



Ted Alejandre, County Superintendent

San Bernardino County  
Superintendent of Schools  
*Transforming lives through education*



**Monday, June 29**  
**12:00pm**

**Nature, "Wild Florida"**  
**4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grades.**

Florida is home to beaches, coral reefs, pine forests and the famous Everglades wetland, but a growing human population and abandoned exotic pets like pythons are threatening this wild paradise. Can Florida's ecosystems continue to weather the storm?

**After watching this episode, choose from the following questions and/or tasks to extend your learning**

**Question Box 1**

- What does biodiverse mean?
- Describe the unique habitats found in Florida.
- How are humans responsible for putting these habitats in danger?
- What role do exotic animals play in threatening this paradise? Explain in detail and give an example.
- How much water is found in the everglades? Write a list of animals that live there.
- Describe the "dry season" in the wetlands.
- How is the freshwater of the everglades under "serious attack" by humans?
- Describe how pythons have impacted the food chain in the everglades.
- What is being done to correct this problem?
- What's the problem in the Apalachicola region of Florida's panhandle? What causes it?
- How does nature attack these various habitats?
- According to the video, what problems are exotic pets causing in Florida.

**Question Box 2**

- Which is causing more destruction to the unique biospheres in Florida man or nature? Write an argumentative essay justifying your opinion. Provide evidence to support your thinking.
- Take a virtual field trip to get an understanding of the wildlife in Florida to help you form your opinion. Visit the Alligator and Spoonbill live cam - St. Augustine, Florida at <https://explore.org/livecams/spoonbills/alligator-spoonbill-swamp-cam>
- What do you want to learn more about this topic, and why?
- What in the program made you curious? Explain.
- What did you learn from the program?
- Do you prefer to work independently or collaboratively with others? Why?

***Continued on the next page...***



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### **Box 3 (Tasks)**

- Make a map of Florida and label the different ecosystems.
- Visit the CA Science Center to learn more about ecosystems and watch the videos:  
<https://californiasciencecenter.org/exhibits/ecosystems>

### **Box 4 (Enrichment)**

- Define “invasive species” and describe an invasive species around your home.
- Research and describe some of the steps taken to deal with invasive species in Florida at <https://www.nps.gov/ever/learn/nature/nonnativespecies.htm>
- Research and describe some of the steps taken to get rid of invasive species in California.

### **Box 5 (Extend/Real-Life)**

- Research and describe one step you can do to keep invasive species out of California.
- Create an ecosystem in your backyard for butterflies, lizards or another animal of your choosing. Or design it virtually!
- Explore the different ecosystems in San Bernardino and Riverside County and/or all of California. Create a map or infographic illustrating the different ecosystems (add some of the plants and animals that live in these ecosystems)