

Animals of the Everglades

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The reason I wanted to write about Everglades' animals was because I watched a video of sea creatures and decided that it was important to share what I watched.

I decided to twist my article from fiction to nonfiction because it was when I enrolled into the



Young Journalist Program that I learned how to research and then I found this topic. I found it interesting and decided to write about animals from the Everglades. Also, in our class we read about Marjorie Stoneman Douglas and how she saved the Everglades.

There are many wonderful places in the world like the

Amazon Rainforest in South America and Tongass National Park in Juneau, Alaska. The Everglades is one of them, housing 1301 species of animals. I will be sharing what I found out about some of these Everglades animals.

The largest animal is the American alligator. The most endangered being the American panther.

The American alligator lives in southern America. They were once on the brink of extinction.

They can grow up to ten to fifteen feet long and weigh up to 1,000 pounds. These animals/reptiles are most likely to be seen in Florida or in Louisiana. They live in lakes and swamps and ponds in the Everglades. These animals/reptiles are clumsy on land in the everglades but not in the water, as these reptiles are built for the water. They have webbed feet for swimming through the water. They also have strong tails. Male American alligators can be from 3 meters to 5 meters, although that is from its humongous tail. Their tail is responsible for half of its length, which could be five to seven five feet long. Although females are usually smaller, females may look ferocious but they're loving mothers. They protect their young from predators until they can fend for themselves.

Moving along to the Florida panther. The Florida panther is the largest cat species in North America. Their fur is normally silver to grey or reddish brown, but sometimes their fur is black or

albino. Males are usually bigger than females. Male panthers are 2 meters long. Female panthers are 1.8 meters long though. Male panthers are 100-148 pounds. Female panthers are only 65-100 pounds. That is 48 pounds lower than the average weight of male panthers. The Florida panther's life span is ten years or more. The Florida panther is on the brink of extinction. There are 30-50 Florida panthers alive today.

Next is the Florida black bear. The Florida black bear can weigh 300 pounds normally but could weigh 500 pounds irregularly. These animals have sharp claws that are good for climbing. They are the largest land mammals and are omnivores; eating food of both plant and animal origin, living in isolated subpopulations.

Florida black bears have adapted to the specific climate of the Everglades that other bears cannot stand. Multiple things are hurting the Florida bear's populations. They are losing 20 acres (about the area of Chicago's Millennium Park) of their land and more than 100 bears die in car accidents each year.

Then there is the bald eagle. The bald eagle's wingspan is seven feet long. Their body is 34-43 inches long. They usually are 6.5-14 pounds. The bald eagle only lives in North America near rivers, lakes, marshes, and coasts where they can find a food source.



Bald eagles may gather up into groups of four hundred eagles. They are monogamous, which means once they find a partner, they will stick with them unless they do get widowed or left behind by their partner. In that case, they will find another mate.

A female bald eagle will lay two to three eggs in a nest and incubate them for 34-36 days. They can live for 28 years in the wild and 36 years in captivity. The bald eagle once almost went extinct due to being hunted excessively.

Now that you know a bit more about the Everglades animals, I will end it here. I did this article, so you have more information on the Everglades and what special animals it beholds in its vast majority of land. The Everglades is an important piece of land to many animals that may have gone extinct without it.

SOURCES: nationalgeographic.com, evergladesholidaypark.com, seaworld.org, and livescience.com