

The Everglades Student Guide

Chapter 1: The Everglades

1. In your own words, describe the Everglades.
2. Describe the movement of water through the Everglades and how that sheet flow is managed.
3. How does elevation impact the movement of water through Florida?
4. How is the current sheet flow different from the historic sheet flow through the Everglades?
5. Why is fire important to a wetland ecosystem?

Chapter 2: An Important Ecosystem

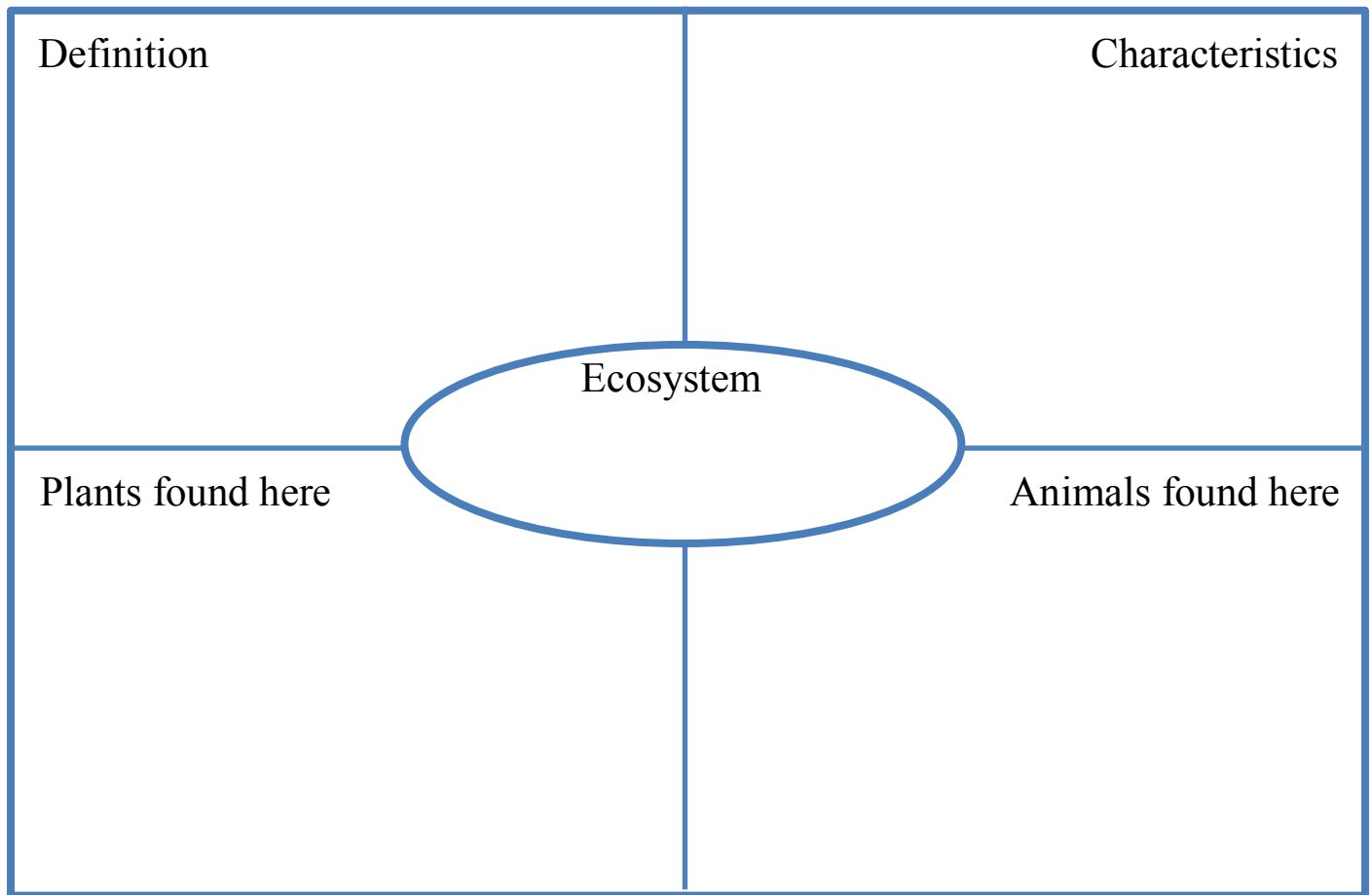
1. Describe one ecological benefit of wetlands.

2. Complete the graphic organizer for one of the Everglades habitats listed below.

Pinelands

Sawgrass

Mangrove

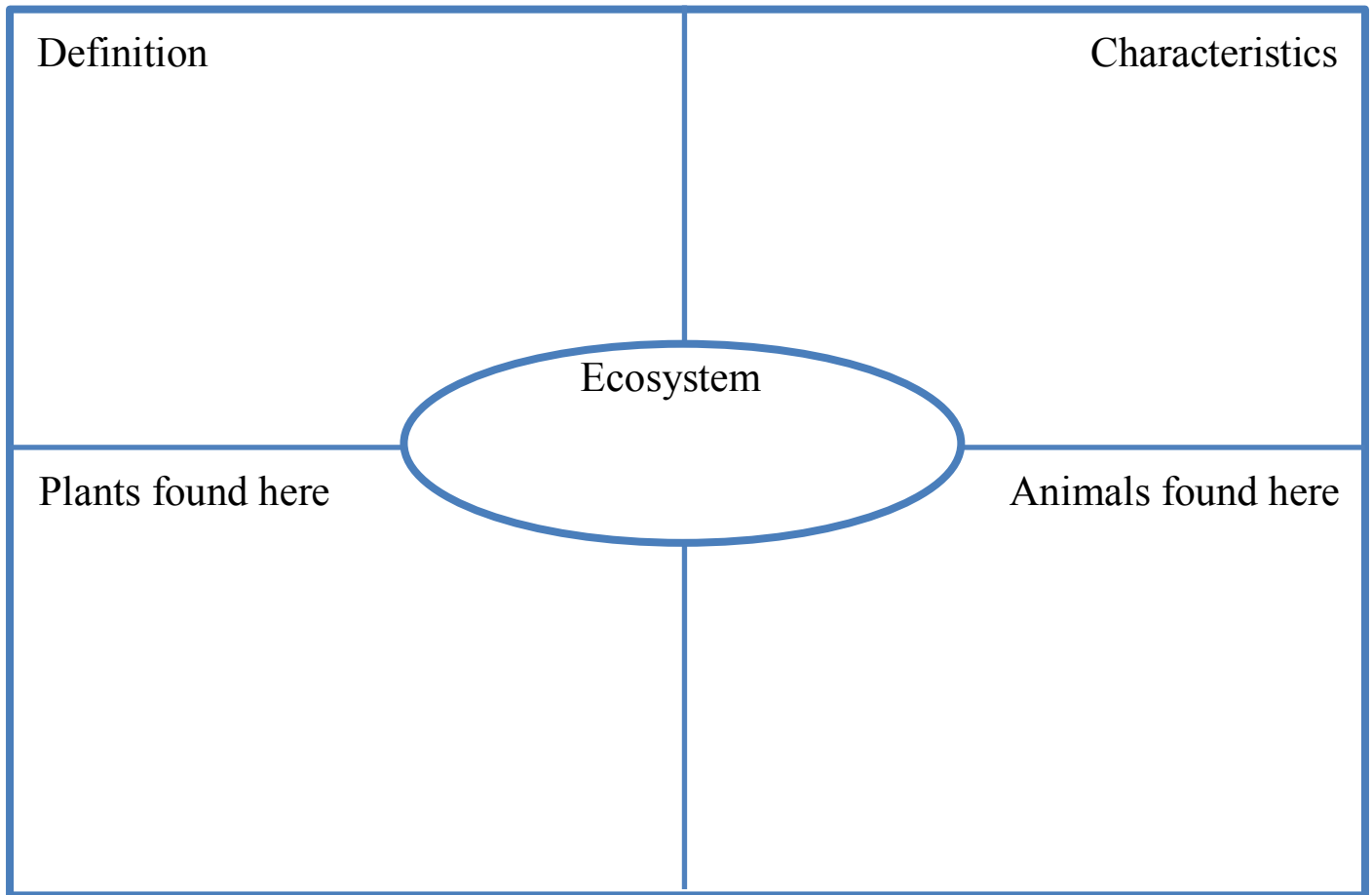


3. Complete the graphic organizer for one of the Everglades habitats listed below.

Freshwater Slough

Cypress Forest

Seagrass



4. Describe the economic importance of the Everglades.

5. In your own words, describe how the Everglades provides water for the people visiting and living in South Florida.

Chapter 3: History of the Everglades

1. Describe the Florida coastline approximately 12,000 years ago.
2. In your own words, describe how the Florida Seminole tribe of people came to be.
3. Describe Gladesmen culture.
4. The late 1800s into the early 1900s saw the decimation of bird populations throughout the Everglades. What caused the population decline?
5. What is the Swamp Land Act of 1850 and how did it alter the future of the Everglades?
6. Why do you think there was such a push to dewater the Everglades?

Chapter 4: Anthropogenic Impacts

1. Explain the purpose of the Hoover Dike.
2. Describe why the soil found throughout the Everglades Agricultural Areas is so valuable.
3. In your own words, explain what the Tamiami Trail and Alligator Alley are and how their development impacted the Everglades.
4. The Everglades is described as an oligotrophic ecosystem. What does this mean?
5. How did an increase in agriculture alter the oligotrophic nature of the Everglades?
6. How does the Everglades impact the freshwater resources for the people that live in and visit South Florida?
7. If you could go back in time and prevent the construction of the Hoover Dike and subsequent Everglades Agricultural Areas, what argument would you make to stop it from being built? Be sure to include at least two supporting details to support your argument.

Chapter 5: Invasive Species

1. What is an invasive species?
2. Burmese pythons and feral hogs are both invasive species; in your own words, explain why they both make for “great” invasive species.
3. Why is it important to remove the entire root system of Brazilian peppertrees?
4. Why has the control and eradication of hydrilla been so difficult?
5. If you were tasked with removing one of the four Everglades invasive species addressed (Burmese python, feral hog, Brazilian peppertree, hydrilla), which one would you choose and why?
6. In the space below, illustrate an infographic that could be used at your local park to inform visitors about the harm released pets can cause the ecosystem.

Chapter 6: Threatened and Endangered

1. In your opinion, what is the primary reason an organism becomes threatened or endangered?
2. What is critical habitat?
3. Is the associated critical habitat of every endangered species also included as threatened or endangered and, therefore, earning protective status?
4. What argument could you make for or against the declaration of 'critical habitat' for every species listed as Endangered or Threatened?
5. Why were panthers brought to Florida from Texas?
6. You are guaranteed to save one of the Endangered or Threatened species presented in the Species Spotlight (Florida panther, Cape Sable seaside sparrow, American crocodile, smalltooth sawfish, snail kite, Florida leafwing butterfly). Which one do you protect and why?

Chapter 7: Parks and Recreation

1. The Everglades National Park was established in 1947. What additional designations does the park hold?
2. In your own words, describe why the Everglades cannot “simply be put back the way it was”.
3. The “right” volume of water moving through the Everglades at the “right” time is key to restoring the ecosystem. In addition, the nutrient levels of the water sent through the Everglades is important. Why are nutrient levels of the sheet flow water important?
4. What is the goal of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan?
5. Identify one thing that you and your family can do to help conserve and restore the Everglades.
6. What do you think Marjory Stoneman Douglas meant by, “The Everglades is a test. If we pass it, we may get to keep the planet?”

7. Label the map below with the key Everglades sites provided.

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|---|------------------------|---|----------------------|---|----------------|---|--------------------------|
| 1 | Kissimmee Lakes Region | 2 | Atlantic Coast Ridge | 3 | Gulf of Mexico | 4 | Florida Bay |
| 5 | Lake Okeechobee | 6 | Atlantic Ocean | 7 | Biscayne Bay | 8 | Everglades National Park |

