

Science activate: Gator holes

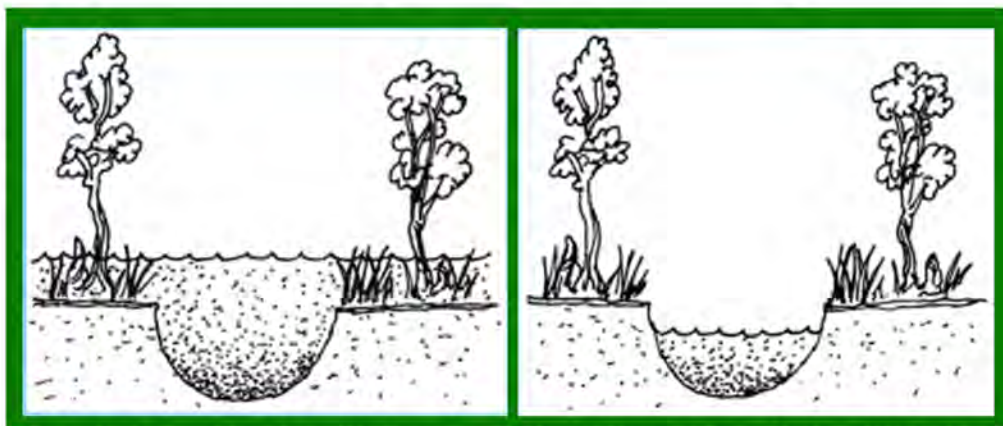


WHAT: Alligators dig holes in wetlands by using their feet, snout, and tail. They also keep the holes from filling in with vegetation. When the water level drops in the dry season from lack of rain, many animals move into the holes to avoid not having deep enough water to live.



WHY: Alligators likely create their holes to stay cool during hot weather, to attract prey, and to have open water for mating.

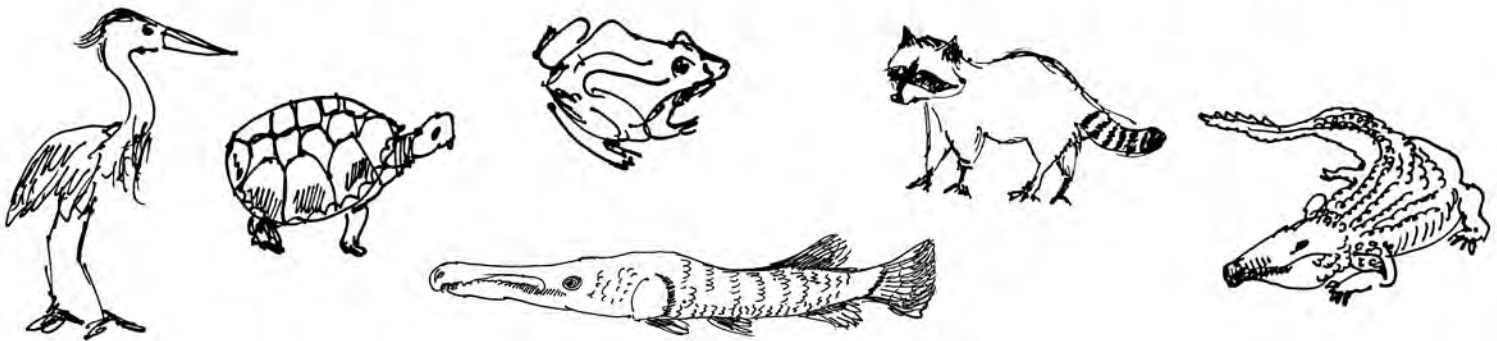
**WET
SEASON
WATER
LEVEL**



**DRY
SEASON
WATER
LEVEL**

Adapted from "Gator Hole Graphics" from Wading Into Wetlands NatureScope, National Wildlife Federation 1989

CIRCLE THE SPECIES THAT BENEFIT FROM ALLIGATOR HOLES:



To learn more about alligators and ecosystem, check out the links below:

Alligator holes benefit Everglades fish, snakes, turtles, birds

<https://earthsky.org/earth/how-alligator-holes-benefit-the-florida-everglades>

Why Should We Care About Alligators?

<https://www.brookfield.k12.oh.us/Downloads/Reinsel%20Go%20Green%20Day%202.pdf>

For questions, e-mail: lili@coralgablesmuseum.org