



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

## Target Lesson: Cause and Effect with “Getting Started on Saving the Everglades”

### PART 2: Intro Video

**Directions:** Watch the video to learn about cause and effect.

<i>Optional Note-taking Space</i>

**PART 3: Today's Target - Cause and Effect**

Today we will be on the lookout for causes and effects of changes in the Everglades.



Causes



Effects

## PART 4: Reading and Questions

Directions: Read the text and answer the questions.

# Getting Started on Saving the Everglades

by Meg Chorliane

[1] Sometimes we only appreciate something when we realize we may lose it. That is the story of the Everglades. A shallow slow-moving river, the Everglades once covered about 18,000 square miles of southern Florida. Until the 1900s, few people lived in the grassy wetlands.<sup>1</sup> Not much was understood about the unique balance of nature that existed there. Plants, creatures, and water had formed a remarkable ecosystem.<sup>2</sup>

[2] South Florida has two seasons — a dry season and a wet season. During the wet season from April to November, rain historically saturated<sup>3</sup> the land. It also filled Lake Okeechobee in central Florida. When it rained a lot, the lake overflowed its southern banks. It created sheet flow. Sheet flow is water flowing in a thin layer over the landscape. In this case, the water traveled slowly southward over Florida’s flat limestone shelf to Florida Bay.

[3] By the early 1900s, Florida’s pleasant winters attracted more people. Visitors became new permanent residents. They built homes and roads. The conditions looked good for farming, so the newcomers planted large agricultural<sup>4</sup> crops. But South Florida’s cycle of flooding was a problem. To address that, developers attempted to drain the land. They also built structures to control water levels and flow.

### Paragraphs 2

1. **CAUSE:** What caused the Everglades to be filled with water?

- A. Lake Okeechobee overflowed in the rainy season.
- B. Ocean water flooded the area during large storms.
- C. People who moved to the area used too much water.
- D. The wildlife living in the area splashed water onto the shores.

### Paragraph 3

2. **CAUSE:** What caused developers to drain the land and control water flow?

**Complete the sentence in the box below:** Developers drained the land and controlled water flow because...

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<sup>1</sup> a land or areas covered in shallow water

<sup>2</sup> a physical environment and the creatures that live in it

<sup>3</sup> to thoroughly soak

<sup>4</sup> related to farming

[4] Those changes made it easier for more people to live year-round in South Florida. They also disrupted life in the Everglades. The Everglades depends on freshwater regularly replenishing<sup>5</sup> the land. But the area’s growing human population needed freshwater, too. And large farms consumed<sup>6</sup> large quantities of freshwater. By the mid-1900s, Lake Okeechobee did not collect enough water to overflow and form sheet flow. Water levels in southern Florida began to shrink. A few new residents saw the Everglades as more than a vast marshland.<sup>7</sup> They saw that the Everglades was being harmed. Lack of freshwater wasn’t the only problem. As more and more land was developed for people and farms, the Everglades’ historic boundaries shrank. Loss of habitat and hunting threatened the survival of native species<sup>8</sup> in the Everglades.

[5] In the early 1900s, the federal government had set aside large natural spaces in the West as public parks. Some people hoped that federal recognition might save the Everglades. They fought for it. Everglades National Park was established in 1947. It is the largest wilderness area east of the Mississippi River. It became the first park in the United States created for its biodiversity.<sup>9</sup>

[6] Today, people understand that the changes made to the land nearly 100 years ago are jeopardizing<sup>10</sup> the Everglades’ future. Some things cannot be reversed. Six million people live in South Florida today. Major agricultural crops such as sugar cane and citrus fruits grow there. Still, a 40-year plan was enacted in 2000 to restore some of the natural flow of freshwater to southern Florida.

<sup>5</sup> **Replenish (verb)** to fill something up again

<sup>6</sup> to use up a resource

<sup>7</sup> an area of land that is flooded during rainy seasons and remains wet

<sup>8</sup> plants or animals that grow or are born in a specific area

<sup>9</sup> An environment with many different types of plants and animals

<sup>10</sup> **Jeopardize (verb)** to put something or someone at risk

#### Paragraph 4

3. **EFFECT:** What was the effect on the Everglades of more people living near it?

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#### Paragraph 5

4. **EFFECT:** What was the effect of people fighting for the Everglades?

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[7] Everglades National Park protects 1.5 million acres along the southern tip of Florida. The site appears to be mostly marshy and flat. Yet, that description is deceiving.<sup>11</sup> An amazing variety of creatures live there. About 360 different species of birds have been sighted in the park. Nearly 300 different species of fish have been identified. About 40 species of mammals and 50 species of reptiles inhabit the park. Nature still rules in the Everglades. It remains a place that seems naturally wild. A place worth understanding, appreciating, and protecting.

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<sup>11</sup> **Deceive (verb)** to cause someone to believe something that is not true

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## PART 5: Assessment

**Directions:** Answer the questions.

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. How has understanding the Everglades' problems affected its future?

- A. People realize the damage to the Everglades cannot be fixed, so they want to drain the water to use for drinking.
- B. People realize damage to the Everglades can be fixed, so they want to use the land to grow sugar cane and citrus fruits.
- C. People realize some damage to the Everglades can be fixed, so they are working to help improve water flow in the area.
- D. People realize some damage to the Everglades can be fixed, so elementary schools in Florida will teach about ways to protect the area.

2. How have people's actions changed the Everglades?

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