

Lesson 3: The Southeast

☐ Getting Started

The southeastern United States is known for its southern hospitality, hot and humid summers, and geographical variety. In this region, you can find the Appalachian Mountains, the Florida Everglades, the bayou of Louisiana, and the beautiful beaches of Florida, Virginia, South Carolina, and North Carolina.

The Southeast is not as heavily populated as the Northeast, but many people do live in this part of the country. One reason is that many of the eastern states have a coast. Imports from all over the world come into the ports along the eastern seaboard, and exports leave through these ports to reach destinations all over the world. The ports created jobs and industry in the early years of our nation and continue to do so today. Agriculture has always been an important industry in the Southeast. Many of the first people to live in the Southeast lived on farms called plantations.

Stuff You Need

- *Smart About the Fifty States* by Jon Buller
- colored pencils or markers* (Activity 2 - Option 2)
- journal

Ideas to Think About

- How are the state regions within the United States similar and different?
- What do the state regions of the United States offer their citizens?
- What relationships exist among the different regions of the United States?

Things to Know

- The states of the Southeast include Arkansas, Tennessee, West Virginia, Virginia, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, North Carolina, Georgia, Kentucky, South Carolina, and Louisiana.
- The southeastern U.S. has a variety of ecosystems.
- People in the Southeast are known as "southerners" and often speak with a Southern accent.
- In the summer, the weather in the Southeast is hot and humid.

☐ **Reading and Questions**

In *Smart About the Fifty States* read about the Southeast. As you read about each state listed below, use the "States of the Southeast" pages to decorate the states' names. The book's illustrator also did this, but use your own ideas based on what you learn about the state. Some of the information for these pages will come from *Smart About the Fifty States*, but you should also use other sources such as the Internet or an encyclopedia.

1. Arkansas

2. Alabama

3. Mississippi

4. Georgia

5. Kentucky

6. South Carolina

7. North Carolina

8. Florida

9. Virginia

10. Tennessee

11. West Virginia

12. Louisiana

Southeastern States**Activities**☐ **Activity 1: About the Southeast**

On the "About the Southeast" pages, you will record information related to the states in the Southeast. You can use the book, *Smart About the Fifty States*, and any other sources (books, encyclopedias, or people who have lived there). Include the following information:

- States (List the names.)
- Climate (Describe the overall climate of the region and how it changes with the seasons.)
- Natural resources (List and/or illustrate at least five natural resources found in the region.)
- Important landforms and bodies of water (Describe important landform(s) and bodies of water in the region. Include at least one landform and one body of water.)

- Culture (Describe the people and their way of life. What unique traditions do they have? How are they recognized by the rest of the country?)
- Wildlife (Illustrate and label at least two plants and two animals found in the region.)
- Famous person (Describe a famous person from the region and what the person has accomplished.)
- Jobs (List two important industries in the region.)

To find more information about this region, use the following websites or an encyclopedia.

**Interactive Map of the Southern States**

www.beyondthepage.com/link/13691/

This interactive map provides information about different geographical features and cities in the Southern states.

**New World Encyclopedia: Southern United States**

www.beyondthepage.com/link/13692/

☐ **Activity 2: Southern Traditions, Culture, and Landscape**

Select one of the following options.

Option 1: Pros and Cons

Make a list of the pros and cons of living in the Southeast. Fold a sheet of paper in half length-wise. Write "Pros" at the top of one column and "Cons" at the top of the other column. Include five to eight ideas in each column. See if you believe there are more pros or cons to living in the Southeast.

Option 2: Geography of the Southeast

Using the "Geography of the Southeast" pages, illustrate a scene for each geographical feature found in the Southeast. Your scene should illustrate the plants, animals, and geographical features that one would find when exploring these southeastern destinations:

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| • Florida Everglades | • Appalachian Mountains |
| • Virginia Beach | • Mississippi Delta |
| • Louisiana Bayou | • Smoky Mountains |

Option 3: Southern Culture

In many ways, the Southeast has shaped much of our American culture. Describe or illustrate ten events or people from the Southeast who have influenced or continue to influence American culture. Example: Jazz music was first played in New Orleans and continues to shape American music.

Wrapping Up

The Southeast has a rich history and many traditions. People from the Southeast often have a unique dialect. Many Americans believe that the people in the Southeast are some of the friendliest in the country. How does the Southeast differ from the region in which you live? If you live in the Southeast, what are you most proud of?

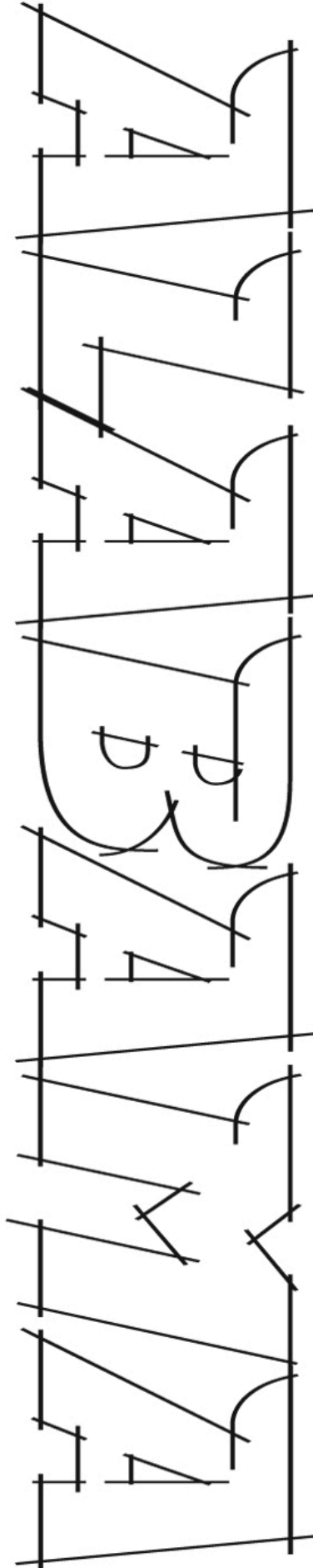
Start playing "US Capitals" using the following link. See how many levels you can reach.



US State Capitals

www.beyondthepage.com/link/13693/

ARKANSAS



MISSISSIPPI

SOUTH CAROLINA

MISSISSIPPI

GEORGIA

VERMONT

GEORGIA

NORTH CAROLINA

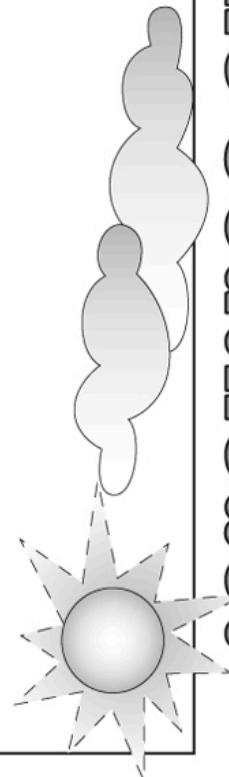
THEMISES
LOUISIANA
WEST VIRGINIA

About the Southeast

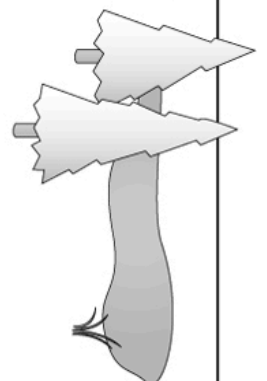
States



Climate

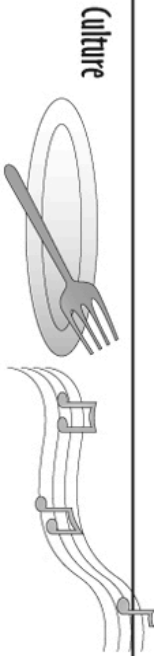
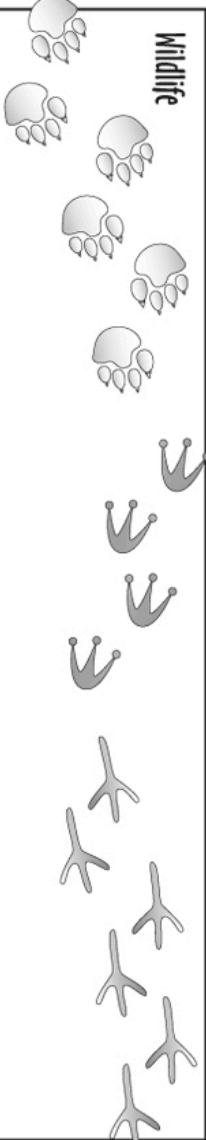


Natural Resources



Important Landforms and Bodies of Water



	 Culture
	 Wildlife
 Famous Person	 Jobs

Geography of the Southeast

Directions: Illustrate a scene for each geographical feature found in the Southeast. Make sure you include plants, animals, and geographical features.

Florida
Everglades



Virginia
Beach



Geography of the Southeast

Directions: Illustrate a scene for each geographical feature found in the Southeast. Make sure you include plants, animals, and geographical features.

Louisiana Bayou



Appalachian Mountains



Geography of the Southeast

Directions: Illustrate a scene for each geographical feature found in the Southeast. Make sure you include plants, animals, and geographical features.

Mississippi Delta



Smoky Mountains



Lesson 3: The Southeast

Getting Started

✿ Ideas to Think About

- How are the state regions within the United States similar and different?
- What do the state regions of the United States offer their citizens?
- What relationships exist among the different regions of the United States?

📖 Things to Know

- The states of the Southeast include Arkansas, Tennessee, West Virginia, Virginia, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, North Carolina, Georgia, Kentucky, South Carolina, and Louisiana.
- The southeastern U.S. has a variety of ecosystems.
- People in the Southeast are known as "southerners" and often speak with a Southern accent.
- In the summer, the weather in the Southeast is hot and humid.

⦿ Skills

- Compare and contrast the physical and cultural characteristics of regions within the United States. (SS)
- Describe the absolute and relative location of major landforms, bodies of water, and natural resources in the United States. (SS)
- Compare and contrast the physical and cultural characteristics of regions within the United States. (SS)
- Analyze how people in different parts of the United States earn a living, past and present. (SS)

Introducing the Lesson

In this lesson, your child will continue his journey across the United States by exploring the Southeast region. This region is known for its warm climate, rich history, and cultural traditions that have shaped much of the country. From the towering Appalachian Mountains to the lush Florida Everglades and the winding bayous of Louisiana, the Southeast is full of natural beauty and geographical variety.

Begin by having your child locate the Southeastern states on his "State Regions of the United States" map (from Lesson 1). Discuss any experiences your family has had in this region—has he visited any of these states before? What does he already know about the South? This is a great opportunity to make connections between geography, history, and culture while sparking curiosity about what makes the Southeast unique.

Throughout this lesson, your child will explore the climate, natural resources, industries, and cultural traditions of the region, gaining a deeper understanding of how the land, people, and economy of the Southeast contribute to the larger United States.

Reading and Questions

1. *Arkansas: Answers will vary but may include: Nickname- The Natural State; Capital- Little Rock; Products- watermelon, chickens, catfish; Home to- Ozark Mountains, Hot Springs National Park, Giant Peanut Statue, Crater of Diamonds State Park, President William J. Clinton*

2. *Alabama: Answers will vary but may include: Nickname- Cotton State; Capital- Montgomery; Products- coal, paper, iron, steel; Home to- US Space and Rocket Center; boll weevils (cotton pest), Talladega Superspeedway, Moundville (prehistoric mound village), Tuskegee Institute, George Washington Carver, Rosa Parks, important victories of the Civil Rights Movement*
3. *Mississippi: Answers will vary but may include: Nickname- Magnolia State; Capital- Jackson; Home to- Delta Blues, "Mrs. Ippy," Tupelo- Elvis's Birthplace, towboats, petrified forest, Vicksburg Civil War Battlefield, Southern Plantations, Jefferson Davis (President of Confederate States); Products- cotton, soybeans, catfish, shrimp; Geography- Gulf coast beaches, Mississippi River, good soil for farming*
4. *Georgia: Answers will vary but may include: Nickname- The Peach State; Capital- Atlanta; Products- cotton, peanuts; Home to- Coca-Cola, President Jimmy Carter, Martin Luther King, Jr., Jackie Robinson*
5. *Kentucky: Answers will vary but may include: Nickname- Bluegrass State; Capital- Frankfort; Home to- Kentucky Derby, Daniel Boone, Fort Knox, Abe Lincoln, Mammoth Cave National Park*
6. *South Carolina: Answers will vary but may include: Nickname- Palmetto State; Capital- Columbia; Home to- Blue Ridge Mountains, Magnolia Plantation and Gardens, beaches; Products- peaches, sweetgrass baskets; Firsts- first state to break away from the US, which led to the Civil War, Fort Sumter battle, first museum (Charleston Museum)*
7. *North Carolina: Answers will vary but may include: Nickname- Tar Heel State; Capital- Raleigh; Home to- beaches, Blue Ridge Mountains, fine furniture, Oroville and Wilbur Wright, Reed Gold Mine*
8. *Florida: Answers will vary but may include: Nickname- Sunshine State; Capital- Tallahassee; Home to- Daytona, Retirees, Weeki Wachee Mermaids, Disney World, Cape Canaveral, oranges, scuba, seashells, Lake Okeechobee, beaches, Everglades; Famous Person- Juan Ponce de Leon (Spanish explorer who came to Florida looking for the Fountain of Youth)*
9. *Virginia: Answers will vary but may include: Nickname- Mother of Presidents; Capital- Richmond; Famous people- 8 presidents born here, including Washington and Jefferson, Blackbeard the pirate, John Smith, Pocahontas*
10. *Tennessee: Answers will vary but may include: Nickname- Volunteer State; Capital- Nashville; Home to- Gibson Guitars, Graceland (Elvis's house), Grand Ole Opry, Lookout Mountain, Tennessee Walking Horses, Davy Crockett Birthplace, Smoky Mountains; Products- poultry, hogs; Famous people- Elvis Presley, Presidents- Andrew Jackson, James K. Polk, Andrew Johnson*
11. *West Virginia- Answers will vary but may include: Nickname- The Mountain State; Capital- Charleston; Home to- Appalachian Mountains, coal mines, glass plants, Chuck Yeager, Civil War battles*
12. *Louisiana- Answers will vary but may include: Nickname- Pelican State; Capital- Baton Rouge; Home to- Cajun music, jazz, Mardi Gras, riverboats; Products- rice, cotton, crawfish, hot sauce; Famous Person- Louis Armstrong*

Your child will creatively decorate the names of the Southeastern states based on what he learns from *Smart About the Fifty States* and additional research. These decorations should reflect key facts about each state, such as famous landmarks, industries, historical events, natural resources, or cultural traditions. Encourage him to be thoughtful in his designs—perhaps drawing peaches for Georgia, a steamboat for Louisiana, or a horse for Kentucky.

After he completes the activity, review his illustrations together. Ask him to explain his design choices and how they relate to each state's history, geography, or economy. If needed, guide him in expanding his

understanding by discussing additional details about each state. This activity helps reinforce key facts while encouraging creativity, research skills, and deeper connections to the region.

Activities

Activity 1: About the Southeast

Your child researched and recorded key information about the Southeast region using Smart About the Fifty States and other sources. He listed the states, described the climate, and identified important landforms and bodies of water like the Appalachian Mountains and the Mississippi River. He explored natural resources, illustrated wildlife, and learned about a famous person from the region. He also examined cultural traditions and major industries that shape the Southeast's economy. After completing his research, he reviewed his findings and added details to strengthen his understanding of the region. Read through the information your child recorded about the southeastern region. Discuss each area and offer any additional information you feel is important.

Answer Key:

- Answers will vary. Sample answers are provided below. Accept other accurate responses.
- States: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.
- Climate: The Southeast generally has hot, humid summers and mild winters. Northern and mountainous areas experience colder winters and occasional snow. The region receives plenty of rainfall throughout the year, and coastal areas sometimes experience hurricanes.
- Natural Resources: Fertile soil, forests (timber), coal, natural gas, petroleum (oil), limestone, and fish.
- Important Landforms and Bodies of Water: The Southeast includes the Appalachian Mountains, Blue Ridge Mountains, and Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plains. Important bodies of water include the Mississippi River, Tennessee River, Atlantic Ocean, and Gulf of Mexico.
- Culture: The Southeast is known for its Southern hospitality, traditional foods, and rich musical heritage. Popular foods include barbecue, fried chicken, and cornbread. Musical traditions such as country, blues, jazz, and bluegrass have strong roots in the region. The Southeast is also known for its important role in American history, including the Civil War and the Civil Rights Movement.
- Wildlife:
 - Plants: Southern magnolia, longleaf pine
 - Animals: American alligator, white-tailed deer
- Famous Person: Martin Luther King Jr. was born in Atlanta, Georgia. He became a leader of the Civil Rights Movement and worked to end racial segregation and discrimination through peaceful protests and speeches.
- Jobs: Agriculture and tourism. Other important industries include manufacturing, energy production, and forestry.

Activity 2: Southern Traditions, Culture, and Landscape

Your child can choose one of three options.

Option 1: Pros and Cons

Your child made a list of five to eight pros and cons of living in the Southeast. Review the list to be sure the ideas are accurate and reflect the region's climate, geography, economy, and culture. Possible advantages include warm weather, mild winters, beautiful beaches, abundant natural resources, a long growing season, diverse wildlife, and job opportunities in agriculture, tourism, and manufacturing. Possible

disadvantages include hot, humid summers, hurricanes along the coast, flooding, severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, and mosquitoes and other pests. Some areas also experience poverty or limited job opportunities. Discuss your child's list and encourage him to explain which advantages and disadvantages matter most to him. There is no correct answer about whether the Southeast is a desirable place to live, but his opinion should be supported by specific facts about the region.

Option 2: Geography of the Southeast

Your child illustrated six geographical features of the Southeast, showing the landscapes, plants, and animals found in each location. Review the illustrations for accuracy and appropriate details. The Florida Everglades should show wetlands with shallow water, sawgrass, alligators, and wading birds such as herons. Virginia Beach might include sandy beaches, ocean waves, dunes, seabirds, and beach grasses. A Louisiana bayou should feature slow-moving water, cypress trees with exposed roots, Spanish moss, turtles, and alligators. The Appalachian Mountains might include forested mountains, valleys, streams, black bears, and deer. The Mississippi Delta in Louisiana should show low-lying wetlands, marsh grasses, winding waterways, and birds such as egrets and pelicans. The Smoky Mountains should feature forested peaks, mist-covered valleys, streams, black bears, and trees such as oak and maple. Discuss how these environments differ and how the landforms, climate, and water sources influence the plants and animals that live in each location.

Option 3: Southern Culture

Your child described or illustrated ten people or events from the Southeast that have influenced American culture. Review his work to be sure the examples are accurate and explain their importance. Possible examples include jazz music, which developed in New Orleans, Louisiana; Elvis Presley, who helped popularize rock and roll in Memphis, Tennessee; Dolly Parton, a country music star from Tennessee; Martin Luther King Jr., who led peaceful protests during the Civil Rights Movement; Rosa Parks, whose refusal to give up her bus seat in Montgomery, Alabama, helped inspire the Montgomery Bus Boycott; the Wright brothers' first powered flight in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina; NASCAR, which grew from stock car racing traditions in the Southeast; Southern cuisine, including barbecue, fried chicken, and cornbread; Harper Lee, an Alabama author whose novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* explored racial injustice; and the Civil War, which profoundly shaped American history and led to the abolition of slavery. Encourage your child to explain how each person, event, or tradition influenced American society and why its impact is still important today.

Wrapping Up

Questions to Discuss

- What did you find most interesting about the southeastern states?
- How do the southeastern states compare to the northeastern states? (*The Southeastern and Northeastern states are very different in climate, culture, and geography. The Southeast is warm and humid, with hot summers and mild winters. It has beaches, swamps, and mountains, like the Florida Everglades and the Appalachian Mountains. The Northeast, on the other hand, has all four seasons, with cold, snowy winters and warm summers. It has big cities like New York and Boston, as well as historical sites from the American Revolution. People in the Southeast are known for their "southern hospitality," which means they are friendly and polite. The region has strong Native American, African, and European influences, and it is famous for its food, like barbecue, grits, and fried chicken. The Northeast is known for its fast-paced lifestyle, seafood like lobster and clam chowder, and being the birthplace of the United States.*)

- Would you want to live in the Southeast? Why or why not?
- Has the region of the country where you live been influenced by southern culture in any way?

Things to Review

Review the names of the states found in the Southeast. Discuss the unique geographical features of this region and southern traditions.