The Everglades

Mike Graf



PM

The Everglades

Level 26 **Curriculum Area** Science
Running Words 2025 **Text Types** Information Report (Informative) pages 2–27
Response (Imaginative) pages 28–30

Retelling to encourage critical thinking about the content

Ask each student to retell the information report and response in his or her own words. Record the retellings for further discussion and reflection.

Think and Talk About …

Fact boxes in the book encourage each student to explore the statements further and to share the information with others.

Questions to reinforce meaning and stimulate discussion

Literal

1 Why is the Everglades an unusual place?
2 What type of trees grow where the ocean tides meet fresh water?

Inferential

3 Why are mosquitoes and other insects attracted to hot, humid conditions?
4 What could happen if the Burmese python is not controlled in the future?
5 What would the Florida panther hunt and eat?
6 Why do rangers provide visitors with historical information?
7 Where do fertilisers and other chemicals in the Everglades come from?

Applied Knowledge

8 What was the ice age?
9 Why did the Europeans have a devastating effect on Native American people in the Everglades?

Vocabulary

Replace the adjective 'regular' in this sentence:
One night, we had a regular campsite on the ground.

On the Wilderness Waterway

Literal

1 How did the family find their way along the maze of water surrounded by plants?

Inferential

2 Why was Maggie nervous when an alligator glided alongside the boat?

Applied Knowledge

3 What is the difference between an alligator and a crocodile?

Links with other PM Guided Reading Books and Cards

Level 25	Book	Information Report/Recount	*The Great Barrier Reef*
Level 26	Book	Information Report/Response	*The Water Cycle*

For Review Only

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The Everglades National Park

A Most Unusual Place

The Everglades National Park is in the United States of America (USA). It is at the southern tip of the state of Florida. It is a very unusual place. There are no mountains or hills. There are no canyons or valleys. Instead, the Everglades is a **grassland** with a very wide, slow-moving river flowing over and around it. There are also areas of forest, and waterholes filled with wildlife.

The Everglades is about 160 kilometres long and over 80 kilometres wide. Just north of the Everglades is Lake Okeechobee*. This lake is an important water source for the park.

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*say *oh-ki-CHO-bi*



Think and Talk About ...

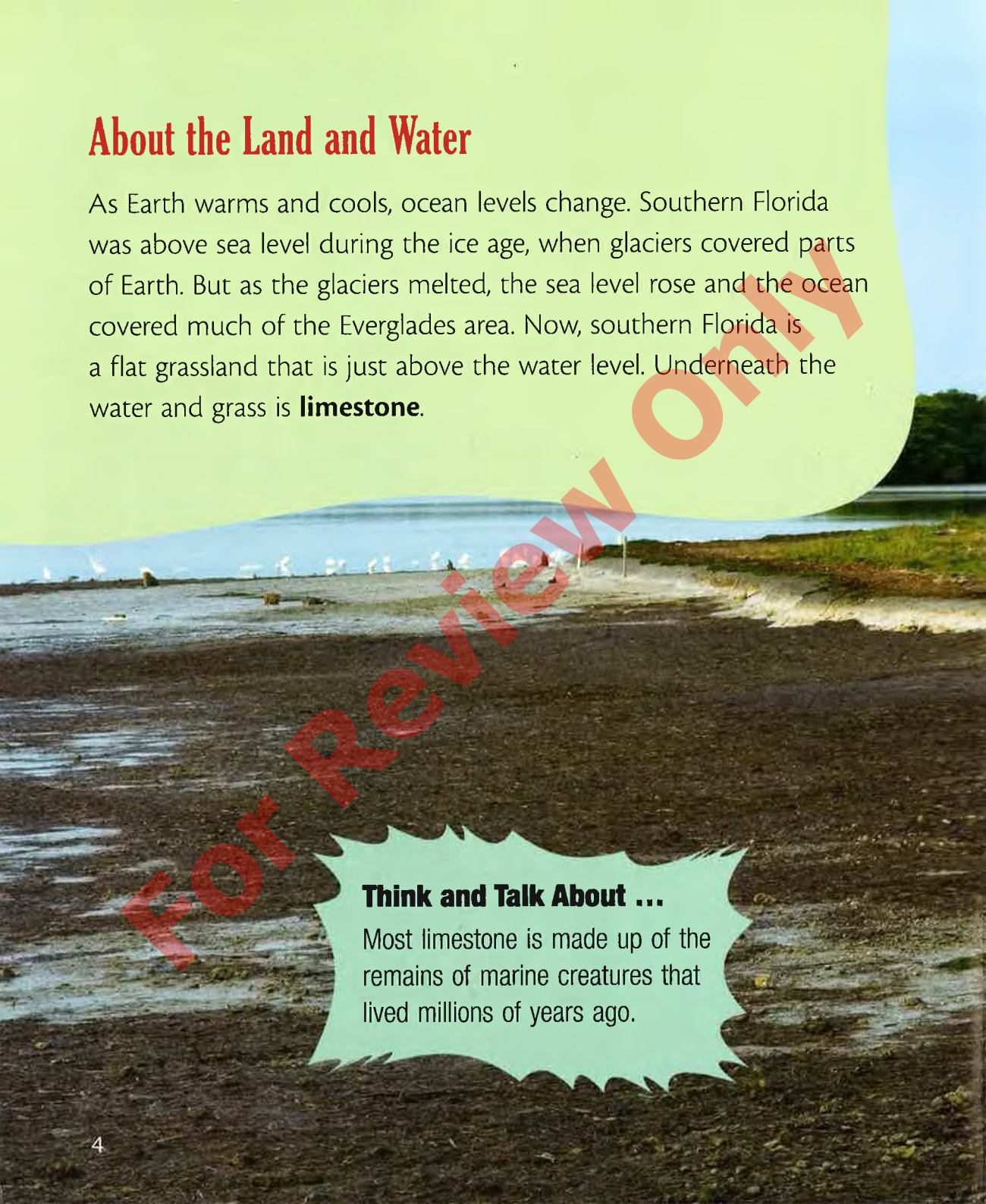
The Everglades is one of 59 national parks in the USA.

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the Everglades from the air

About the Land and Water

As Earth warms and cools, ocean levels change. Southern Florida was above sea level during the ice age, when glaciers covered parts of Earth. But as the glaciers melted, the sea level rose and the ocean covered much of the Everglades area. Now, southern Florida is a flat grassland that is just above the water level. Underneath the water and grass is **limestone**.



Think and Talk About ...

Most limestone is made up of the remains of marine creatures that lived millions of years ago.

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The ground under the grass of the Everglades is limestone.

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History of the Park

People lived in the Everglades for as many as 15 000 years before it became a national park. They hunted and fished there. When Europeans came in the sixteenth century, they had a devastating effect on the Native American communities in the area. Later, another group of Native Americans called the Seminole people moved to the Everglades, and their **descendants** still live in the area today.

In the early twentieth century, the government of Florida decided to drain the Everglades, so that the land could be farmed and developed. This destroyed the natural **habitat** of many animals in the Everglades. A journalist called Marjory Stoneman Douglas began to write about the need to protect the Everglades, and it was named a national park in 1947.



Think and Talk About ...

Marjory Stoneman Douglas was known as "the Mother of the Everglades".

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a Seminole elder making a bow

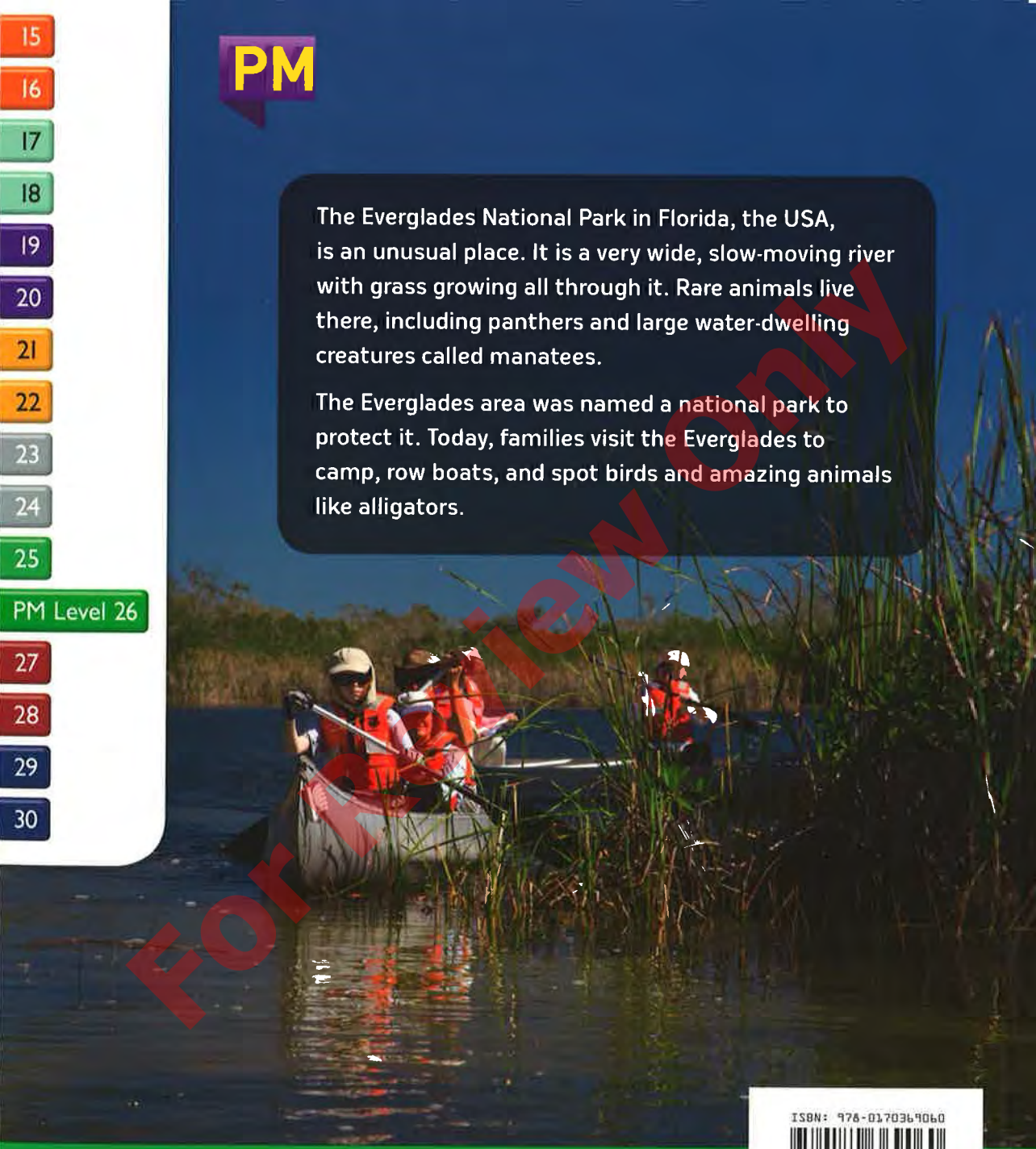
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The Everglades National Park in Florida, the USA, is an unusual place. It is a very wide, slow-moving river with grass growing all through it. Rare animals live there, including panthers and large water-dwelling creatures called manatees.

The Everglades area was named a national park to protect it. Today, families visit the Everglades to camp, row boats, and spot birds and amazing animals like alligators.



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