

Travel USA

Florida

Instructor Notes

General Notes

- Florida, Spanish for “land of flowers”, is the southern most state in the eastern United States. Florida is bordered to the west by the Gulf of Mexico and Alabama, to the north by Alabama and Georgia, to the east by the Atlantic Ocean, and to the south by the Straits of Florida.
- Florida's nickname is "The Sunshine State," adopted officially by Florida legislature in 1970, but Florida's nickname was being used long before 1970. How do you think Florida got its nickname?

Flag

- The flag of Florida consists of a red St. Andrew's Cross on a white field with the state seal in the center.
- The state seal represents the government of Florida.
 - The seal features a shoreline with a Seminole woman spreading flowers. The seal also features two cabbage/sabal palm trees (the official state tree).
 - In the background a steamboat sails before a sun breaking the horizon, with rays of sunlight extending into the sky.
 - The state motto, "In God We Trust", and the words, "Great Seal of Florida" appear around the seal.

Landmarks & Places to Visit

- **St. Augustine** is the oldest city in the United States. It was founded in 1565 by Spanish settlers (453 years old as of 2018). The **Castillo de San Marcos** is a 17th-century Spanish stone fortress.
- **Walt Disney World** is an entertainment complex with four theme parks, two water parks, twenty-seven themed resort hotels, nine non-Disney hotels, several golf courses, a camping resort, and other entertainment venues. The property is 27,258 acres (about 20 thousand football fields).
- **The John F. Kennedy Space Center** is one of 10 NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) Centers. Launch operations for the Apollo, Skylab and Space Shuttle programs were carried out from Kennedy Space Center.
- The **Everglades** is a natural region of tropical wetlands in the southern portion of Florida. The **Everglades National Park** protects the southern 20 percent of the Everglades. The Everglades are a network of wetlands and forests fed by a river. Thirty-six federally protected animals live in the park including alligators, crocodiles, panthers, sea turtles, and manatees. The Everglades is the only place in the world where the American Alligator and American Crocodile coexist.
- **Daytona 500** is a 500-mile race held annually in Daytona Beach, Fl. It is regarded as the most important and prestigious race in NASCAR, because it has the biggest prize money. Cars in this race can drive with speeds up to 200 mph.

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Florida's Climate

Florida has tropical and sub-tropical weather which means that the temperature is warm most of the year. Summer temperatures range from the upper 70s to the upper 90s and winter temperatures range from 50s-70s.

Florida Strawberry Festival

The Florida Strawberry Festival is an 11-day community event celebrating the strawberry harvest of Eastern Hillsborough County. Each year, over 500,000 visitors enjoy the festival's headline entertainment, youth livestock shows, rides, exhibits of commerce and, of course, its strawberry shortcake.

Florida's Cuisine

Florida's cuisine is a mix of Southern dishes with Caribbean and Latin flavors. Foods include barbecued meats, seafood, black-eyed peas, cornbread, fried frog legs, fried alligator and fried conch. Florida is also known for its production of oranges. Orange trees aren't native to Florida. The trees were brought by settlers.

Snacks for Kids:

- Oranges
- Key Lime Pie
- Strawberries
- Strawberry Shortcake



Crafts & Activities

Activities, Arts & Crafts

- Sand art.
- Seashell art.
- Alligator clips/clothespins.
- Make food dishes such edible fruit arrangements, strawberry shortcake, etc.



STEM Activities

- Explore the Everglades by creating ecosystems.
- Explore the Kennedy Space Center by building rockets.
- Explore Disney World by having rollercoaster challenge or have students create and build their own amusement park rides.
- Explore physics with the Daytona 500. Build your own race car or explore the physics involved with building a track.

