

# Science activate: Peri-what?

**WHAT:** Periphyton is not an animal nor a plant. It's a community of organisms, all living together.

**HOW:** From the first organism that eats periphyton (SNAILS) to the top of the food web (maybe ALLIGATORS and CROCS), periphyton is the laying foundation of the Everglades food web.

## EVERGLADES GOLD



### DID YOU KNOW?

**Photosynthesis** allows periphyton to release oxygen and remove acid from Florida's limestone bedrock, preventing it from dissolving.

Like a **sponge**, periphyton holds moisture to be used by organisms during dry season; it filters water, and naturally regulates water quality.



To learn more about periphyton visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XNMeYGXKXpc>

**CIRCLE** the creatures that call periphyton home:



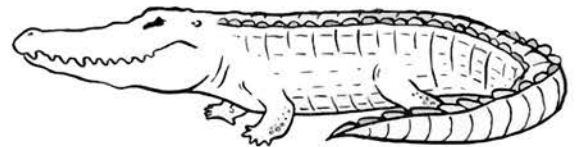
Adult Beetle



Butterfly



Clam or Mussel



Alligator



Water Mite



Gammarus



Snail



Midge Larva

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