

The Florida Scrub Jay

Answer Key

- 1. True or False: The scrub jay is the state bird of Florida.**
 - a. True
 - b. False**
- 2. True or False: The scrub jay is one of the only bird species endemic to Florida.**
 - a. True**
 - b. False
- 3. One thing that distinguishes scrub jays from other birds is their unique _____.**
 - a. mating dances
 - b. blue color
 - c. cooperative breeding practices**
 - d. shelter choices
- 4. What responsibilities do family group members share?**
 - a. feeding young
 - b. training young
 - c. keeping watch for nearby predators
 - d. All of the above**
- 5. The Lake Wales Ridge is the natural dividing line between which two watersheds?**
 - a. Kissimmee River and the River of Grass
 - b. Kissimmee River and Fisheating Creek**
 - c. Fisheating Creek and the Mississippi
 - d. Fisheating Creek and Lake Okeechobee

- 6. In your own words, what does it mean when an ecosystem has gone through succession?**

Succession is the natural process of one habitat changing into another. Another correct response would be that changing conditions can lead to new plant species taking over an area, changing the community of plants that make up that particular habitat

- 7. Florida scrub habitats need regular fires. If fires are suppressed, how will this affect the ecosystem?**

If fires are suppressed in the scrub habitat, this will lead to succession where other, less fire-adapted plants take over.

- 8. Scrub jays are endemic to Florida because they have specific habitat requirements they can only find in scrub ecosystems. As these ecosystems shrink from human development and land changes, scrub jay populations are shrinking as well. How can we protect scrub jay populations from disappearing?**

Answers can vary based on what the student may brainstorm. Overall, the answers should emphasize ways we can protect scrub habitats so scrub jays will continue to have a place to live.