



explore the

Everglades



Audubon
FLORIDA

go on a coloring journey through the Everglades to discover its four major ecosystems, its cool birds and animals and become an Everglades Explorer!

Lake Okeechobee



Central Everglades



Big Cypress Swamp



Florida Bay Estuary



Lake Okeechobee Watershed

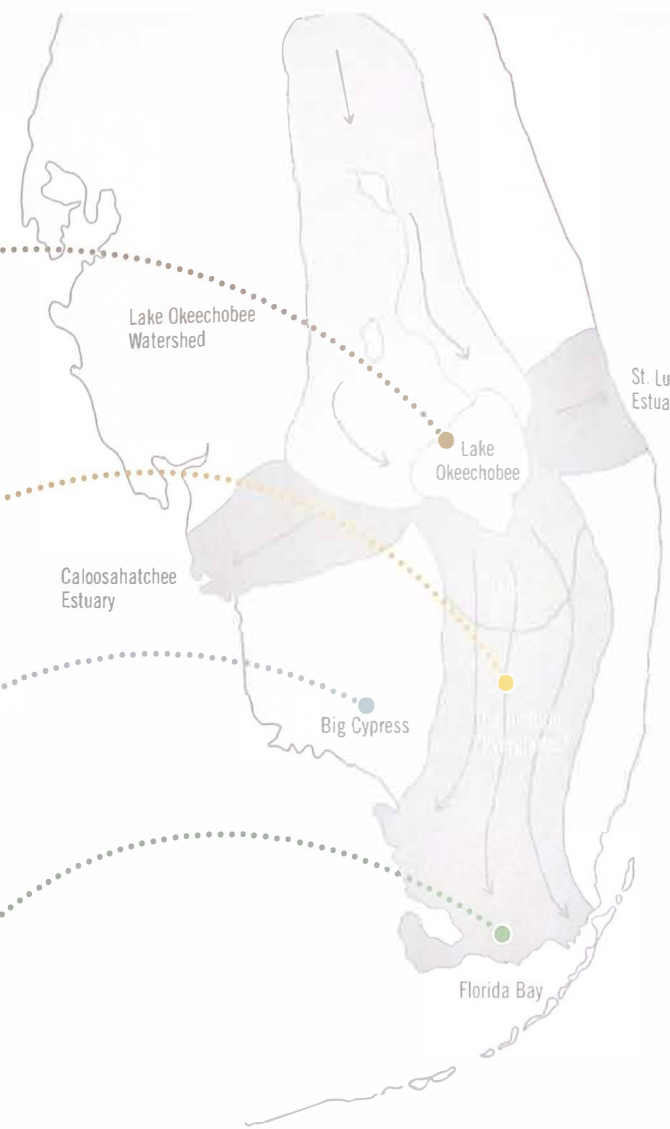
Caloosahatchee Estuary

Big Cypress

Florida Bay

St. Lucie Estuary

Lake Okeechobee



Calling all Everglades Explorers!

Home to snail kites, alligators, Florida panthers and bright pink roseate spoonbills, there is no other natural place in the world like the Everglades. Its sawgrass, tree islands, cypress and mangrove forests are special because when the right amount of freshwater flows through them during the right times of year, plants are nourished and healthy habitats are created for the birds and animals that live there. To protect the Everglades and keep its animals healthy, Audubon Florida is working to make sure the water is clean and flows naturally from Lake Okeechobee south through sawgrass and tree islands, east through the Big Cypress Swamp, and finally into Florida Bay.



Lake Okeechobee

Home to the endangered snail kite—which only eats snails—this lake is the largest in Florida and the second largest freshwater lake in the United States. Its freshwater nourishes the Everglades, supplies water for farming and drinking water for people. We must clean up pollution in the Lake to keep the Everglades and people healthy.



Central Everglades

Called the River of Grass and home to alligators, wading birds and many fish and other animals, the central Everglades is a slow-flowing river that runs from Lake Okeechobee south to Florida Bay. Along the way, tree islands rise up higher than the surrounding sawgrass wetlands and provide dryer habitat for wildlife.

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Big Cypress Swamp

The Big Cypress Swamp borders the River of Grass in southwest Florida. Here cypress trees grow in wet areas and pine forests in dry areas. This ecosystem is also called the Western Everglades and is home to the endangered Florida panther and wood storks as well as lots of interesting plants, flowers and other animals like otters and bears.

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Florida Bay Estuary

Freshwater from the Everglades eventually flows into Florida Bay. An estuary is where freshwater mixes with saltwater. Here, plants called mangroves grow out of the water on branches that look like stilts and pink roseate spoonbills fish for food with their spoon-shaped bill. Eventually water from the Florida Bay estuary makes its way to Florida's coral reefs.



.....
your name



FLORIDA

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Congratulations, **Everglades Explorer** for completing your coloring journey through these four major ecosystems! We hope you discovered some of what makes the Florida Everglades and its plants and animals so special.

Credits | Audubon Florida

Design and Production Franz Franc Design Group | Map by Laurie Freeman-Gray Photos | Snail Kite photo courtesy of Mike Tracy | Alligator photo courtesy of Rod Wiley | Panther photo courtesy of George Gentry/USFWS | Roseate Spoonbill photo courtesy of Rod Wiley

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