



## **Green Machines**

### **List of Resources for Teachers**

- Burnie, David, 1994. Dictionary of Nature. DK publishing Inc. New York, NY.  
Contains clear, plain language definitions of 2,000 key words arranged thematically. Has everything from “chloroplast” to “marsupial” with lots of color photographs. Good for kids and teachers alike.
- George, Jean Craighead, 1988. Everglades Wildguide, Division of Publications, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C.  
This is the official guide to the Everglades National Park published by the National Park Service. The writing is simple and appropriate for middle school students and adults. This book discusses all of the major ecotypes in the everglades, which animal and plant communities are found there, as well as providing basic ecology of the everglades including the importance of water flow and fire. There are lots of helpful illustrations and pictures.
- Meyers, Ronald L. and John J. Ewel, 1990. Ecosystems of Florida, University of Central Florida Press, University Presses of Florida, Gainesville, FL.  
Provides in depth descriptions of ecosystems throughout Florida, including all of the major ecosystems of South Florida – rocklands, swamps, marshes, coastal dunes, mangroves and even coral reefs. The book is a bit advanced for middle school students, but provides good information for teachers.
- Tomlinson, P.B., 2001. The Biology of Trees Native to Tropical Florida, Second Edition. Harvard Printing and Publications Services, Allston, Massachusetts.  
Discusses the biology and life cycles of most of the major plant species of South Florida. Contains numerous helpful black and white illustrations and lists references. Works well as a reference for teachers.
- Whitmore, T.C., 1988. An Introduction to Tropical Rain Forests, Oxford University Press Inc., New York.  
This book provides a solid overview of tropical forest ecosystems, though the writing is a bit advanced for some middle school students, teachers will benefit from reading this book.

## **Books and Videos for Fun:**

Video: Attenborough, David, 1995, The Private Life of Plants, Volume 2: *Putting Down Roots*.

Although the title of this volume implies that it is all about roots, it is actually more focused on leaves, including leaf adaptations, photosynthesis, how leaves protect themselves from herbivores, and it includes an astonishing segment on carnivorous leaves, which most kids would certainly enjoy. All 6 volumes in this series are highly entertaining and informative.

Video/ Interactive CD and other materials: Climate Change, Wildlife, and Wildlands: A Toolkit for Teachers and Interpreters. Published by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Washington, D.C.

This is a complete teaching kit that focuses on global warming. It includes a video, a CD with several interactive activities and a slide show about global warming. Good for all age groups and a great resource for any teacher interested in creating a more in depth curriculum on global warming and its effects.

Internet Resources:

<http://www.microscopy-uk.org.uk/mag/artmar00/watermvt.html> has a step by step guide to fluid transport in a plant, complimented by microscope images of vascular tissues.

<http://www.aliexplorer.com/ecology/topic3.html> has a range of information, at middle school reading level, about the process of photosynthesis.

<http://www.brainpop.com/science/plantsandanimals/photosynthesis/index.asp> has an animated movie about photosynthesis.

