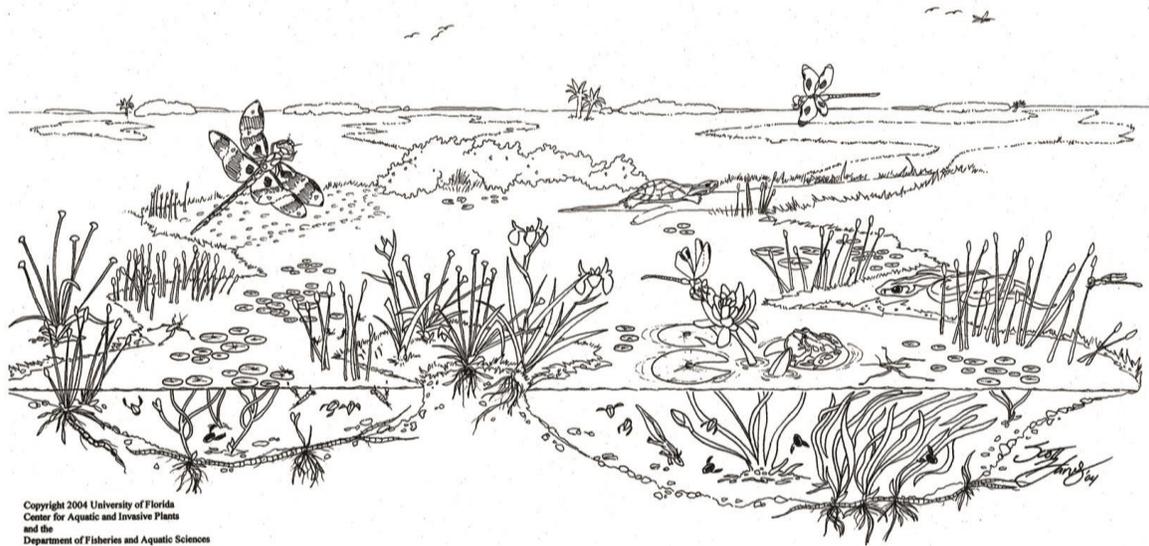# Answer Key - Native Plants Reading Activity

Name: _____ Class Period: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Read the passage and use the information you've learned to answer the questions below in <u>complete sentences</u>.

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There are more than 4000 species of plants found in Florida. About 3,000 of them are **native plants**. A native plant species is one that occurs naturally in an area, ecosystem, or habitat. In general, if a plant was living in Florida before the time of the explorer Christopher Columbus, it is considered native.

Native plants provide food and habitat for native animals and they help stop erosion on shorelines and in fields. Most native plant species grow in balance with other plants in their area. They do not take over because there are natural factors keeping them under control. These factors include bacteria, diseases, and climate (rainfall) and the growth of other native plants. Native animals and insects also eat native plants, which keeps them from becoming too abundant. When plants and animals live in balance there is biodiversity in the habitat. Florida is famous for its biodiversity.

Native Plants Reading Activity (UE) – answer in <u>complete sentences</u>.

1. List three benefits of native plants.

   (Accept any of the following answers.)
   Three benefits of native plants are that they
   - **provide food for animals**
   - **provide habitat for animals**
   - **help stop erosion on shorelines and in fields**
   - **grow in balance and do not take over area**

2. What examples can you find that describe natural factors?

    Natural factors include bacteria, diseases, climate and the growth of other native plants.

3. What would happen to native plants if natural factors were nonexistent?

    Native plants would grow unchecked and take over an area. There would be no balance.

The following is a list of suggested standards that pertain to this activity. This list is provided as a reference to incorporate and expand upon as needed.

Next Generation Sunshine State Standards

4th Grade

SC.4.N.1.4: Recognize ways plants and animals, including humans, can impact the environment.

Common Core State Standards

4th Grade

Common Core Code	FL Common Core Code	Common Core Standard
RI.4.1	LAFS.4.RI.1.1	Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.
RI.4.4	LAFS.4.RI.2.4	Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words or phrases in a text relevant to a grade 4 topic or subject area.
RF.4.3	LAFS.4.RF.3.3	Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words.
RF.4.4	LAFS.4.RF.4.4	Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.
RF.4.4a	LAFS.4.RF.4.4a	Read grade-level text with purpose and understanding.
L.4.4	LAFS.4.L.3.4	Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 4 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.
L.4.6	LAFS.4.L.3.6	Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases, including those that signal precise actions, emotions, or states of being (e.g., quizzed, whined, stammered) and that are basic to a particular topic (e.g., wildlife, conservation, and endangered when discussing animal preservation).

5th Grade

RI.5.1	LAFS.5.RI.1.1	Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.
RI.5.4	LAFS.5.RI.2.4	Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 5 topic or subject area.
RF.5.4	LAFS.5.RF.4.4	Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.

Answer Key - Native Plants Reading Activity

RF.5.4a	LAFS.5.RF.4.4a	Read grade-level text with purpose and understanding.
L.5.4	LAFS.5.L.3.4	Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 5 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.
L.5.6	LAFS.5.L.3.6	Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases, including those that signal contrast, addition, and other logical relationships (e.g., however, although, nevertheless, similarly, moreover, in addition).

Sources:

UF/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants: http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/

Plant Management in Florida Waters: An Integrated Approach: http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/manage/

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