**Terrestrial and Freshwater Invertebrates**

**Apple Snail** – Found in the Everglades in marshy areas; feed on algae and plants.

**Ants** – There are many species of ants in southern Florida, some native and some exotic. Some species are herbivorous, and others carnivorous. You may use the "generic ants" on the sheet as anything you wish them to be.

**Banana Spider** – Feeds on insects it captures in its orb-shaped web.

**Blowfly** – Feeds on decomposing flesh and other animal-based detritus.

**Botfly** – Adults feed on decomposing matter and detritus. Larvae are parasitic; the egg is laid in a mammalian host where the larva feeds on its bodily fluids until pupation. It then drops out of its host and matures into the adult fly.

**Caterpillars** – Many species, but all are herbivorous.

**Crayfish** – Fresh water detritivores, these feed on almost any type of decaying, organic matter.

**Diatoms** (and algae) – Microscopic and photosynthetic, these are part of the basis of the freshwater food web.

**Dragonfly** – Predatory; feeds on small mosquito-sized flying insects.

**Dragonfly nymph (naid)** – The aquatic larva of the dragonfly is predatory, eating arthropods, mollusks and even small fish.

**Earthworm** – A detritivore, earthworms ingest soil and digest off the organic matter within it. Their "castings" (poop) are excellent for conditioning soil.

**Florida Tree Snail** – feeds on algae and lichens growing on tree bark.

**Honeybee** – A strict herbivore, these feed on pollen and nectar from flowering plants.

**Hydra** – This microscopic animal feeds on other small animals in freshwater ponds.

**Ladybug** – feeds on aphids and other sucking insects, helping control them in natural ecosystems.

**Lubber Grasshopper** – eats many different types of plants.

**Monarch Butterfly** – Feeds on nectar from flowering plants. Eggs are laid on milkweed plants, upon which larvae feed. The poison in the milkweed is deposited in the caterpillar tissues, making them toxic. Upon metamorphosis, the toxins are deposited in the white spots along the adult's wing margins, where they are most likely to be grabbed by birds.

**Mosquito** – males feed on nectar. Females feed on the blood of mammals and birds in order to get enough protein to lay eggs.

**Paper wasp** – predatory, these feed on the larvae of other insects (caterpillars and beetle grubs)

**Ruddy Daggerwing Butterfly** – Feeds on nectar from flowering plants. Eggs are laid mainly on the native Strangler Fig (*Ficus aureus*), upon which the caterpillars feed.

**Zebraing Butterfly** – Feeds on nectar from flowering plants, particularly the firebush. Eggs are laid only on Passion Flower vines, upon which the caterpillars feed.