

# Who Lives Here?

Based on *Deep in the Swamp*  
by Donna M. Bateman and illustrated by Brian Lies  
Grades: K-2



## About the Book

This book takes you deep into the Okefenokee Swamp to see the animals and plants that live there. Count along with the animals and their babies. Follow a mother river otter as she plays with her pup and see a mother alligator bask in the sun with her many little ones. The beautiful illustrations depicted in *Deep in the Swamp* will leave children eager to learn more about the Okefenokee's lush flora and fauna and the many rich elements of this amazing ecosystem.

## Set the Stage

Use some of the following discussion points to prepare the students for the story.

- Discuss the title and cover of the book.
- What kinds of animals do you think live in a swamp?
- What kinds of plants might grow in a swamp?
- Is it hot or cold in a swamp? Is it dry or wet?
- Have you ever been to a swamp? Would you like to live in a swamp?

## Review

After reading the book, discuss the following:

- What kind of animals did you learn about in the book? Were they the same ones that you discussed before reading?
- Explain the term fauna with the students. Then review the different animals in the book such as rat snake, snapping turtle, river otter, marsh rabbit, damselfly, flame bird, bull frog, crayfish, alligator, and blue heron.
- Explain the term flora. Review with students the different plants in the book such as cattails, cypress trees, bamboo vines, neverwet, and water lilies.
- Guide students to analyze fauna and flora by generating a chart or diagram that compares and contrasts the two concepts.
- Discuss the concept of a swamp and list unique characteristics of a swamp.
- Show students a map of the United States. Point out where they live and then point out where Okefenokee Swamp is located. About how far away is the swamp. What other swamps do they know about? Where are they located? What would these swamps have in common? What would be different?
- Discuss the terms ecosystem, community, and habitat. Have students draw an example of each term (i.e. students might draw a fish swimming in water or a squirrel in a tree).
- Discuss the concept of prairie. How is this swamp prairie different from a dry prairie out west?

# Student Activities

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### Related Activities

To extend students' enjoyment of the book, try these:

- **Bring Okefenokee to Life:** Create a colorful bulletin board with a swamp theme. Have students choose their favorite plant or animal from the book. Have them draw a picture of it for the board.
- **All Boxed Up:** Have students create a swamp scene in a shoe box using various types of materials such as construction paper, printed pictures of the animals or plants, leaves, branches, rocks, etc.
- **In the Field:** Plan a trip to a local park with a nature trail. Have students bring a sketch book and pencil. Have them draw what they see. After returning to the classroom, have students try to identify the plants and animals that they observed on the trip. Students can then compare and contrast the ecosystem that they visited to a swamp.
- **1, 2, 3 Let's Go:** *Deep in the Swamp* is a colorful and fun counting book. Have students create their own counting book. Provide ten pages for the students to fill with pictures of their favorite things. It could be counting candy, toys, friends, or anything that interests the child.
- **Act Like an Animal:** Come up with fun sounds and motions to go with each of the animals in the book. Take turns having the students say an animal and act out the motions and sounds.
- **Singing in the Swamp:** Have the students generate a list of terms related to a swamp and create a short rhyming song to the tune of "On Top of Old Smokey" or to incorporate counting, use the tune of "The 12 Days of Christmas".

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Who Lives Here?



**Directions:** Use the clues to complete the crossword puzzle. The word box below will help you find the answers.

**Word Box**

river otter	snapping turtle	flame bird	marsh rabbit	ratsnake
alligator	blue heron	damsel fly	bullfrog	crayfish

**Down**

- 1. Lives in a nest built of sticks
- 4. Lives in a thicket on the shore
- 5. Lives under the warm morning sun
- 7. Lives where the cypress reach to heaven
- 8. Lives in an underwater den

**Across**

- 2. Lives where the cattails grow straight
- 3. Lives where the bamboo vines twine
- 6. Lives where the water lilies thrive
- 9. Lives in a hollow cypress tree
- 10. Lives where the neverwets grow

Answer Key  
 Down  
 1. blue heron  
 2. bullfrog  
 3. rat snake  
 4. marsh rabbit  
 5. alligator  
 6. river otter  
 7. damselfly  
 8. crayfish  
 9. flame bird  
 10. snapping turtle



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