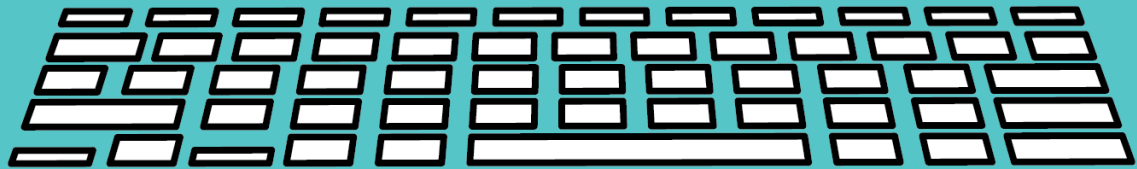


Short Answer	Type Answer Here
1. What is a nickname for the Everglades?	
2. What kind of dolphins can be found there?	
3. What president made it a national park?	
4. What kind of swamps are located in the Everglades?	
5. How many inches of rain occur during the rainy season?	
6. How many seasons does the Everglades have?	
7. What alligators and crocodiles are found there?	
8. What year did the Everglades become a national park?	



Short Answer	Type Answer Here	Fill in the Blank	Type Answer Here
1. What is a nickname for the Everglades?		9. The Florida Everglades are _____ square miles.	
2. What kind of dolphins can be found there?		10. People tried to drain and divert water for _____.	
3. What president made it a national park?		11. Fertilizers and _____ have polluted the _____.	
4. What kind of swamps are located in the Everglades?		12. The Everglades include _____ prairies.	
5. How many inches of rain occur during the rainy season?		13. Water flows from Lake _____ to Florida.	
6. How many seasons does the Everglades have?		14. _____ Everglades is home to over _____ species of _____.	
7. What alligators and crocodiles are found there?		15. The _____ of the Everglades was seriously threatened.	
8. What year did the Everglades become a national park?		16. _____ help drain, filter, and purify the water.	



FLORIDA EVERGLADES

The Florida Everglades are 7,800 square miles of wetlands in Southern Florida. The unique ecosystem includes freshwater marshes, sawgrass prairies, mangrove swamps, and the most extensive in the western United States, the cypress and wood hammocks. Beneath the shallow water, a very hard soil lies on limestone and aquifers, which are layers of rock that help store, filter, and purify the water. The Everglades consist of a natural canal and human-made canals due to the subtropical climate. The climate is hot and humid. The area has two seasons: the rainy season and the dry season. The rainy season can get up to 60 inches of rain, which is more than the average of other areas throughout the United States.

A nickname for the Everglades is "River of Grass" because the area is a slow-moving sheet of water flowing from Lake Okeechobee to Florida Bay. The water level changes seasonally, which affects the types of plants and animals that can survive. Additionally, the water has nutrients that support the growth of algae, bacteria, and other organisms. As a result, the ecosystem is delicately balanced.

Over 700 species of plants and animals live in the Everglades. Some species can only be found in the Everglades. Plants of the Everglades provide food and shelter for the resident wildlife. The Everglades is home to over 360 species of birds like flamingos, bald eagles, osprey, ivory-billed woodpeckers, spoonbills, egrets, storks, and herons. Many of these species are found only in the Everglades. These birds fly above the river or sit at the marsh's edge, munching on fish, algae, and native grasses.

Over 27 species of snakes live in the Everglades, along with the American alligator and American crocodile. While alligators can be found elsewhere, the American crocodile is only found in Southern Florida. Lizards also populate the area.

Other mammals in the Everglades include manatees, bottlenose dolphins, rabbits, moles, and bats. Endangered or threatened species in

the Everglades include the Florida panther, the West Indian manatee, the American crocodile, and the snail kite.

The Everglades supplies drinking water for one-third of Floridians and irrigates much of the agriculture for the state. In addition, the ecosystem filters pollutants, absorbs excess nutrients, replenishes aquifers, reduces flooding, filters water, stores carbon, moderates the climate, and provides a habitat for wildlife.

Over 100 years ago, the area encompassed 11,000 miles. However, humans have altered the Everglades in many ways.

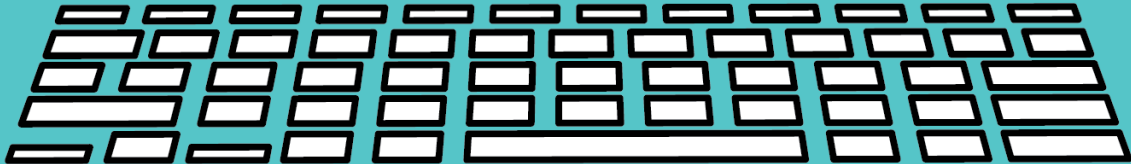
- In the early 1900s, people tried to drain and divert water for agriculture, urban development, and flood control.
- Invasive species were introduced that affected native species.
- Fertilizers, pesticides, and other chemicals have polluted the water.
- Humans suppressed or ignited fires.

Millions of humans hunted and poached animals for fur, food, or sport.

It took years before people realized they were destroying the ecosystem. Without human intervention, the quality and size of the Everglades was reduced. So much water was drained that many species declined in population or became extinct, like the Florida panther. The loss of the biodiversity of the Everglades was seriously threatened.

As a result, environmental groups and many federal, state, local, and tribal governments made efforts to protect the Everglades. In 1961, President John F. Kennedy made the Everglades a national park to protect the land. Other efforts have included creating wildlife refuges and conserving areas, implementing laws and regulations to limit pollution and development, reintroducing native species, reintroducing native plants, restoring natural water flow, and educating the public about the Everglades.

The Everglades National Park is a 1,500,000-acre system of wetlands. The national park supports tourism, including hunting, birding, boating, camping, recreation, and cultural heritage.





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THE VIDEO TO
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PRODUCT WORKS**