

Intermission



Stop and take a look around. Using what you know about Florida ecosystems, which ecosystem are you in currently?



Where am I right now?

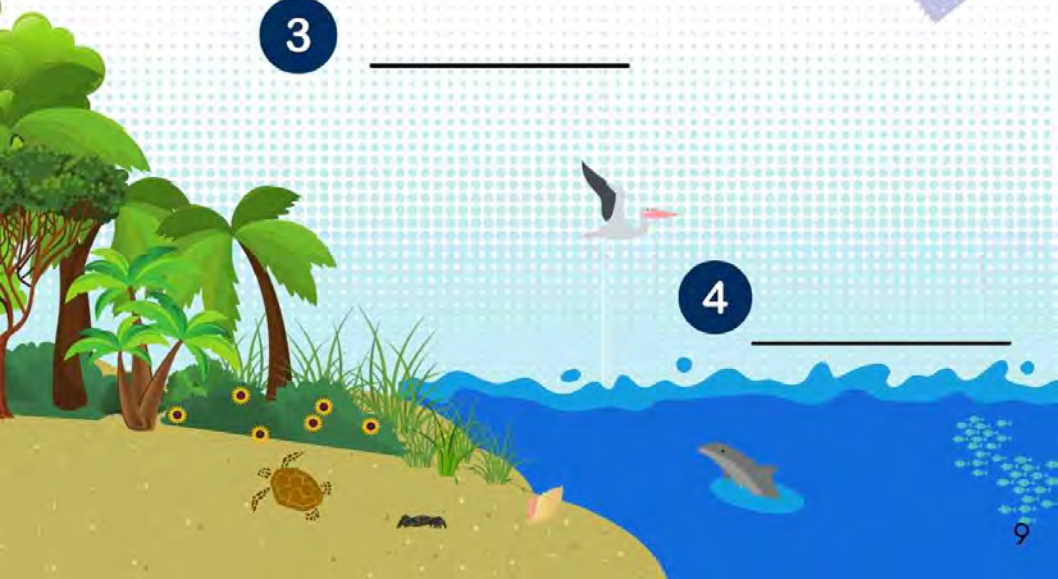
Which ecosystem am I in?

What animals and plants do I see around me?

What is unique about this ecosystem?

3 _____

4 _____



Build-a-Species

Over long periods of time, species develop unique features or behaviors that help them to thrive in their environment. These special traits are called **adaptations**. Different species have different adaptations depending on where they live.



Examples of adaptations:

camouflage



webbed feet

night vision



water repellent

silent flight



sticky toes



long bill



large ears

Choose a "Ding" ecosystem & think about what adaptations help species to survive there



thick fur

Draw your species on the next page!

Ecosystem:

Adaptation benefits:



Now that you have picked an ecosystem and adaptations to match, draw your species below.



New species name: _____

Mangrove Mystery

Using the clue bank, complete the **rhyming riddle** below to learn about the most famous trees at the refuge.

I am a very special tree,
My home is in the shallow _____.

I protect the coast from heavy rains,
Even from the _____.

At times my smell can make you halt,
I'm a tree that lives in _____.

I come in three different "color" types,
There's black, there's red, and then
there's _____.

In my roots fish are free to roam,
I provide a safe and comfortable
_____.

Like big, long fingers reaching into the
ground,
My branches drop leaves, that color the
water _____.

Look around "Ding" and you're sure to
see,
The beautiful and important
_____ Trees!

 Clue Bank





Adaptations:











Birds use their beaks like humans use tools to accomplish different tasks. Different beaks act as different "tools".



Beak for the Job

Fill in the blanks to name the bird then draw a line to match the beak to the human tool with the most similar function.

Need help? Check out the "recent sightings" board at the Visitor Center!

_____		Double-crested	Roseate	_____
Pelican	Anhinga	_____	_____	Ibis
				
				
Hook	Strainer Spoon	Spear	Chopsticks	Net

Which bird has a beak that would help it...

- Sift through the mud for small fish, crustacean, and insects?

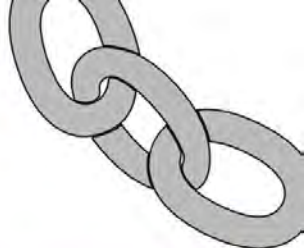
- Capture many fish at once?

- Snag and hook their fish while hunting?

- Jab their prey quickly, while swimming?

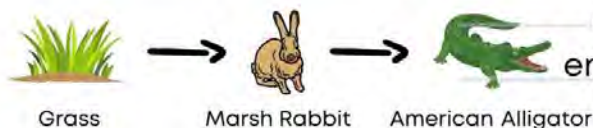
- Probe in the mud to pinch small insects?

Food Chains



What is a food chain?

All living things need energy to survive. In an environment, a **food chain** shows how energy travels through living things in the form of food. Check out the food chain below.



What do the arrows represent?

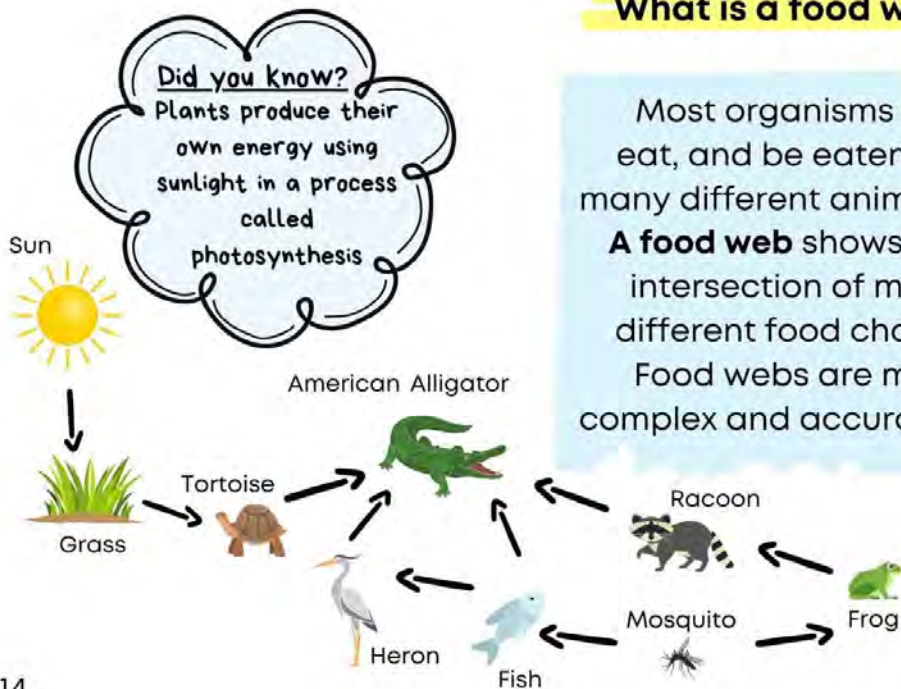


Living things use energy to accomplish tasks. In a food web, **the arrows represent energy moving from one organism to the next.**

Animals get energy by eating and plants make energy by using sunlight.

What is a food web?

Most organisms can eat, and be eaten, by many different animals. **A food web** shows the intersection of many different food chains. Food webs are more complex and accurate.





& Food Webs

The estuary provides food for land and water animals. Draw arrows to show how energy flows in the food web below.



Remember: the arrow points TOWARDS the organism that is gaining energy.

Did you know?

Herbivores eat plants

carnivores eat animals

omnivores eat both plants and animals

Hint: start with the sunlight.



Sunlight



Florida Bobcat



American Alligator



Bald Eagle



Black Racer



Marsh Rabbit



Raccoon



Plant - eating
Insect



Frog



Sanibel Rice Rat

Grass, berries, & trees



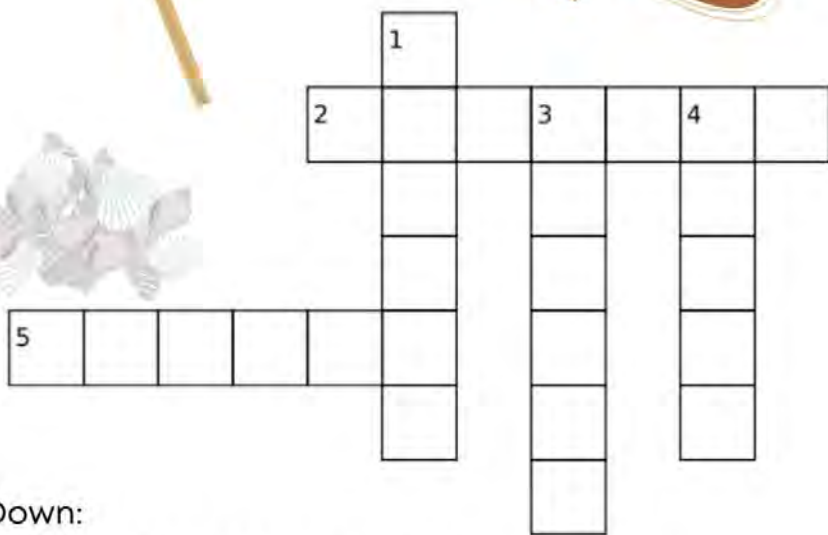
Mosquito

Artifact Adventure:

Visit the Calusa Shell Mound Trail to learn more!

The Shell People

Read the clues below to fill in the crossword puzzle.



Down:

- » 1. The Indigenous peoples that once lived on Sanibel and much of Southwest Florida

- » 3. The placement of discarded shells and other daily waste

- » 4. Pine and cedar trees were dug out to create these modes of transportation

Across:

- » 2. _____ are raised areas of land where taller trees can grow, forming a shady canopy

- » 5. _____ were used for tools, jewelry, and even drinking cups

Fact or Fiction



Read the statements on the left and decide if they are fact or fiction. Write your answer on the right.

» The J.N. of J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge stands for Jay Norwood. _____

» The Ding Darling Wildlife Society is the friends group that supports the refuge. _____

» The pink bird found at the refuge is a flamingo. _____

» You can take tram, rent a kayak, and more, at Tarpon Bay Explorers, the Refuge's official concessionaire. _____

» You can park on the left side of the Wildlife Drive. _____

» The Wildlife Drive is one way to drivers and bikers. _____

» American Alligators are the largest reptile found in the United States. _____

» The Wildlife Drive is open on Fridays. _____

» Bicyclist under the age of 16 must wear a helmet. _____

Junior Ranger Pledge



I _____ promise to protect wildlife and the environment to the best of my ability. I will not approach, interfere or feed wild animals. I will not litter. I will teach these good habits to all others!



Certified
by:

.....

Junior
Ranger

.....



 Please recycle me 

