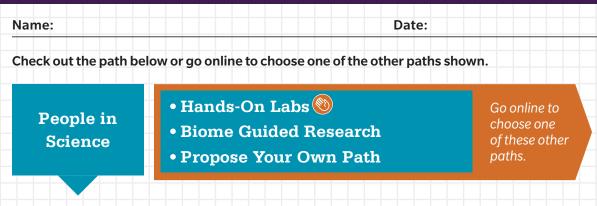
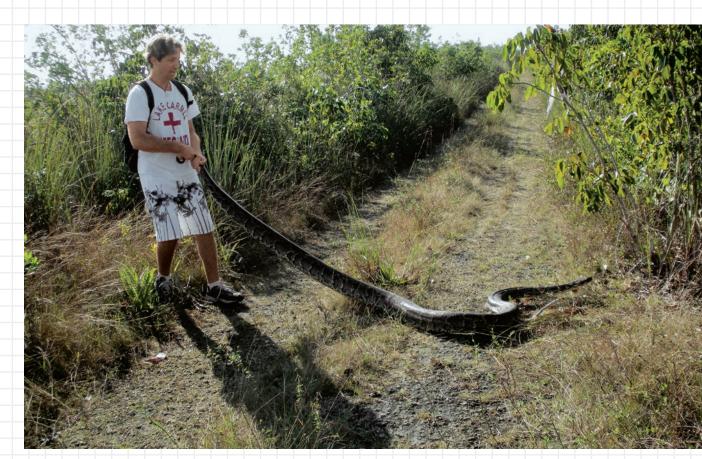
Continue Your Exploration



Dr. Kenneth Krysko, Wildlife Ecologist

Can you imagine a career studying the interactions of organisms in the environment? You might have a job like Dr. Kenneth Krysko, an ecologist who tracks Burmese pythons to help limit the effects they have on Florida ecosystems. These pythons were illegally brought to Florida as pets decades ago. Some of the pythons escaped or were released into the environment when people didn't want them anymore. Their population has expanded greatly as the snakes eat just about any animal small enough to swallow.

Dr. Krysko shares what he learns with other ecologists. Through wildlife management, genetics, and other areas of study, Dr. Krysko works with other scientists to find ways to reduce the size of the python population.



Continue Your Exploration

1. Dr. Krysko works in the Florida Everglades. Where else might ecologists work? Give at least three examples.

2. Describe how Dr. Krysko's work relates to each level of organization in the Everglades ecosystem.

3. Describe three types of ecosystems where you might like to work. Explain why you chose each ecosystem.

4. Collaborate Work with other students to learn about a career as an ecologist. With your teacher's guidance, contact an ecologist working in your area for an interview. Prepare your questions ahead of time. Ask the ecologist about the education and coursework needed for this career, the questions and topics that are studied, and the impact of his or her work. Write your interview in a question/answer format.