



OKEFENOKEE OUTPOST CHALLENGE

Welcome! A long time ago explorers discovered many interesting plants and animals that no one knew about in the Okefenokee. They had scouts that led them through the swamp. Today you are going to be a scout, exploring the Okefenokee Outpost to find many interesting facts. This will prepare you for your exploration in the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge.

Rules for the Okefenokee Outpost (Visitor Center)

- Keep your voices down and do not run inside.
- No food or drinks are allowed inside.
- Be gentle when using the exhibits and do not touch the storyteller.
- Students are allowed behind the Visitor Center only when an adult is present.

ANSWERS ARE IN BOLD

Swamp Sub

- What type of animal is the Florida gar?
A fish
- Draw a two-toed amphiuma. What type of animal is it?
An amphibian



Walk on the Wild Side

- What does the word "Okefenokee" mean?
Land of the Trembling Earth
- What is a peat "blow up"?
A peat mass that was propelled by methane gas or floated to the surface from the swamp bottom, often growing plants and attracting wildlife.

Habitats

- List the five habitats found in the Okefenokee.
Upland Forest, Scrub-shrub, Forested Wetland, Prairie, Lakes and Open Water
- List two species of plants and two species of animals found in prairies.
Ladies hatpin's, grass pinks, purple pickerel weed, yellow tickseed, water lilies, blooming pipewort, bladderworts, pitcher plants, dragonflies, butterflies, white ibis, alligators, snowy egrets, blue herons, deer
- What type of tree does the red-cockaded woodpecker depend on for survival?
Longleaf Pine
- What type of tree has "knees"?
Cypress

Swamp 101

- What are the four essential elements that impact the swamp?

Earth, Air, Fire, Water

- Why is the water in the Okefenokee the color of iced tea?

Organic matter steeping in the swamp water stains the water brown and gives off tannic acid.

- Why are fires necessary in Okefenokee?

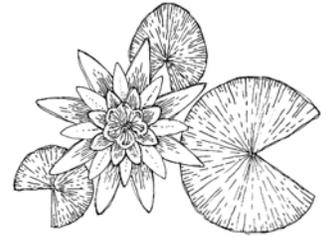
Fires keep underbrush thinned out so a variety of plants and animals have space to survive. Fires burn off plants that compete with longleaf pines, the homes of endangered red-cockaded woodpeckers, for sunlight. Fire also burns peat, preventing the swamp from filling in with organic matter.

- What grows on trees and is an indicator of air quality?

Lichens

- What symbol will you see on signs at national wildlife refuges?

Blue Goose



Tower

- List four animals that can be found in Okefenokee's trees.

Red-shouldered hawk, green treefrog, Zale moth, gray squirrel, great blue heron, pileated woodpecker, golden-silk spider, Seminole bat, Northern parula warbler

Storyteller

- Who were the first people to live in the Okefenokee?

Native Americans

- List three interesting facts that you learned from the storyteller.

See exhibit

Underwater Habitat

- List two places in the world where alligators can be found.

Southeastern United States and China

- What do carnivorous plants "eat" to survive?

Insects (digested insects provide additional nutrients for carnivorous plants to reproduce while growing in nutrient-poor soil).

Swamp Songs

- Name at least one animal heard at sunrise on Chesser Prairie.

Sandhill crane, pig frog, cricket frog

12 Months of Okefenokee

- What animals and plants can be seen this month?

See exhibit



**Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge
Environmental Education Program**

