longer in existence, has ended or died out.

Venomous - having a gland or glands for secreting venom; able to inflict a bite, sting, or wound containing venom.

Poisonous - Capable of harming or killing by a poison or toxin.

Arboreal – Animals adapted for living or moving about in trees.

Terrestrial – An animal living on or in the ground.

Nocturnal – Active at night.

Crepuscular – Active at dawn and dusk.

Diurnal – Active during the day.

Mimicry - the close external resemblance of an organism, the mimic, to some different organism, the model, such that the mimic benefits from the mistaken identity, as seeming to be unpalatable or harmful.

Camouflage - concealment by some means that alters or obscures the appearance

Constrictor - a snake that kills its prey by coiling tightly around it, causing suffocation

Burrow - a hole or tunnel in the ground for habitation and refuge.

Aquatic – Living or growing in the water.

Ambush - an animal that conceals itself to attack by surprise.

Predator – Any animal that preys upon other animals.

Prey – An animal that is hunted by another animal.

Carapace – The top shell of a turtle or tortoise.

Plastron – The bottom shell of a turtle or tortoise.

Karst - an area of limestone terrain characterized by sinks, ravines, and underground streams.

Topography – The surface features of a place or region. Ex: mountains, rivers, valleys.

Habitat – A place that is natural for the life and growth of an organism.

Ecosystem – The interaction between organisms and their environment.

Niche - the position or function of an organism in a community of plants and animals.

Food chain – A series of organisms that are related by their feeding habits.

Food web – Multiple food chains linked together.

Environment – the air, water, minerals, organisms, and all other external factors surrounding and affecting a given organism at any time.

Tannins - pigments in plants responsible for brown colors

Confluent – place where different waters mix or merge.

Detritus – newly dead or decaying organic matter covered in bacteria.

Natural resources – Any material produced by nature that can be used to produce goods or provide services

Watershed – an area of land that is drained by a river or river system.

Point source pollution –Pollutants discharged from any identifiable point, including pipes, ditches, channels, sewers, tunnels, etc.

Non-point source pollution - pollution that occurs when rainfall, snowmelt, or irrigation runs over land or through the ground, picks up pollutants, and deposits them into rivers, lakes, and coastal waters or introduces them into ground water.

Mitigation – a form of compensation for destruction of natural areas; often it means rebuilding or providing new habitat for the organisms displaced.