

Seasonal Changes in Florida Plants/Animals and Impact on the Environment Field Studies Information

Next Generation Sunshine State Standards – Science

- SC.3.L. 15.1 Classify animals into major groups according to their physical characteristics and behaviors.
- SC.3.L. 15.2 Classify flowering and nonflowering plants into major groups such as those that produce seeds, or those like ferns and moss that produce spores, according to their physical characteristics.
- SC.3.L. 17.1 Describe how animals and plants respond to changing seasons.
- SC.4.L. 16.2 Explain that although characteristics of plants and animals are inherited, some characteristics can be affected by the environment.
- SC.4.L. 16.3 Recognize that animal behaviors may be shaped by heredity and learning.
- SC.4.L. 17.1 Compare the seasonal changes in Florida plants and animals to those in other regions of the country.
- SC.4.L. 17.4 Recognize ways plant and animals, including humans, impact the environment.
- SC.5.L. 15.1 Describe how, when the environment changes, differences between individuals allow some plants and animals to survive and reproduce while others die or move to new locations.
- SC.5.L. 15.2 Compare and contrast adaptations displayed by animals and plants that enable them to survive in different environments such as life cycle variations, animals behaviors and physical characteristics.



Dip netting

*The Nature of Science standards are embedded throughout the program in 1) the STEM activities we provide, 2) the data collection, and 3) group data analysis (in classroom setting). Computer Science standards can be made by using data from the field studies program.



Name _____

Field Studies: PRE/POST Test

(circle)

Questions 1 – 5 are about habitats in Florida. Please choose the **BEST** response to each multiple choice question.

1. What type of water is found in the wetlands of Central Florida?
 - A. Salt water
 - B. Sea water
 - C. Freshwater
 - D. Vitamin water
2. Trees are a dominant feature in most wetland systems. Which of the following is **NOT** a function of trees in a wetland system?
 - A. Trees provide habitat on the ground as well as in their branches for numerous species.
 - B. Through the roots, trees absorb water, filter out nitrates, and other pollutants, and move water through their leaves during transportation.
 - C. The roots of trees grow wide and help stop wetland soil from washing away during the wet season.
 - D. Trees increase wind's speed through a wetland.
3. Hydrologist test water to determine if the water is healthy for living things in an ecosystem. How do hydrologists test the quality of the water?
 - A. Drinking the water.
 - B. Observing the types of aquatic life in the water while dip netting.
 - C. Taking the water home and boiling it.
 - D. By observing the color of the water.
4. How can you tell an animal was at a specific location without seeing the animal?
 - A. By its tracks
 - B. By its scat
 - C. By its cellphone
 - D. A and B
5. After a rainfall in the uplands, where could the water travel to next?
 - A. The water could be absorbed by the soil (percolation).
 - B. The water could evaporate back into the atmosphere.
 - C. The water could run off towards the marsh.
 - D. All of the above.



MARSH



Figure 3: River otter

Questions 6 – 9 are about **human impact on the environment**. Please choose the **BEST** response to each multiple choice question.

6. What are some ways that humans can positively impact their watershed?
 - A. Reduce, reuse, and recycle
 - B. Conserve water
 - C. Plant trees
 - D. All of the above

7. Which type of waste contributes to the polluting of our water?
 - A. Dog waste
 - B. Recycling
 - C. Over fertilization of lawns
 - D. A and C

8. Roberto is going to visit the Peace River/Lake Hancock Watershed with his class. He knows that the Peace River Watershed is made up of miles of wetlands. He also knows that humans have changed a big portion of the Peace River Watershed. Which of the following is the **MOST** important reason the Peace River Watershed is an important wetland system.
 - A. The Peace River Watershed provides numerous undiscovered fossils for scientists to study.
 - B. The Peace River Watershed is the only place in Florida that the Florida black bear can live.
 - C. The water in the Peace River Watershed is an important spot for humpback whales.
 - D. The Peace River Watershed provides key habitat for several species and acts as a filter for the water that flows through it.

9. With all of the water on Earth, water is a limited resource.
 - A. TRUE
 - B. FALSE



Question 10 is about the **seasons of Florida**. Please choose the **BEST** response to the multiple choice question below.

10. If we came on a field studies program at a different season, we would see the same exact birds, mammals, water levels, water temperature and air temperature.
 - A. TRUE
 - B. FALSE

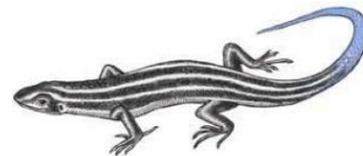


Figure 4: Southern five-lined skink

ANSWER KEY

1. C
2. D
3. B
4. D
5. D
6. D
7. D
8. D
9. A
10. B