

Hanging Out in the Habitat 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.



Post Visit 3 Hanging Out in the Habitat K-5

Myth and story

Purpose/Objective

Students will learn about myths common about Florida plants and animals
Students will write their own myth about a Florida plant or animal

Materials

Computer with internet access
Books with Florida tales and stories
Construction paper
Pencils
Crayons
Markers

Procedure

1. Gather books that have tales of natural Florida. Look for Indian tales and folklore
 - a. *Sandspun* By Annette J. Bruce, J. Stephen Brooks
 - b. *Uncle Monday and Other Florida Tales*, Retold by Kristin G. Congdon, illustrated by Kitty Kitson Petterson
 - c. Josie Billie, the son, recounted the following story about the origin of koonti in 1939. The Breathmaker, fisaki omici,² took seven men and walked a long way with them. In fact he traveled down from Georgia to a place a little below Miami. While they rested there the seven men became hungry and the Breathmaker taught them how to fish. They didn't have anything to eat or drink so he dug into the ground at a place not more than three feet from the ocean till water sprang up. Soon the Breathmaker made it rain and told his companions to go outside. They found the ground covered with little cakes. The next morning Breathmaker made the little cakes sprout roots from their sides. This was the koonti plant. Another sacred myth, as told by Josie Billie, shows the influence of Christian teaching, but contains elements common among the American Indians, namely the belief that the souls of the departed go to the spirit land in the west, via the Milky Way. A long while back the Breathmaker blew his breath toward the sky and made the Milky Way. This white way leads to a city in the west where the Big Cypress Seminole go when they die. Bad people stay in the

ground right where they are buried. Everytime you go through the woods and step where a bad person is buried you feel afraid even though the grave is covered over with bushes and trees. Good people walk over the Milky Way to a "city in western sky." Animals take the same path when they die. Long ago animals of an Indian-dogs and horses-were killed so they might go with their masters.

Rabbit Lies and Runs Away with Fire Rabbit found fire by swimming way across the water. He had a spot on his neck just like a burn. When he crossed the water he found people who had fire. They danced around the fire. So Rabbit got in the dance and got a cloth which he put on his head. In the cloth he put some fine tar. He then danced closer and closer to the fire. Finally he danced so close that the pitch caught on fire. He had the pine tar on his head in order to catch fire. Rabbit ran to the water and all ran after him. He ran right to the water but the rest stopped. Rabbit swam across and kept his head up. He carried the fire on the back of his neck.

Once Rabbit wanted to marry and he said something about it. Nobody believed him since they knew what a big liar he was. Everybody said, "No, you can't marry till you go kill Alligator." "Sure," Rabbit said. So he went over to Alligator and talked to him. "Let's be friends," cooed Rabbit, and talked in a pleasant tone to Alligator. Finally the Alligator came out and the two of them took a walk in the woods. They were apparently good pals. Suddenly Rabbit picked up a big stick and wielded it against Alligator, but he didn't know how to kill his adversary. He hit him on the body but didn't hurt him at all. Alligator went into his hole and Rabbit was forced to retire. Pretty soon Rabbit returned, but this time he went up into a tree. He talked like a squirrel and walked like one. He talked in a friendly manner with Alligator. "Let's be friends," soothed Rabbit who now took on the guise of a squirrel. "Oh no, Rabbit talked like that when he tried to kill me," Alligator responded. "Rabbit is a bad man, everyone knows he lies all the time. He is really bad," said the Squirrel. The Rabbit in Squirrel disguise talked some pretty chat with Alligator who had not emerged from the cave. Presently he was told about Rabbit trying to kill Alligator, but not knowing how to do it. "Where would a blow hurt you?" Squirrel inquired. Alligator replied, "My head and back." That was what Squirrel wanted to know. Pretty soon he got a big stick, hit Alligator on the head and back and killed him. He cut off his tail and went back to camp singing. Since he had the tail with him he thought that he could soon get married. But the people in the settlement still said, "No, you go kill rattlesnake!" "All right," answered Rabbit. He got a stick and went to the rattlesnake hole. He hit the snake on the head and brought him back to camp. Even with this his people were not satisfied and told Rabbit to go out into the woods to chop down a big tree with one blow. Then he surely could have a wife. "Give me four days and on the fourth day I will do it," boasted Rabbit. So he went out into the woods and got a woodpecker who pecked all around the tree. On the fourth day it was very thin in the middle. Rabbit grasped the ax and severed the

tree with a single blow. Thus he obtained the girl. About that time people wanted to have two wives and Rabbit also wanted two. "You part her hair in the center, chop her down the middle right in the line with the part and she will be two," the people counseled. Rabbit parted her hair and then struck her hard with an ax. He missed the part but killed the girl. Everybody chased him yet he managed to escape to the woods, even though he was without the wife he tried so hard to win. All

taken from The Journal of American Folklore, Vol. 58, No. 228, (Apr. - Jun., 1945), pp. 138-144

2. Read some of these to the class and have them find some of their own.
3. Have students think of a plant, animal, or object that they saw at Crystal Springs Preserve, instruct them that it should be a native animal or plant.
4. Have them write a folk tale about the object. Allow them to illustrate it if they so choose.