



# Okefenokee Swamp

Driftwood Education Center



**The carnivorous Hooded Pitcher Plant**  
(*Sarracenia minor*)

**Class Description:**

*In this class students will explore the Okefenokee Swamp ecosystem and its history. In an all day outing students will examine the swamp by boat, by bus, and by hiking through historical areas in one of the largest wildlife refuges and wilderness areas in the continental United States.*

**Appropriate for Grades 4-12**

**Driftwood modifies all classes according to grade level**

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## OKEFENOKEE OUTING

### I. Pre-class set-up

### II. Introduction, overview, and assessment

1. Assess student knowledge of swamp
2. Ask questions and encourage exploration
3. Let students know what is going to happen

### III. Visitors Center (1 hour)

1. Video, Scavenger Hunt, Exploration, Games

### IV. Boat Tour – (Oke Adventures)(1 hour)

#### FIRST BLOCK Half Day: Boats and V. Center

1. Informative boat captain or instructor gives tour of swamp

#### LUNCH: (30-45 minutes)

### V. Wildlife Drive (2 hours and 20 Minutes)

#### SECOND BLOCK Half Day: Wildlife Drive

1. Tour Guide Talk
  - A. Midden: Native American History
  - B. Homestead: History, Stories, Discussion
  - C. Boardwalk: Activities & Plant Identification

### VI. Conclusion and wrap up: instructor lead

1. Be back at the busses by 3:30 for final restroom breaks and to load the busses.

### VII. Additional Information and help

#### APPENDIX I:

1. Animal Information in the Okefenokee
2. History of the Okefenokee in staff library
3. Okefenokee Timeline
4. Schedules and Scavenger Hunts 5-8<sup>th</sup> grade

#### S. Carolina Performance Standards met

#### 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade: United States Studies to 1865

The student will demonstrate an understanding of the settlement of North America by Native Americans and the interactions among these peoples.

### Concepts:

Focal points of this class are:

1. The Okefenokee is one of the largest wildlife refuges and wilderness areas in the United States
2. Fire plays a key role in the development of the ecosystem
3. A unique culture was created by the environment the swamp provided to early homesteaders
4. Wildlife species are closely tied together by the food web and everything here depends on balance.

### Outcomes:

Upon completion of this class, students will be able to:

1. Develop reasoning as to why the swamp was so important to early homesteaders and businessmen.
2. Understand the importance that fire can have on an ecosystem
3. Explore and identify different species of plants and animals in the Okefenokee swamp
4. Understand succession and the concept of food webs.

#### Georgia Performance Standards met

#### 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade:

**1. S5CS8.a** Scientific investigations may take many different forms, including observing what things are like or what is happening somewhere, collecting specimens for analysis, and doing experiments.

#### HISTORICAL UNDERSTANDING

**1. SS4H1** The student will describe how early Native American cultures developed in North America.

**2. b.** Describe how the American Indians used their environment to obtain food, clothing, and shelter.

#### 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade:

**1. S7CS5. a.** Observe and explain how parts can be related to other parts in a system such as predator/prey relationships in community/ecosystem.

**2. S7L4.c.** Recognize that changes in environmental conditions can affect the survival of both individuals and entire species.

#### Florida Performance Standards met

#### 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade: SS.A.1.2

The student understands historical chronology and the historical perspective.

#### 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade:

The student understands the interactions of people and the physical environment.