

TEACHER'S GUIDE

The Story of Florida

Within Our Borders Series

Grade Level: Grades 4-8

Subject area: Social studies, U.S. History, U.S. Geography & Cultures

SYNOPSIS:

Stunning travel photography introduces students to the seven geographical regions of Florida including the sites in major cities such as Miami, Fort Lauderdale, Jacksonville, St. Augustine, Daytona Beach, Orlando, Tampa, St. Petersburg and Sarasota. Includes a visit to an Indian River fruit packing plant, and wildlife reserves such as the Florida Everglades National Park, John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park, and the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. Excursions to Cape Canaveral and the John F. Kennedy Space Center review the history of American achievements in space. Cuban communities, Seminole Indian communities and Spanish missions provide the focal points for brief reviews of Florida's history. A final sequence travels the length of the Overseas Highway to Hemingway House and Mallory Square in Key West.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Objective 1) Describe the distinct geographical areas of Florida and the major cities found in each of them.

Objective 2) Describe the role of Spanish conquerors, the Seminoles and Cuban immigrants in the history of Florida.

Objective 3) Understand the reasons why there are several endangered species in Florida and the efforts being made to preserve Florida's unique ecosystems.

Objective 4) Appreciate the importance of tourists and tourism in this state.

Objective 5) Understand how Florida's geography influenced NASA's decision to make Cape Canaveral a center for space exploration.

VOCABULARY:

Define and discuss the following key terms:

crook (curve of land), hub, metropolis, meandering, sanctuary, aquatic, diverse cultural influences, manatee, roseate spoonbill, ecosystem, peninsula, Seminoles, opulent, galleons, cosmopolitan, metamorphosis, conch houses

PRE-VIEWING QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES:

1) What does everyone think of when "Florida" is mentioned? Why is tourism so important to Florida's economy?

2) What famous space center is located in Florida? Why did NASA establish it there?

3) What kinds of wildlife can be viewed only in Florida? Why does Florida have so many nature preserves?

4) Besides tourism, what other industry is well established in Florida? What products on your breakfast table probably came from Florida?

POST-VIEWING QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:

1) If you could visit only one city in Florida, which one would you choose? Why would you choose this city?

2) What kind of a park is John Pennekamp nature preserve? Why is it one of the most visited tourist attractions in Florida? What other wildlife sanctuaries are very popular in Florida?

3) If you visited the Indian River area, what industries could you observe there? In what region of Florida is the Indian River located? What other Florida region is nearby?

4) Why did NASA choose to build a Space Center at Cape Canaveral in the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge?

5) Why did Ernest Hemingway love Key West? What tourist attractions are found there? Who built the town of Key West?

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES:

1) Investigate the areas where retirement communities are located in Florida. Also find out where the most affluent communities in Florida are located. Is there any correspondence between retirement communities and wealthy neighborhoods?

2) Make a detailed map of the location of Florida citrus farms. Tell us how you found your information.

3) Make a detailed map or list of all the places in Florida where Spanish colonial architecture can be found. Tell us how you discovered these places and how you know for sure that the Spanish built in these areas.

4) Write a journal entry telling why you would like to visit the John F. Kennedy Space Center or any wildlife reserve in Florida.

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