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The visit to the everglades park was a truly learning experience.

One of the classes I teach is CGS-1060 Introduction to microcomputers. In this class the student learns the basic computer concepts and most used computer programs (Hardware and Software). One of the programs we study is Access 2007. Access is a Database management system that is used to create and maintain computer databases. A database is a way to organize collections of related data for easy use and retrieval. These databases keep track of related data. The advantage of a database is that data can be easily retrieved, and analyzed. Also reports can be created from the data.

In order to make the student aware of the variety of plants and animals of the everglades the student will create an Everglades database. This database will store data in different tables. It will consist of three tables, Animals, Plants and Areas. The Plants table will contain plants of the everglades including data such as plant name, plant scientific name, specie, which area to find it in the park ... etc. The Animal table can include different animals of the everglades with data like animal name, where to find the animal in the park, scientific name, mating season etc. A third table in the database (Areas) will include the different areas in the everglades ecosystem (mangrove, pine rocklands, hardwood hammock... etc) and its characteristics. Once the database is created the student will be able to create reports to list all animals, plants and areas of the park and where to find them. While creating this database the student will realize who many species of animals and plants are in the park also to know the many different areas. Also the student will see the importance of the everglades to the environment.