

Name _____

Date _____

Florida

Florida shares borders with two states - Alabama and Georgia. Florida borders Alabama in the northwest. It also borders Georgia in the north. Florida is a large peninsula. A peninsula is a body of land that is almost completely surrounded by water and is connected to a larger body of land by an isthmus.

The Gulf of Mexico is located to the west of Florida, and the Atlantic Ocean is to the east. Florida is nicknamed the “sunshine state” because it has such a tropical climate. Florida is the fourth largest state with regard to population.

The capital of Florida is Tallahassee, but Jacksonville is the largest city. Miami is the largest metro area in Florida. Florida’s residents are called Floridians.

The name Florida is the oldest surviving European name for a place in the US. Juan Ponce de Leon named Florida after discovering it on April 2, 1513. He discovered the land six days after Easter. Florida appeared to be a flowered land. The Spanish called the season Pascua Florida, which means “flowery Easter,” and this is where Florida got its name.

On March 3, 1845, Florida was the 27th state to join the United States of America. It was also one of the states that seceded from the Union prior to the start of the Civil War. Florida then became one of the founding members of the Confederate States of America. After the civil war ended, Florida rejoined the United States of America.

Florida is a plateau of limestone that sits on top of bedrock. It has an extensive system of underwater caves, sinkholes, and springs. These springs supply most of the water used by Floridians.

Britton Hill is the highest point in Florida, and it is also the lowest of all the highpoints listed for any US state.

Tourism is an important component of Florida’s economy, and it is the largest industry in Florida. Because of the warm weather, the amusement parks, and the many beaches, roughly 60 million people visit the state each year. Walt Disney World Resort is the largest vacation resort in the world and is located in Orlando, Florida.

The second largest industry in Florida is agriculture. Citrus fruits, especially oranges, are a large component of the agricultural industry in Florida. Florida is also one of the few states that does not have a personal income tax.

Several professional sports teams are located in Florida, and Florida is the traditional home for spring training for several of the Major League Baseball teams.

Florida’s motto is “In God We Trust.” Florida’s state bird is the northern mockingbird. The state flower is the orange blossom. Florida’s state animal is the Florida panther, and the state tree is the sabal palm.

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Worksheet

Multiple Choice:

1. The number of states that Florida shares borders with is:

- a. 1
- b. 2
- c. 3
- d. 4

2. The capital of Florida is:

- a. Orlando
- b. Tallahassee
- c. Jacksonville
- d. Miami

3. The state animal of Florida is the:

- a. Mockingbird
- b. Panther
- c. Dolphin
- d. Tiger

Fill In:

4. The _____ is located to the west of Florida, and the Atlantic Ocean is to the east.

5. Florida is the _____ largest state with regard to population.

6. On March 3, 1845, Florida was the _____ state to join the United States of America.

7. Florida is the traditional home for spring training for several of the _____ teams.

8. Florida's state tree is the _____.

True or False:

____ 9. Florida is a large peninsula.

____ 10. Agriculture is an important component of Florida's economy, and it is the largest industry in Florida.

____ 11. Juan Ponce de Leon named Florida after discovering it on April 2, 1513.

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