

Shrek The Musical “Swamp Creatures” and “Tiny Swamp Community”

Art Form: Visual Arts • **Other:** Ecology

DESCRIPTION:

Create a “Swamp Creature” or a “Tiny Swamp Community” out of Cypress Knees.

Did you know that a Cypress Knee is a distinctive structure forming above the roots of a Cypress tree such as the Bald Cypress? Their function is unknown, but they are generally seen on trees growing in swamps. Knees are woody projections set above the normal water level, roughly vertically from the roots, with a near-right-angle bend taking them vertically upward through water.



RECOMMENDED AGE(S):

5 to adult

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- ▶ White copy paper
- ▶ Fine Point Black Sharpie Marker
- ▶ Ball point pen (black),
- ▶ Pencil
- ▶ Colored pencils
- ▶ Colored markers, and or crayons

TIME TO COMPLETE:

15 minutes or more depending on the amount of detail

WHAT YOU DO:

Swamp Creatures Project:

1. Looking at the photo of the “Cypress Knees” draw the outlines of their shape on your paper. Make as many as you want and you can vary the heights.
2. Using your black marker add faces to each one of the “Cypress Knees”. You can exaggerate their expressions.
3. Using your colored markers, colored pencils, or crayons you can color each one. *Remember, since these are imaginary you can use any combination of colors.*
4. Check out the photos of “The Everglades” and “Big Cypress Swamp”. Using these photos as reference you can add all sorts of things to your drawing. Remember: “The Swampier The Better!”



Tiny Swamp Community Project:

1. Looking at the photo of the “Cypress Knees” draw the outlines of their shape on your paper. Make as many as you want and you can vary the heights.
2. Each “Cypress Knee” can be a building with windows, a playground, water park, etc. Using a ball point pen, pencil, or Ultra Fine Sharpie Marker you can place teeny tiny “stick figure” humans doing all sorts of activities.
3. You can make a “Swampy Background” by looking at the photos of “The Everglades” and “Big Cypress Swamp”.
4. Now, color in your “Tiny Swamp Community” using colored markers, colored pencils, and or crayons.

“SWAMP IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD”

Shrek, lived as a recluse in a remote swamp in the fairy-tale land of Duloc . Did you know that we have our very own swamps in Florida?

Everglades National Park is an American National Park that protects the southern twenty percent of the original Everglades in Florida. The park is the largest tropical wilderness in the United States and the largest wilderness of any kind east of the Mississippi River.

The Everglades spans across 1.5 million acres. The Everglades were dubbed the “*River of Grass*” by Marjory Stoneman Douglas in 1947 to describe the slow movement of shallow water through sawgrass marshes across South Florida. Marjory Stoneman Douglas was an American journalist, author, women’s suffrage advocate, and conservationist known for her staunch defense of the Everglades against efforts to drain it and reclaim land for development.



Everglades National Park protects an unparalleled landscape that provides important habitat for numerous rare and endangered species like the Manatee, Roseate Spoonbill birds, American crocodile, and the elusive Florida panther. All sorts of birds including the Roseate Spoonbill and the Wood Stork.



The freshwaters of the Big Cypress Swamp, essential to the health of the neighboring Everglades, support the rich marine estuaries along Florida’s southwest coast. Conserving over 729,000 acres of this vast swamp, Big Cypress National Preserve contains a mixture of tropical and temperate plant communities that are home to diverse wildlife.

Here are some interesting facts about Big Cypress National Preserve:

- ▶ Established October 11, 1974, Big Cypress is America’s first national preserve.
- ▶ The preserve is 729,000 acres. That’s larger than Rhode Island.
- ▶ Approximately one million visitors visit the preserve each year.
- ▶ The preserve is a freshwater swamp ecosystem. It provides the largest contiguous acreage of habitat for panthers in south Florida.

HOW YOU CAN SHARE:

Take a picture or video of your “Swampy Drawing” and share it via our social media, which is at the bottom of this page, and tag it **#artworksanywhere**.

Activity Sheets made possible through the Sarasota Performing Arts Foundation and its generous donors:

▶ StarTech.com ▶ Sara Roberts Foundation