

South Florida Ecosystems

Visit the link (<https://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/southflorida/home/>) to learn about South Florida's aquatic ecosystems. You can search by habitats and regions.

Your TA will pick an ecosystem for you (e.g., mangrove, coastal prairies, estuarine waters, seagrasses, hardwood hammocks...). Fill out the questionnaire using the website and other web resources. Prepare to briefly discuss your results.

I. TYPE OF ECOSYSTEM: _____

II. LIMITING FACTORS AND HABITATS:

A. Describe the physical environment:

B. Describe the biological environment:

C. Describe any instances of competition between species for light, space and/or water:

D. Find a moist, shady, cool habitat. Record the life forms you find there:

E. Find a dry, sunny, warm habitat. Record the life forms you find there:

F. Are there different organisms for each habitat? Explain:

G. Was any organism found in both habitats? Explain:

III. FOOD RELATIONSHIPS:

A. Observe and record three producers, three primary consumers and three secondary consumers:

PRODUCERS

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

1ST CONSUMERS

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

2ND CONSUMERS

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

B. Design a **food web** showing the food relationships between these life forms.

Directions: In paragraph form, address (at minimum) the below questions/topics.

- In a few sentences, what was done in today's lab?
- What was your main take-away?
- What are some key concepts from today's lab that you think might be on your quiz next week?
- Applying knowledge: Look at the map of BBC below. Today we concluded our plunge into "*The Diversity of Life*". For each phyla group we discussed today, discuss their identifying characteristics and list an example specimen from each phyla that we could find in or around BBC. In a few sentences, discuss where on campus you would expect to find the example specimen and why. What are some characteristics of these specimen that would allow them to thrive in those locations?
- Choose one of your listed specimen and create a testable, ecological question that we could investigate on campus. Create a null and alternative hypothesis for this question.

Writing should take about a page (more is ok)

Font: Calibri, 11pt font

Single spaced

1" Margins (except for headers)

