



Fantasy Theatre Factory

Presents



The Never Everglades



Teacher Guidelines

Get ready for wild adventure in this original conservation comedy about protecting the environment. The Florida Everglades are in danger and it's up to goofy young Flown Ranger Dudley R. Spoonbill to save his bird friends from danger as they migrate south for the winter. Dudley must use Florida's natural resources and landmarks to guide the flock. There's just one problem: the Three Little Pigs are tearing down the Everglades as fast as they can! Dudley's hilarious adventures in the Everglades bring him face to face with all sorts of far out fairy tale characters who lost their homes thanks to the destructive pigs. Dudley must use every ounce of determination and cunning to outsmart the swine and save the Everglades homes of his friends and lead hundreds of birds to safety.



How to Use the Teacher Guidelines

These Teacher Guidelines provide activities that relate to the themes of *Never Everglades* for use in your classroom before and after the show. The activities below incorporate Florida Sunshine State Standards in the area of Science, both Pre K through 2nd grade and 3rd through 5th grade. Fantasy Theatre Factory also offers additional workshops on using drama-across-the-curriculum in the classroom.

BEFORE THE PLAY



Class Discussion

1. *What do the terms "Play" and "Live Theatre" mean?*
2. *Are there different kinds or styles of theatre? How can we tell the difference?*
3. *How is live theatre different from TV or the movies?*

(Answers may vary)

- Live theatre cannot be stopped to re-shoot a scene or fix mistakes.
- Live theatre involves the audience.
- The actors on stage can hear the audience!

Teacher Guidelines also available at www.ftfshows.com



4. *What is an audience?*

- What is the audience's job?
- How should an audience behave?

5. *What is an Actor? Can you name any actors?*

- An actor is someone who makes what is not real seem real.

Activity: "The Changing Play"

- Have the class sit as though they were a grown up audience watching a play.
- Have them change their reactions as the imaginary play changes from comedy, drama, horror, musical etc.
- Ask the class to pretend to be a bad audience that is distracting and impolite. Then ask them to behave correctly.
- Discuss the difference and create a plan together for appropriate theatre behavior.

Sunshine State Standards Addressed:

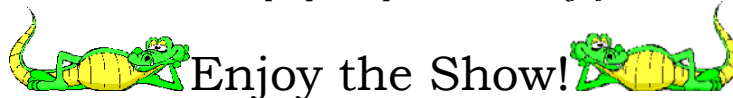
Kindergarten:

TH.K.S.1.In.a Imitate an audience response to a theatrical production.

1st Grade:

TH.1.S.1.In.a Identify audience behavior required to attend a theatrical performance.

TH.1.H.1.In.b Demonstrate how people respond to a variety of events.



The Florida Everglades

Information From The National Wildlife Foundation & The National Park Service

The Everglades is known as The River of Grass, a broad sheet of slowly moving water, 50 miles wide and two feet deep, that flows from its headwaters in central Florida to the Florida Keys and the Gulf of Mexico through the largest concentration of saw grass in the world.

But the Everglades is more than just a vast expanse of water and grass. It is a complex and diverse collection of distinct habitats that each support their own communities of Wildlife.

The Everglades is one of America's greatest but most imperiled natural treasures, home to a vast community of wildlife, and a critical water resource for Florida. Once a healthy eight-million acre "river of grass," the Everglades has been reduced to half its original size by a century of agricultural growth, urban sprawl and unwise water management.



The Roseate Spoonbill (Our Hero!)

From the Jr. Audubon Society

Gorgeous at a distance, bizarre up close, Roseate spoonbills are as interesting as they are spectacular to see. With slightly greenish bald head and large spatula-like bill, these water birds give a strangely reptilian impression.

Watching them feed is even more engaging. Foraging mostly by feel, birds immerse their "spoon" bills into the water, bills slightly open, and swing their heads in wide arcs from side to side. Shrimp, water bugs and beetles, small fish and other aquatic invertebrates are encountered under the water and consumed with gusto. In fact, the pink coloration of the birds' feathers is enhanced by the shellfish on which they feed. And as if pure pink were not enough, during the breeding season, both males and females assume a more brilliant look. Scarlet splashes on the wings become more brighter, tail feathers turn a deeper orange, and remaining body feathers get pinker than pink.

Roseate Spoonbill Statistics:

- Overall length: 32 inches
- Large spatula-like bill
- Looks similar to the flamingo with a greenish bald head
- Feeds on shrimp, water bugs and beetles, and small fish

AFTER THE PLAY



Activity: "Mapping A Flight Plan"

"Never Everglades" is a comedy adventure set in the Florida Everglades, which cover a large portion of the state.

- 1) Identify the Florida on a map of the United States, then identify Everglades national park on a map of Florida.
- 2) Ask the students to locate the migration landmarks for which Dudley searched. (Lake Okeechobee, Groves of trees, Hammocks, The Eco Pond)
- 3) Ask Students to map a safe route from Central Florida to the Eco pond for Dudley and his bird friends. Pin point safe nest stop areas too.

Discussion - *What other things do birds use to find their migratory paths?*

Sunshine State Standards Addressed:

Kindergarten:

SS.K.G.1.In.d Recognize a water feature on a map or globe.

SS.K.G.3.In.a Recognize basic landforms, such as hills and forests.

1st Grade:

SS.1.G.1.In.d Identify land and water on a map and globe, such as by using the color key—blue is water, and green/brown is land.



Activity: “The Ecology Game”

- 1) Encourage students to name as many wild animals and plants using specific names and descriptions. Explain that everything in nature lives in perfect symbiosis with everything else. Each organism depends on others for survival; this is called the ecology.
- 2) Ask the class to connect the animals, plants, and insects together in mutually beneficial “ecology relationships”

EXAMPLES:

- TREES are home to many BIRDS who eat and gather seeds dropping them all around where they grow into more TREES!
- TREES grow emitting precious oxygen for HUMANS to breathe - HUMANS exhale carbon dioxide which is used by TREES to grow!

Discussion Questions:

What happens to all when one of the pieces in the circle is missing?

Why must we protect these natural creatures and plants?

Sunshine State Standards Addressed:

1st Grade:

SC.1.L.17.In.a Observe and recognize that plants and animals need water and food.

4th Grade:

SC.4.L.16.Su.a Recognize that many flowering plants grow from their own seeds.

SC.4.L.17.In.b Recognize that animals cannot make their own food and they must eat plants or other animals to survive.



Activity: Making Milk Jug Bird Feeders

Birds depend on humans to protect trees and wetlands like the Everglades. Discuss the importance of *reducing*, *reusing*, and *recycling* and effects on the environment. The following project is one way to re-use hazardous plastic products and give our bird neighbors a treat!

Step One: Collect environmentally unfriendly milk jugs - wash them well!

Step Two: Cut away holes the size of apples in the center on two sides. (Leave the handle in tact)

Step Three: Insert a straw, dowel or pencil just below the cut holes and secure with tape inside.

Step Four: Have fun decorating the new bird feeders (remember, it might get wet!)

Step Five: Fill bird feeders up to the holes with quality bird seed
(Check with a professional seed store to find out which variety is best for birds in your area.) Hang the feeder by the handle near a window so you can watch the



birds--enjoy!

Variations:

- You can reuse many kinds of containers for this project - juice cartons and Pringles potato chip containers work great! (Just add a pipe cleaner to the top for hanging.)
- Ask students to design their own feeders from various discarded household containers.
- Keep track of all the birds that visit the feeders - are any of them migrating?

Sunshine State Standards Addressed:

4th Grade:

SC.4.L.17.Su.c Recognize ways that people can help improve the environment, such as cleaning up trash.



VOCABULARY

Conservation: The controlled use and systematic protection of natural resources.

Ecology: The relationship between organisms and their environment.

Environment: Surroundings

Everglade: A tract of submerged swampland.

Habitat: The area or natural environment in which an organism normally lives or grows.

Migration: To move regularly from one region and settle in another.

Wetlands: A lowland area, as a marsh, that is saturated with moisture.

WHERE TO LEARN MORE

Birds Visit the Junior Audubon Society at www.Audubon.org

Florida Everglades Visit the historical museum of South Florida at www.Historical-museum.org

Ecology and Conservation -- Visit the National Wildlife Federation at www.Nwf.org

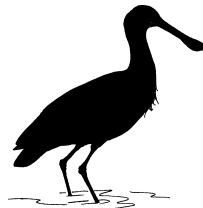
Re-cycling with Kids Crafts -- Visit KD craft exchange at www.kidsdomain.com/craft



The Roseate Spoonbill Fun Facts

Here are some fun facts about this unique species.

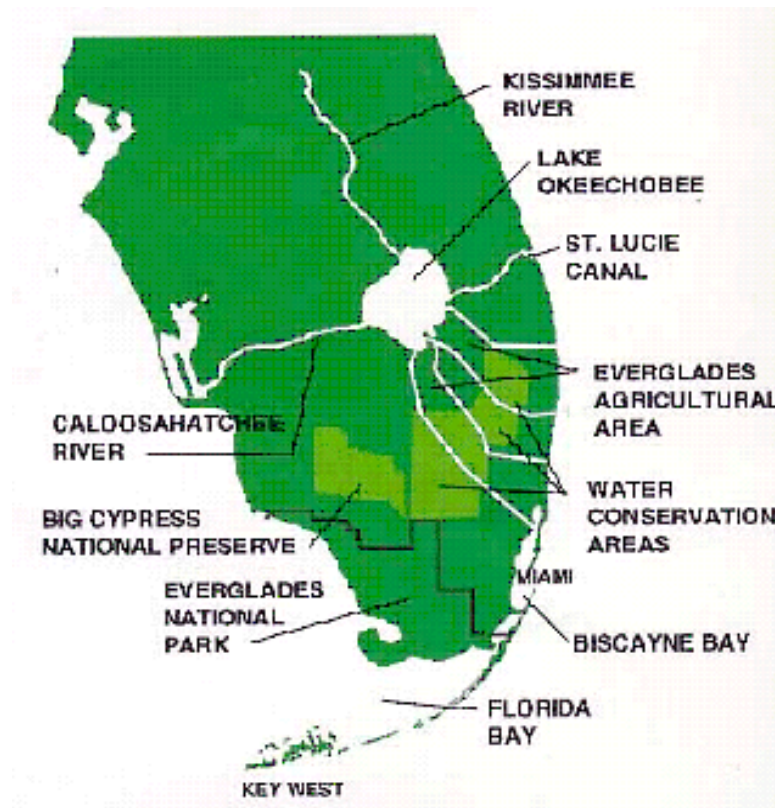
1. The collective noun for spoonbills is *bowl*. Have you ever seen a bowl of Roseate Spoonbills?
2. Roseate Spoonbills get their pink color from their food! They feed on crustaceans who in turn have fed on algae.
3. In parts of their range, especially in Florida, Roseate Spoonbills are sometimes confused with another large pink wading bird: the flamingo.
4. There are six species of spoonbill in the world; the Roseate Spoonbill is the only one with pink plumage.
5. The Roseate Spoonbill is also the only spoonbill species found in the Americas.
6. The beaks of chick spoonbills are straight; the spoon-shape grows as the chick develops.
7. Spoonbills use their specialized bills to feed. They sweep their open bills through the water, and when a prey item like a fish or insect comes between the mandibles, the bill snaps shut.
8. The oldest wild Roseate Spoonbill was discovered in the Florida Keys in 2006. The bird had been banded in 1990, and was an amazing 16 years old. The previous known longevity record for the species was seven years.
9. Roseate Spoonbills are highly social. They feed with each other and with other wading birds. They also nest in colonies and fly in flocks.





About Fantasy Theatre Factory

Fantasy Theatre Factory is a professional *touring* theatre created in New York in 1977, by **Ed Allen** and **Mimi Schultz**, performing artists and teachers. We present theatre for family audiences. Our 14 touring shows appeal to pre-school, elementary, family, adult and senior audiences. Our shows cover themes of: Children's Literature, Reading, Ecology, Social Service, Black history, Dance, English, and Music. We perform in rural and inner city schools, theatre, parks, hospitals, community centers, reaching over 150,000 people each year. Our mission is to make more quality theatre programs available to more people.





 **The Never Everglades** 

Teacher Evaluation

Fantasy Theatre Factory is always evolving and growing, and we count on feedback from you, teachers, administrators, and students to help us move in directions where there is need. We would especially like to know which elements of the program were of value, interest, and significance to you and your students. What do your students remember most about the performance? Are there other books/stories that you would like to see offered through our In-school programs for future years? Please take a moment to fill in this evaluation:

School _____ **Grade Level** _____
Name, Position _____
Date of Performance _____ **Location** _____
How did you hear about us? _____
Your Comments:

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this form. Furthermore, we welcome letters, essays, and drawings from your students. Please enclose them and return to:

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The Never Everglades



We love fan mail! Let us know your favorite part and how much you enjoyed the show. You can even draw a picture. We cannot wait to hear from you!

Dear Fantasy Theatre Factory,

Your Friend,

School:

Show:

Teacher:

Date: