



**Transcript for *Marjory Saves the Everglades: The Story of Marjory Stoneman Douglas* by Sandra Neil Wallace
(Paula Wiseman Books, an Imprint of Simon & Schuster)**

Introduction (approximately 0:00 – 3:41)

Hi everyone! It's Colleen from the KU Natural History Museum, and I'm so excited for today's Story Book Science!

And I do want to give some time for folks to join us. So, while we wait for folks to join us, I want to talk a little bit about the book and some of the things we'll learn about today.

So, we're reading about a national park. It's a national park that is found in the United States, specifically in the state of Florida. And it's Everglades National Park!

Everglades National Park is a very unique place. It has a very unique ecosystem. It has a lot of biodiversity! But sometimes people don't realize that. They just think it's a swamp, and it's filled with mosquitoes. But the Everglades has had many champions in the past, and even today, and one of those champions was the conservationist, Marjory Stoneman Douglas. So, we'll be reading about her today.

So, while we wait for those folks to join us, I want to explore a little bit about the biodiversity of the Everglades. And I want to share with you a museum specimen of a reptile that lives in the Everglades. So, let me go grab that!

Alright. So, this is the museum specimen that represents the reptile that lives in the Everglades. And I want you to take a moment to look at this museum specimen and make an observation about it. What do you notice? Do you know what reptile it is? So, just take a moment longer.

Alright! So, I'm going to put this down. We will look at it again after the reading.

But because we have some folks joining us, let's go ahead and get started!

First and foremost, we need to go over our Story Book Science guidelines. So, what that means is, even though we're not in the museum, we are still going to follow museum rules. So, you should feel free to ask a question or make a comment! But if you do so, you need to use kind and considerate words. Alright? And if you respond to someone's question or comment, you also need to make sure to use kind and considerate words. Now, the reason we want to use those kind and considerate words is to make this space welcoming and inclusive to all. So, can you use those kind and considerate words for me? Excellent! Thank you so much!

Alright! So, welcome to Story Book Science! Today, I am reading the book *Marjory Saves the Everglades: The Story of Marjory Stoneman Douglas*. This book is written by Sandra Neil Wallace. It's illustrated by Rebecca Gibbon. And it's being read with permission from Simon and Schuster. So, thank you to them for the permission to read this book!

Now, this book will tell the story of Marjory Stoneman Douglas and will teach us all about the Everglades. So, if you have questions, make sure you write those in the comments. Just know I may not be able to see them until the very end, and only if there is time.

Lastly, if you need a partial transcript of this reading, it will be made available a little later. And that will be on the museum's website. Alright?

So, let's go ahead and get started!

Marjory Saves the Everglades.

Reading from *Marjory Saves the Everglades: The Story of Marjory Stoneman Douglas* (approximately 3:42 – 24:08)

Marjory Saves the Everglades: The Story of Marjory Stoneman Douglas includes copyrighted materials, and we do not have permission to include the written text of the book in this transcript.

Conclusion (approximately 24:09 – 33:52)

The end!

Alright. So, we just read a story about a really amazing national park: Everglades National Park. And we read a story about how Marjory Stoneman Douglas was a champion for the Everglades.

Now, Marjory was amazing! She did a lot of work to conserve and protect that area. So, she was a conservationist. And a conservationist is someone who does conservation work. So, they conserve, or protect, a natural area. Now, that's a very important word. So, we are going to put it on the wall as a vocabulary word!

Conservation.

So, Marjory Stoneman Douglas was a conservationist. But she was a lot of other things, too. She was a feminist. And she also fought for racial justice. And she spoke the truth. And she wrote the truth, too, as a journalist and as a writer. She wrote a book about the Everglades and why it was important to share that information with everyone. And that book was called *The Everglades: River of Grass*.

And that book got people to think about the Everglades. They decided that it wasn't just a swamp. It wasn't just full of mosquitoes. It was so much more! It had so many different environments like pinelands. Did you know that there were pine trees in the Everglades? So, the pinelands.

And cypress. So, you can see that those trees are growing in the water.

And then also mangroves.

And then there's also marine environments. So, areas of salty water, or ocean water. And estuaries, too, where there is brackish water, mixtures of saltwater and freshwater.

So, the Everglades has all of these unique environments. It's not just a swamp. There's so much to the Everglades!

And the Everglades not only has these really unique environments, but it also has a lot of biodiversity. So, when you hear the word biodiversity, what do you think of?

Maybe when you hear 'bio' you think earth. And that's really important when we talk about biodiversity. And when we talk about biodiversity, we're talking about the different living things in an area, including the earth. So, biodiversity includes the plants, the fungi, the animals, including humans, and how all of those things are connected. And of course, biodiversity is a very important word. So, we're going to put it on the wall as a vocabulary word!

So, we know biodiversity, that is, you know, all of the different living things in an area. And we know the Everglades has a lot of biodiversity. So, what do you think, grows in th- grows in the Everglades and lives in the Everglades? We read about a lot of different things! Do you remember what some of those were?

Maybe you remember the plants. Now, in the book, it talked about how Marjory noticed the ghost orchids. But there are other orchids as well like the cowhorn orchid. There are grasses. We learned a lot about sawgrass, but there's also grasses like the endangered Everglades crabgrass.

There are also insects. Now, we know that a lot of people mentioned the mosquitoes, but there's so much more! There are beetles, like the eyed click beetle.

We also learned about mammals. Do you remember some of the mammals that were mentioned in the book? I remember the Florida panther. So, there are Florida Panthers. And there are even aquatic mammals like manatees. This is the West Indian manatee. That's the species that lives in the Everglades.

And earlier, we talked a little bit about reptiles that live in the Everglades. Now, I showed you a museum specimen of a reptile that lived in the Everglades, and I want to show you again. So, let me grab that!

This is a museum specimen. It represents a reptile that lives in the Everglades. Do you know what it is?

It's an alligator! This is an American alligator skull. And American alligators live in the Everglades.

So, I'll let you take a moment just to look at the skull. What do you notice?

One of the things I notice are the teeth of this alligator. And it's got these teeth on the lower jaw. And then, of course, the teeth on the upper jaw. And the teeth on the lower jaw, they're a little bit behind the upper jaw. So, I'll put that close to the camera for you to see.

Alright. Now, that's just one example of a reptile that lives in the Everglades. There are other reptiles, too. And I'm going to show you another museum specimen to represent those rep- those reptiles

Alright. So, I'm going to put this closer to the camera. It's a little smaller. So, it can go closer to the camera.

What reptiles do you think this museum specimen represents? Maybe you think this looks like a snake skull?

You would be correct! This is a python skull, and it represents snakes that live in the Everglades known as Burmese pythons.

Now, I'm going to put this down for a second. I'm going to grab the alligator skull again, and the python skull.

Now, one of these animals is native to the Everglades. That means that it lives there and exists there naturally. And another is non-native. Do you know which one is the native species?

Did you say alligator? Because if you said alligator, you are correct. American alligators are native to the Everglades, which means that the Burmese python are not native.

I'm going to put these down. I'm going to be very gentle.

When we talk about species like the American Alligator, and here's a picture of one, it's a native species to the Everglades. So, it's there naturally. Alright? So, let's put native species on the wall as a vocabulary word.

But when we talk about the opposite of native species, or non-native species, like the Burmese python, we're talking about things that aren't there naturally. They're invasive. Alright? So, we're going to put invasive species on the wall as a vocabulary word.

So, the Burmese python is an invasive species. And because of that, it competes with the native species like the American alligators, and it competes for food and other resources. So, today, there's a lot of conservation work that happens in the Everglades. But one of the things they do is removing the invasive species, removing the Burmese pythons.

Now, I encourage you to look up the Everglades and explore what makes it so unique. And I want you to look up the stories, not just of Marjory Stoneman Douglas, but other conservationists and other champions for the Everglades. Marjory Stoneman Douglas was one woman, and she did a lot of work, but she's not the only person who has stewarded the land of the Everglades. There have been many people: Indigenous peoples before colonization who lived in the Everglades, as well as tribes that continue to steward that land. There were also communities of Black Americans who lived in towns in the Everglades and near the Everglades. And also, people like the Gladesmen who continue to steward that land. And I encourage you to look up their stories as well, because they've done a really amazing and wonderful work to help protect the Everglades, too.

So, I hope you learn more about the Everglades. I also hope you join me next week. We'll have a STEM Challenge. Additionally, we're going to read more about national parks this month. We're going to read next about the Grand Canyon. So, I hope that you join me, and I hope to see you soon. Thanks, everyone! Bye!