

# Families For Everglades™

CELEBRATING THE

75<sup>TH</sup>  
*Anniversary*  
OF

## EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

Learn more about the history of Everglades National Park and the incredible ecosystem with these resources and activities.



The Everglades Foundation  
[www.evergladesfoundation.org](http://www.evergladesfoundation.org)

The Everglades Literacy Program  
[www.evergladesliteracy.org](http://www.evergladesliteracy.org)

[info@evergladesliteracy.org](mailto:info@evergladesliteracy.org)

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# WHAT'S INSIDE?

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## **Places to visit in Everglades National Park** p. 15

Discover the many places you and your family can visit in Everglades National Park.



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Are you an educator or know someone who is? Share these educator resources to get schools and classrooms involved.

# MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS

## Everglades Hero

Have you ever thought about what being a hero really means? Does it mean being a superhero with a cape and having superhuman strength? Or is there more to being a hero? Marjory Stoneman Douglas didn't look like you might imagine a hero to be. She stood just over five feet tall and wore a floppy hat, not a cape. But make no mistake, she is an Everglades superhero. Her passion and hard work for the Everglades continues to be a rallying force for everyone who loves the Everglades and knows how important it is to our lives.

Marjory certainly didn't grow up thinking she would be a hero for the Everglades. She didn't even grow up in Florida. She was born April 7, 1890 in Minneapolis, Minnesota and grew up in Massachusetts. She first came to Florida when she was 4 years old. One of her only memories of that visit was picking an orange from a tree. As Marjory grew up, she discovered what she loved to do and that was writing. Writing was to become one of Marjory's superpowers.

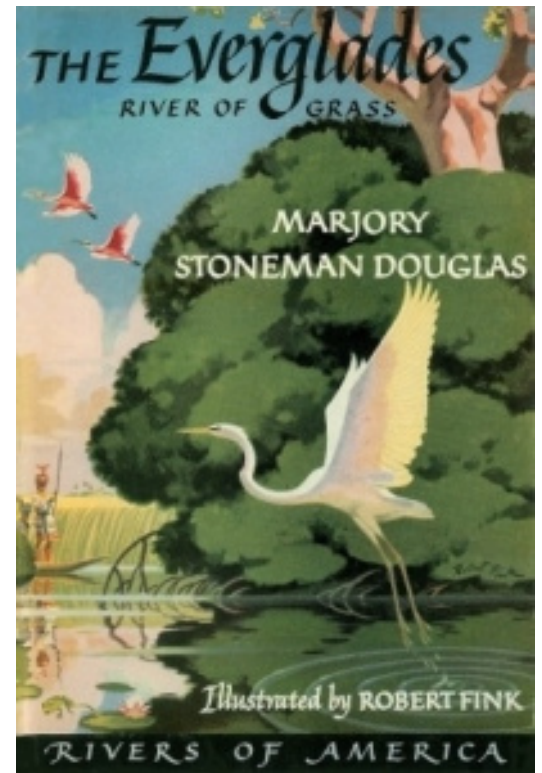


*Marjory Stoneman Douglas sits at her desk in her Coconut Grove home in 1985. (State Archives of Florida)*

She didn't return to Florida until she was grown up, at the age of 25 in 1915. She began working as a reporter at The Miami Herald newspaper. In 1928, Ernest Coe, a semi-retired landscape architect, and David Fairchild, a famous tropical-plant scientist, organized an association to gather public support and persuade decision-makers to create a national park to preserve a portion of the Everglades. They recruited Marjory to join their group and write supportive

newspaper and magazine articles. Over the next decade, she began visiting the Everglades with her friends. She eased into a relationship with the Everglades as one does with a lifelong friend. In addition to her work on the park association, she spent time fishing and bird watching and used the Everglades as a setting in her short stories.

Early into the 1940s, Marjory left the newspaper to become a freelance writer. She was approached by a publisher to write a book about the Miami River. Because of her personal experiences in the Everglades and what she had learned from others, she had a different idea for a book. She told him she wanted to write about the Everglades instead and he agreed. She spent five years researching what was known about the ecology, hydrology, and history of the Everglades. The result of all her hard work was the book, ***The Everglades: River of Grass*** which begins with the words,



**“There are no other Everglades in the world. They are, they have always been, one of the unique regions of the earth; remote, never wholly known.”**

With her beautiful words, she painted a picture of the Everglades as a wonderfully complex mosaic of abundant and diverse plant and animal life, all sustained by the flow of water from the Kissimmee River to Lake Okeechobee to the River of Grass. For her readers, Marjory had redefined the Everglades as a beautiful, vast river instead of a worthless swamp. ***The Everglades: River of Grass*** was a call to action to protect this American treasure and it made ordinary citizens and politicians alike take notice.

For 20 years Marjory and her friends worked tirelessly to advocate for the creation of Everglades National Park. Their hard work and determination paid off and the Park was dedicated in 1947. ***The Everglades: River of Grass*** was published the same year. The first books printed sold out in a month. Marjory went on to write many books and stories, but none as monumental as ***The Everglades: River of Grass*** which is still seen today as one of the most important environmental books ever written.

But true heroes like Marjory can never rest as long as there is still work to be done. Over the next decades, the Everglades continued to be threatened by man-made changes to the natural flow of the River of Grass. Marjory continued to be a passionate spokesperson for preserving the health of this ecosystem that exists nowhere else on Earth. When she was 78 years old, she formed an environmental organization to fight against projects and proposals that would damage the Everglades. She was still fighting for the Everglades when she died at the age of 108 in 1998.

Marjory Stoneman Douglas was a journalist, author, public speaker, and environmentalist. She was a hero who knew that the fight to preserve and restore the Everglades would take a very long time, but her conviction, courage, and determination never wavered. She forever changed how people think about the Everglades.

There is no other Everglades in the world, and it still needs heroes like Marjory. If Marjory were still here, she would surely ask you if you would like to be an Everglades hero, too. You can help to carry on Marjory's legacy by speaking up for the Everglades. Share with family and friends what you know about the Everglades and why it is so unique and important. April 7th would be a great day to get started – that's Everglades Day and also Marjory's birthday.



*State Library and Archives of Florida.*

# MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS

## Una heroína para los Everglades

¿Alguna vez has pensado en lo que realmente significa ser un héroe? ¿Significa ser un superhéroe con capa y tener una fuerza sobrehumana? ¿O consiste en algo más ser un héroe? Marjory Stoneman Douglas no se veía como te imaginas que es un héroe. Medía poco más de cinco pies de altura y usaba un sombrero deslavado, no una capa. Pero no te equivoques, ella es un superhéroe de los Everglades. Su pasión y arduo trabajo por los Everglades continúa siendo una fuerza de unión para todos los que aman los Everglades y saben lo importante que es para nuestras vidas.

Marjory ciertamente no creció pensando que sería una heroína para los Everglades. Ni siquiera creció en Florida. Nació el 7 de abril de 1890 en Minneapolis, Minnesota y creció en Massachusetts. Llegó por primera vez a Florida cuando tenía 4 años. Uno de sus únicos recuerdos de esa visita fue arrancar una naranja de un árbol. A medida que Marjory creció, descubrió lo que amaba hacer y eso era escribir. La escritura se convertiría en uno de los superpoderes de Marjory.

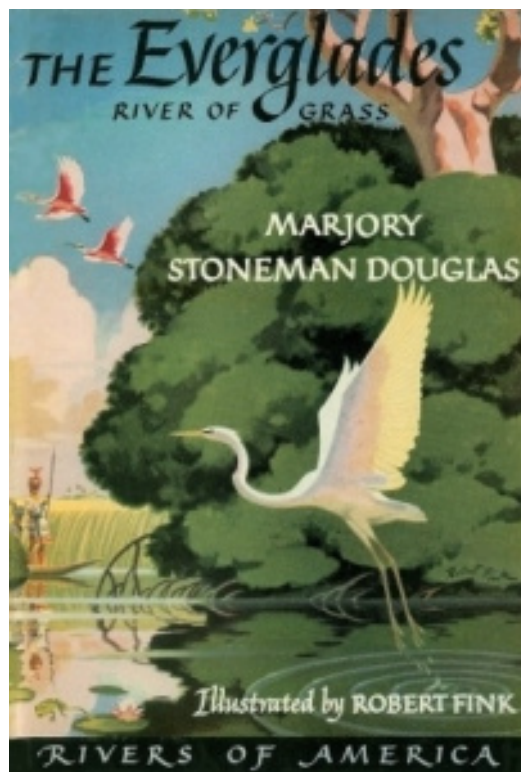


*Marjory Stoneman Douglas se sienta en su escritorio en su casa de Coconut Grove en 1985. (Archivos del Estado de Florida)*

No regresó a Florida hasta que ya era adulta, a la edad de 25 años en 1915. Comenzó a trabajar como reportera en el periódico The Miami Herald. En 1928, Ernest Coe, un arquitecto paisajista semi-retirado, y David Fairchild, un famoso científico de plantas tropicales, organizaron una asociación para reunir el apoyo público y persuadir a los tomadores de decisiones para crear un parque nacional para preservar una parte de los Everglades.

Reclutaron a Marjory para que se uniera a su grupo y escribiera favorables artículos de periódicos y revistas. Durante la próxima década, comenzó a visitar los Everglades con sus amigos. Entabló una relación con los Everglades como se hace con un amigo de toda la vida. Además de su trabajo en la asociación del parque, pasó tiempo pescando y observando aves y usó los Everglades como escenario en sus cuentos.

A principios de la década de 1940, Marjory dejó el periódico para convertirse en escritora independiente. Un editor se acercó a ella para escribir un libro sobre el río Miami. Debido a sus experiencias personales en los Everglades y lo que había aprendido de otros, tuvo una idea diferente para un libro. Ella le dijo que quería escribir sobre los Everglades y él estuvo de acuerdo. Pasó cinco años investigando lo que se sabía sobre la ecología, la hidrología y la historia de los Everglades. El resultado de todo su arduo trabajo fue el libro, ***The Everglades: River of Grass***, que comienza con las palabras:



**“No hay otros Everglades en el mundo. Son, siempre han sido, una de las regiones únicas de la tierra; remota, nunca completamente conocida.”**

Con sus hermosas palabras pintó una imagen de los Everglades como un mosaico maravillosamente complejo de abundante y diversa vida vegetal y animal, todo sustentado por el flujo de agua desde el río Kissimmee hasta el lago Okeechobee y el Río de Hierba. Para sus lectores, Marjory había redefinido los Everglades como un río vasto y hermoso en lugar de un pantano sin valor. *The Everglades: River of Grass* fue un llamado a la acción para proteger este tesoro estadounidense e hizo que tanto los ciudadanos comunes como los políticos tomaran nota.

Durante 20 años, Marjory y sus amigos trabajaron incansablemente para abogar por la creación del Parque Nacional Everglades. Su arduo trabajo y determinación dieron sus frutos y el parque se inauguró en 1947. El mismo año se publicó ***The Everglades: River of Grass***. Los primeros libros impresos se agotaron en un mes. Marjory escribió muchos libros e historias, pero ninguno tan monumental como ***The Everglades: River of Grass***, que aún hoy se considera uno de los libros ambientales más importantes jamás escritos.

Pero los verdaderos héroes como Marjory nunca pueden descansar mientras haya trabajo por hacer. Durante las próximas décadas, los Everglades continuaron estando amenazados por cambios hechos por el hombre en el flujo natural del Río de Hierba. Marjory siguió siendo una apasionada portavoz de la preservación de la salud de este ecosistema que no existe en ningún otro lugar de la Tierra. Cuando tenía 78 años, formó una organización ambientalista para luchar contra los proyectos y propuestas que dañarían los Everglades. Todavía estaba luchando por los Everglades cuando murió a la edad de 108 años en 1998.

Marjory Stoneman Douglas fue periodista, autora, oradora pública y ecologista. Ella era una heroína que sabía que la lucha para preservar y restaurar los Everglades llevaría mucho tiempo, pero su convicción, coraje y determinación nunca flaquearon. Ella cambió para siempre la forma en que la gente piensa sobre los Everglades.

No hay otros Everglades en el mundo y todavía necesita héroes como Marjory. Si Marjory todavía estuviera aquí, seguramente te preguntaría si también te gustaría ser un héroe de los Everglades. Tú puedes ayudar a continuar con el legado de Marjory defendiendo a los Everglades. Comparte con familiares y amigos lo que sabes sobre los Everglades y por qué es tan único e importante. El 7 de abril sería un gran día para comenzar: ese es el Día de los Everglades y también el cumpleaños de Marjory.



*Biblioteca y Archivos del Estado de Florida.*



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## MYTHS ABOUT THE EVERGLADES



How much do you know about America's Everglades?

Even if you live in Florida, you may have misperceptions about the ecosystem. What is it, where is it, and why does it matter?

Read on!

¿Cuánto sabes sobre los Everglades de Estados Unidos? Incluso si vives en Florida, es posible que tengas ideas erróneas sobre el ecosistema. ¿Qué es, dónde está y por qué es importante? ¡Sigue leyendo!

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## MITOS SOBRE LOS EVERGLADES



## MYTH #1

**The Everglades is a big swamp filled with scary animals.**



- The Everglades actually is the largest subtropical wetland in North America.
- It's a wide, slow-moving river.
- It's home to more than 2,000 species of plants and animals, 70+ of which are federally threatened or endangered.
- It's the only place in the world where alligators and crocodiles co-exist

- Los Everglades en realidad son el humedal subtropical más grande de Norteamérica.
- Es un río ancho que se mueve lentamente.
- Es el hogar de más de 2.000 especies de plantas y animales, de las cuales más de 70 están amenazadas o en peligro de extinción a nivel federal.
- Es el único lugar en el mundo donde coexisten los caimanes y cocodrilos.

## MITO #1

**Los Everglades son un gran pantano lleno de animales aterradores.**



## MYTH #2

### The Everglades is boring.



The Everglades actually is known as a biodiversity hot spot with a vast array of species.

- It has dry and wet habitats, from dry prairies to mangrove swamps.
- It has freshwater and saltwater habitats, as well as “brackish” estuaries – a mix of freshwater and saltwater.
- It’s home to the largest mangrove ecosystem in the Western Hemisphere.
- You can hike, bike, camp, fish, bird watch, geocache, kayak, boat, take photos, and more in the Everglades!
- The Everglades provides “ecosystem services,” or natural services that are essential to our quality of life and economy. They include:
  - o Filtering and cleaning the water
  - o Providing water storage
  - o Flood control
  - o Preventing erosion
  - o Mitigating climate change impacts
  - o Providing beauty and shade

Los Everglades en realidad se conocen como un gran foco de biodiversidad en el mundo con una amplia variedad de especies.

- Tiene hábitats secos y húmedos, desde praderas secas hasta manglares.
- Tiene hábitats de agua dulce y salada, así como estuarios “salobres”, una mezcla de agua dulce y salada.
- Es el hogar del ecosistema de manglares más grande del hemisferio occidental
- ¡Puedes caminar, andar en bicicleta, acampar, pescar, observar aves, hacer geocaché, navegar en kayak o barco, tomar fotos y mucho más en los Everglades!
- Los Everglades brindan “servicios ecosistémicos” o servicios naturales que son esenciales para nuestra calidad de vida y economía. Incluyendo:
  - o Filtración y limpieza del agua
  - o Almacenamiento de agua
  - o Control de inundaciones
  - o Prevención de la erosión
  - o Mitigación de los impactos del cambio climático
  - o Provisión de belleza y sombra

## MITO#2

### Los Everglades son aburridos.



## MYTH #3

**The Everglades is not important.**



We need the Everglades, and the Everglades needs us.

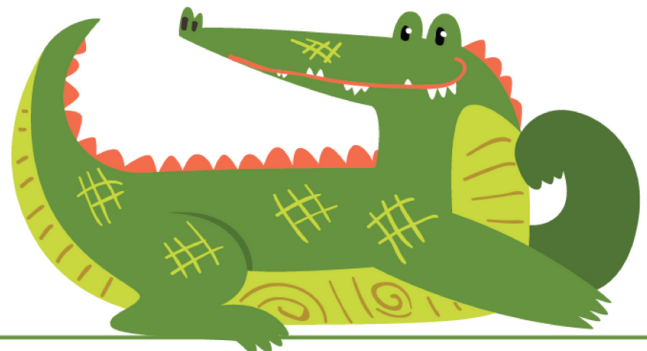
- 9 million Floridians rely on the Everglades for their water supply.
- The Everglades recharges the Biscayne Aquifer, which stores and cleans the drinking water for South Florida.
- A healthy Everglades helps mitigate the effects of climate change.
- The Everglades supports vital sectors of South Florida's economy, including tourism, real estate, agriculture, and recreation.

Necesitamos los Everglades, y los Everglades nos necesitan a nosotros.

- 9 millones de floridianos dependen de los Everglades para su suministro de agua.
- Los Everglades recargan el acuífero de Biscayne, el cual almacena y limpia el agua potable del sur de la Florida.
- Un Everglades saludable ayuda a mitigar los efectos del cambio climático.
- Los Everglades respaldan sectores vitales de la economía del sur de la Florida, incluidos: turismo, bienes raíces, agricultura y recreación.

## MITO #3

**Los Everglades no son importantes.**



## MYTH #4

There is nothing to explore  
in the Everglades.



To bust this myth,  
check out:

["12 Places to go in  
the Everglades  
Watershed."](#)

## MITO #4

No hay nada qué explorar  
en los Everglades.

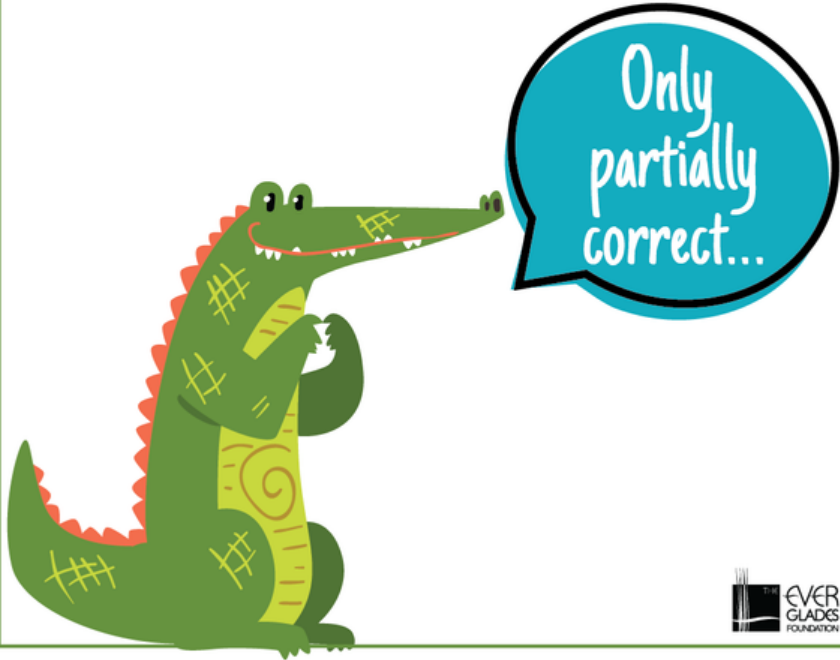


Para acabar con este  
mito, echa un vistazo:

[12 Lugares Para Visitar  
En La Cuenca  
Hidrográfica De Los  
Everglades.](#)

## MYTH #5

### The Everglades is in Everglades National Park.



- Los Everglades comienzan justo al sur de Orlando, en Shingle Creek, cerca de Kissimmee.
- Históricamente, el agua fluía desde la cadena de lagos Kissimmee, a través del río Kissimmee y hacia el lago Okeechobee.
- El lago Okeechobee se desbordaría por su borde sur y se convertiría en un río ancho y lento, apodado el "Río de hierba".
- Eventualmente, el agua dulce llegaría al sur a través de los Everglades y hacia la Bahía de Florida.
- Pero durante los últimos 100 años, el flujo natural de agua fue desviado por el dragado y drenaje hechos por el hombre a través de los Everglades para la agricultura, el desarrollo y el control de inundaciones.
- Es por eso que la misión de la Fundación Everglades es restaurar y proteger los Everglades, y restaurar el flujo de agua hacia el sur, como lo deseaba la naturaleza.

- The Everglades begins just south of Orlando, in Shingle Creek near Kissimmee.
- Historically, water flowed from the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, through the Kissimmee River, and into Lake Okeechobee.
- Lake Okeechobee would overflow its southern brim into a wide, slow-moving river, nicknamed the "River of Grass."
- Eventually, freshwater would make its way south through the Everglades and into Florida Bay.
- But, over the last 100 years, the natural flow of water was diverted by manmade dredging and draining of the Everglades for agriculture, development, and flood control.
- That's why the mission of The Everglades Foundation is to restore and protect the Everglades, and restore the southerly flow of water, as nature intended.

## MITO #5

### Los Everglades están en el Parque Nacional de los Everglades.



# WHERE TO VISIT



## Shark Valley Visitor Center

- 15-mile loop you can walk, bike, or tram ride.
- Observation tower offers a 360-degree view of the Everglades.
- See some of the park's best wildlife concentrations.

**VISIT**

## Gulf Coast Visitor Center

- Take a boat or schedule a sightseeing tour to explore the mangrove estuary of the Ten Thousand Islands
- Full moon paddle trips and stargazing programs.

**VISIT**



## Royal Palm Visitor Center

- Access to Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center, Anhinga, and Gumbo Limbo Trails.
- You can also find Research Road, Pine Rockland habitat, and the Historic Nike Missile Site.

**VISIT**

## Flamingo Visitor Center

- 38 miles south of the main park entrance in Homestead.
- Gateway to Florida Bay.
- Camp in eco tents, houseboats, or in the wilderness.
- Take a boat tour or rent a canoe, kayak, or bicycle.

**VISIT**



# EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK LINKS

- **[America's Everglades - The largest subtropical wilderness in the United States](#)**
  - Check out the Everglades National Park official webpage. Plan your visit, learn about the park, and get involved with their free resources!
- **[Everglades Ranger-Guided Field Trips](#)**
  - Ranger-led field trips are offered from mid-October through mid-April to 4th-12th grade students. Learn more about the park's educational programming for 2022-2023 including virtual, in-person, and overnight camping programs.
- **[Virtually Experience Everglades National Park](#)**
  - Explore Everglades National Park from the comfort of your own home with videos and short films, kids' activities, and articles that you can share with your friends and family.
- **[History of the Everglades](#)**
  - Learn more about the history of the Everglades and the interactions between people and the use of the Everglades. Discover the people, places, development, and early communities in the Everglades.
- **[Native People of the Everglades](#)**
  - Find out more about the Calusa, Tequesta, Seminole, and Miccosukee tribes that called the Everglades home and how they lived in the Everglades.
- **[Everglades National Park for Kids](#)**
  - For kids and kids at heart! Become a Junior Ranger, participate in the Every Kid Outdoors 4th grade program, and download the Everglades coloring pages to learn more about this amazing ecosystem with your family.



# EDUCATOR RESOURCES

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## **American Alligators Vs. American Crocodiles**

The Everglades is the only place where you can find both species together. Students will learn the difference with this fun Everglades National Park video and activity.



## **Everglades, Shaped by Fire**

Learn about the importance of fire in the Everglades by watching *Everglades, Shaped by Fire*, from the Everglades National Park's Education Team.



## **Everglades, Adapt to Survive**

Learn about the importance of adaptations in the Everglades with *Everglades, Adapt to Survive* video and resources from the Everglades National Park's Education Team.



## **Everglades Mountains and Valleys**

Did you know the Everglades has mountains and valleys? Follow along with Everglades National Park Rangers as they explore the mountains and valleys of Everglades wet habitats. [Also available in dry habitats.](#)



## **Creating an Everglades History Timeline**

Students will do online research to match Everglades history events to the dates on the timeline of Everglades past and present.