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Activities

The River of Grass

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Everglades is just a fraction of what it used to be. At one time, these important wetlands covered one-third of southern Florida. In this Planet Diary activity, you'll explore what happened to the "River of Grass" and learn what's being done to restore this natural treasure.

Directions

- Start at Learning About the Everglades. Click the movie below *Where In the World Are the Everglades?* for a close look at these wetlands.
- Return to the home page and scroll to the *Everglades Water Flow Maps*. Compare the views of the Everglades' historic (past) and current water flows. Then answer Workspace question 1.
- Where did all the water go? Take this tour of the River of Grass. Read the introduction, then click *How It Was*. Click the colored squares below the text to see the ecosystems the Everglades once had. Then click *Draining the Glades*. Browse each time period on the map, then answer question 2.
- Click *The Everglades Today*. Read the text, then view the map of how it looks now. Answer questions 3 and 4.
- Continue to *Effects on Animals and the Ecosystem*. Explore the links to the animals. Listen to the alligator and bird sound clips. Then answer question 5.
- Florida is working to restore the Everglades. Return to Learning About the Everglades and view the *Everglades Water Flow Maps*. Focus on the CERP map on the right. Answer the last question.
- Just for fun, scroll to *The Journey of Wayne Drop to the Everglades* and travel along with Wayne!

Workspace

1. How does the Everglade's current water flow compare to its historic (past) flow?

2. Why was the Everglades drained?

3. How does the size of the Everglades today compare to a century ago?

4. What eventually replaced the wetlands as water was drained from the Everglades?

5. How did draining the Everglades affect its wildlife? Give at least three specific examples.

6. How will the Everglade's water flow change after the CERP plan is put into action?

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