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The Florida Everglades: The Once and Future (?) River of Grass

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The Florida Everglades: The Once and Future (?) River of Grass

Grade Level: 6

Purpose/Overview:
This lesson focuses on the history of human-environment interactions in the Florida Everglades region since the late 19th century. The long-term effects of these interactions are discussed and evaluated.

National Geography Standards from *Geography for Life*
Geographic Elements & Standards:
1) Environment & Society

Oklahoma Academic Standards for the Social Studies:

OAS 2012	OAS 2019
Content Standard 5.3: Evaluate the ***effects of human modification of and adaptation to the natural environment.***	**6.4.2** Evaluate the effects of human modification on the natural environment through transformation caused by subsistence and commercial agriculture, industry, demand for energy, and urbanization.

Geographic Themes:
Human-Environmental Interaction

Objectives:

1. What **key topic/issue**(s) is/are associated with this lesson/unit?
   A: An understanding of how human-environment interactions have effected the Florida Everglades
2. **What should students know** after this lesson/unit?
   A. They should understand how the current environmental problems in the Everglades have developed over time and how effective human modifications of the natural environment in this region have been.
3. **How will students apply** this lesson/unit **content**?
   A. Students should be able to apply the critical lens they develop in this lesson to other examples of human-environment interaction to determine winner and losers (if any) and how effective those interactions are

Materials:

- Computer/LCD projector

- Colored pencils
- Handout of blank Florida map
- Handout of Everglades Human-Environment Interactions
- Ruler
- Atlas

Time Frame: 45 minutes

Procedures:

- Teacher will begin with passing out the two handouts, colored pencils, rulers, and atlases
- Teacher will begin the Florida Everglades: The Once and Future (?) River of Grass PowerPoint
- Students will complete the activities that are labeled within the PowerPoint
- After the PowerPoint is completed, the teacher will lead a class discussion on the questions in corresponding handout

Assessment Options:

The best way to gauge if students have learned the intended objectives would be a performanced-based assessment. There are many online resources with more information about the Florida Everglades, its environmental problems, and current restoration efforts. Have students complete a research project to delve further into some of the aspects mentioned in this lesson.

Extension and Enrichment:

For gifted students, doing a book report on some chapters from "The Everglades: River of Grass" by Marjory Stoneman Douglas, or even on the entire book if the student is interested, would be a good way to both challenge the student and potentially further their interest in this subject.