



## Reptiles of the Swamp...

Probably the most noticeable animal within the Everglades and the Big Cypress Swamp is the American alligator. This large reptile is commonly seen during the winter dry seasons when water is scarce.

Other reptiles include snakes, crocodillians, skinks, geckos, turtles and lizards. Reptiles are animals that have scales and breath air. Many of the species classified in this group lay eggs.

These animals are often misunderstood and feared. However, they play a vital role in the environment. For example, if it were not for alligators making “gator holes” many species that depend on water would perish during South Florida’s dry season.



Compare the American crocodile photo (above) with the American alligator photo (cover page). Can you discern the differences in appearance?

Scientific Name

### CROCODILIANS

#### Alligators

— American alligator

*Alligator Mississippiensis*

Also known as: Florida, Louisiana, or Mississippi alligator, gator

#### Crocodiles

— American crocodile

*Crocodylus acutus*

Also known as: Caiman de la costa, cocodrilo de tumbes, Central American alligator, cocodrilo, lagarto

## Watching wildlife the responsible way...

The thrill of watching a wild animal in its native surroundings is spectacular and awe inspiring. While visiting Big Cypress National Preserve, or any other natural area, remember:

- All wildlife is wild and unpredictable. Stay a safe distance from any wild animal —15 feet is recommended.
- View wildlife with respect.
- Never feed wildlife.
- All plants and animals within national park areas are protected, it is illegal to collect any wildlife without special permits.

## How You Behave Can Save Do Not Feed or Harass Wildlife



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA!

# Big Cypress Reptiles



**TURTLES, TORTOISES, TERRAPINS****Snapping turtles**

\_\_\_ Florida snapping turtle

*Chelydra serpentina osceola*

**Small Turtles**

\_\_\_ Striped mud turtle

*Kinosternon baurii*

\_\_\_ Florida mud turtle

*Kinosternon subrubrum steindachneri*

\_\_\_ Common musk turtle

*Sternotherus odoratus*

**Box and water turtles**

\_\_\_ Peninsula cooter

*Pseudemys floridana peninsularis*

\_\_\_ Florida red-bellied turtle

*Pseudemys nelsoni*

\_\_\_ Florida chicken turtle

*Deirochelys reticularia chrysea*

\_\_\_ Florida box turtle

*Terrapene carolina bauri*

**Tortoises**

\_\_\_ Gopher tortoise

*Gopherus polyphemus*

**Softshelled Turtles**

\_\_\_ Florida softshell turtle

*Apalone ferox*

**LIZARDS****Geckos**

\_\_\_ Indo-Pacific gecko\*

*Hemidactylus garnotii*

\_\_\_ Mediterranean gecko\*

*Hemidactylus turcicus turcicus*

\_\_\_ Cosmopolitan house gecko\*

*Hemidactylus mabouia*

**Anoles**

\_\_\_ Green anole

*Anolis carolinensis*

\_\_\_ Brown anole\*

*Anolis sagrei*

**Iguanas**

\_\_\_ Green iguana\*

*Iguana iguana*

**Skinks**

\_\_\_ Southeastern five-lined skink

*Eumeces inexpectatus*

\_\_\_ Ground skink

*Scincella lateralis*

reptile name\* = introduced species

**SCALED REPTILES****Legless Lizards**

\_\_\_ Slender glass lizard

*Ophisaurus attenuatus*

\_\_\_ Island glass lizard

*Ophisaurus compressus*

\_\_\_ Eastern glass lizard

*Ophisaurus ventralis*

**Snakes**

\_\_\_ Burmese python\*

*Python molurus bivittatus*

\_\_\_ Florida scarlet snake

*Cemophora coccinea coccinea*

\_\_\_ Everglades racer, black racer

*Coluber constrictor paludicola*

\_\_\_ Southern ringneck snake

*Diadophis punctatus punctatus*

\_\_\_ Eastern inidgo snake

*Drymarchon corais couperi*

\_\_\_ Corn snake

*Elaphe guttata guttata*

\_\_\_ Yellow rat snake

*Elaphe obsoleta quadrivittata*

\_\_\_ Everglades rat snake

*Elaphe obsoleta rossalleni*

\_\_\_ Eastern mud snake

*Farancia abacura abacura*

\_\_\_ Eastern hog-nosed snake

*Heterodon platirhinos*

\_\_\_ Florida kingsnake

*Lampropeltis getula floridana*

\_\_\_ Eastern kingsnake

*Lampropeltis getula getula*

\_\_\_ Scarlet kingsnake

*Lampropeltis triangulum elapsoides*

\_\_\_ Eastern coachwhip

*Masticophis flagellum flagellum*

\_\_\_ Florida green water snake

*Nerodia floridana*

\_\_\_ Mangrove salt marsh snake

*Nerodia clarkii compressicauda*

\_\_\_ Brown water snake

*Nerodia taxispilota*

\_\_\_ Rough green snake

*Opheodrys aestivus*

\_\_\_ Striped crayfish snake

*Regina alleni*

\_\_\_ South Florida swamp snake

*Seminatrix pygaea cyclas*

\_\_\_ Florida brown snake

*Storeria dekayi victa*

\_\_\_ Peninsula ribbon snake

*Thamnophis sauritus sackenii*

\_\_\_ Common garter snake

*Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis*

**Elapids *Venomous***

\_\_\_ Eastern coral snake

*Micrurus fulvius fulvius*

**Vipers *Venomous***

\_\_\_ Dusky pigmy rattlesnake

*Sistrurus miliarius barbouri*

\_\_\_ Eastern diamondback rattlesnake

*Crotalus adamanteus*

\_\_\_ Florida cottomouth

*Agkistrodon piscivorus conanti*

**Blind snakes**

\_\_\_ Brahminy blind snake\*

*Rhynchophis brahinus*

**Reptiles of Big Cypress...**

Left to right: Peninsula cooter (*Pseudemys floridana peninsularis*); corn snake (*Elaphe guttata*), scarlet kingsnake (*Lampropeltis triangulum elapsoides*); Eastern coral snake (*Micrurus fulvius fulvius*)

