

Continue Your Exploration

Name: _____

Date: _____

Check out the path below or go online to choose one of the other paths shown.

People in Science

- Hands-On Labs 
- Biome Guided Research
- Propose Your Own Path

Go online to choose one of these other paths.

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.



© Houghton Mifflin Harcourt • Image Credits: © Dr. Kenneth Krysko

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.