National Geographic – "Python Wars"

1. 2009 has been called the "Year of the Python" in Florida. What has happened to prompt this moniker?

2. For which habitat have the Burmese Pythons evolved? *In other words, where is the python's native habitat?*

3. As the chopper team approaches a tagged python, why is the "tree island" a suitable hiding location?

4. How are alligators and pythons ***similar*** as predators?

5. How are alligators and pythons ***different*** as predators?

6. Pythons are *apex predators*. What does this mean?

7. How many eggs can a female python lay at a time in captivity?

8. Why has the team of researchers never before let a python nest hatch in the Everglades?

9. What have researchers learned by dissecting pythons caught in the Everglades? *Be specific!*

10. List five (5) species that the pythons eat in the Everglades.

11. Pythons are not native to Florida. How have the pythons made its into the Florida Everglades?

12. Why are the pythons so difficult to track?

13. Describe the lab results of the python hatchlings that were introduced into salt water.

14. How are the pythons able to travel from the Everglades to the Florida Keys?

15. How have the pythons adapted to the hotter conditions of the S.C. facility once immediately introduced?

16. What event has Florida implemented to help eradicate the python epidemic?

17. Identify one surprising behavior that the pythons have displayed in the S.C research facility after 6 months.

18. Why are the pythons predicted to be able to survive in much of the lower one-third of the United States?

19. How have lawmakers attempted to "resolve" the python epidemic?

20. What species of pythons have been discovered in the Everglades that could pose a greater threat?

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