

THE IMPORTANCE OF **ABIOTIC**

FEATURES IN THE LAKE WALES RIDGE

Sunlight

Sunlight is an important factor in the ecosystem. It is essential for the process of photosynthesis to provide energy for the plants. The plants then provide energy for the animals. Although the Florida sun is known to exert extreme heat, in the colder weather, it gives a nice warmth to the biotic features.

Soil

The soil of Lake Wales Ridge is rather sandy and dry. It is not ideal to grow vegetation for cattle to eat, and it cannot grow crops. What used to be the ancient sand dunes are now land for humans to grow orange groves. The sandy soil is home to the scrubs and animals that burrow beneath.

Rainfall

If it rains up to 50 inches of water in Florida, but why and how does the ridge stay dry as a desert? It is the sandy soil. The rainfall, no matter how many inches, seeps into the rapid absorbing sand. Because of the sandy soil, this makes it a well-drained land. Rainwater filters through the sand and provides for Florida's aquifer.

References

Sharpe, G. G. (n.d.). The Lake Wales Ridge. Retrieved from http://www.myregion.org/clientuploads/pdfs/ncl_lakewales.pdf

Zarlinn Medina
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