

# HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY

STUDENT BOOK

▶ **3rd Grade** | Unit 5

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# HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY 305

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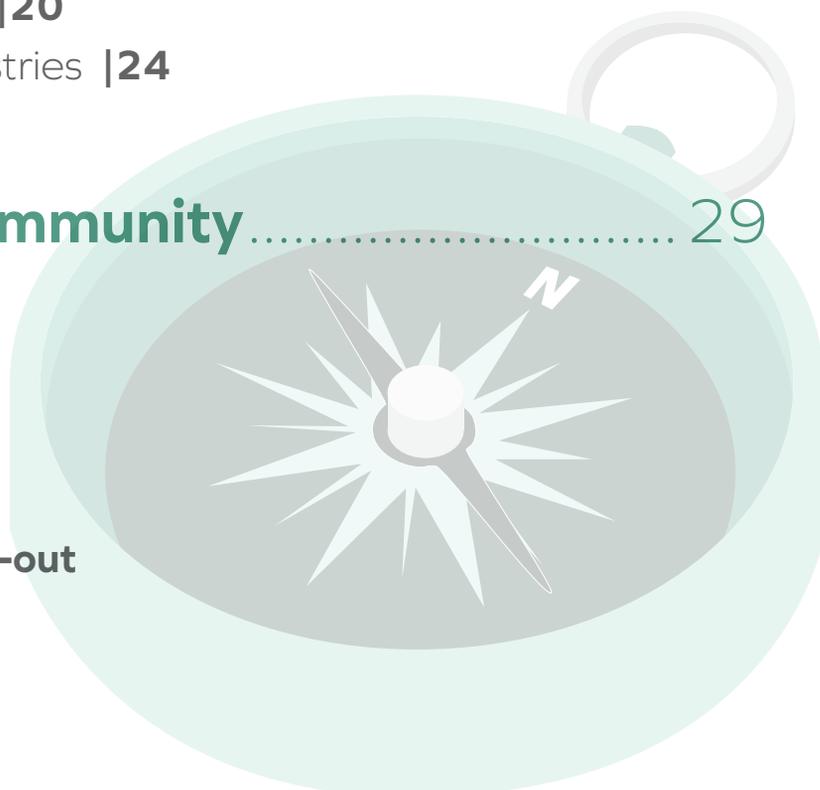
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# SOUTHERN STATES

**Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, Oklahoma, Texas, and Arkansas**

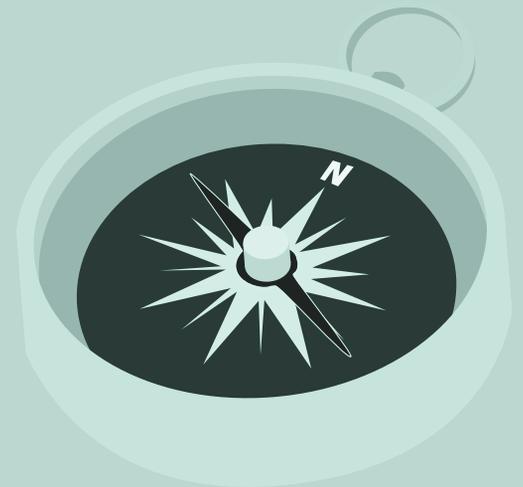
The next region of the United States you will study is the Southern United States. The states in this region are Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, Oklahoma, Texas, and Arkansas. While the states along the Atlantic Ocean were largely settled by the English, many of the Southern states were settled by the Spanish and French. The influence of these settlers can be seen in the place names, building styles, and celebrations in the Southern region.



## Objectives

**Read these objectives.** The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFEPAAC. Each section will list according to the numbers below what objectives will be met in that section. When you have finished this LIFEPAAC, you should be able to:

1. Locate the Southern states.
2. Know the geography of the Southern states.
3. List natural resources found in the Southern states.
4. State the types of businesses and employers found in the Southern region.
5. Know some of the Southern settlers.
6. Recognize the importance of music in the Southern states.
7. Identify the pastimes of the people living in the Southern states.



# 1. SOUTHERN GEOGRAPHY

You will begin this LIFEPAC by studying the geography of the Southern states. You will learn the names of some of the Southern states' land features. You will also learn the names of the Southern states' major cities. The Southern states' location impacts the types of food people grow, the places they live, and the activities they do.

## Objectives

**Review these objectives.** When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. Locate the Southern states.
2. Know the geography of the Southern states.

## Vocabulary

**Study these new words.** Learning the meanings of these words is a good study habit and will improve your understanding of this LIFEPAC.

**bayou** (bī 'ōō, bī 'ō). A slow-moving river that moves through a marsh or low-lying area.

**delta** (děl't ə). The sediment that forms at the mouth of a river.

**sediment** (sěd' ə-mənt). Material like dirt that is left behind.

**tornado** (tôr-nā'dō). A strong windstorm that is in the shape of a funnel.

**Note:** All vocabulary words in this LIFEPAC appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are unsure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

**Pronunciation Key:** hat, āge, cāre, fār; let, ēqual, tērm; it, īce; hot, ōpen, ôrder; oil; out; cup, pūt, rüle; child; long; thin; /FH/ for then; /zh/ for measure; /u/ or /ə/ represents /a/ in about, /e/ in taken, /i/ in pencil, /o/ in lemon, and /u/ in circus.

Ask your teacher to say these vocabulary words with you.



Teacher check:

Initials \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## States in the Southern Region

Before you study the Southern states, look at the map below. The map will introduce you to the Southern region.





**Answer the questions based on the map of the Southern region.**

- 1.1** Which states are located on the Gulf of Mexico? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.2** Which states are located along the Mississippi River?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.3** List the state capitals of the following states:
- a. Alabama \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Arkansas \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Kentucky \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Louisiana \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. Mississippi \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. Oklahoma \_\_\_\_\_
  - g. Tennessee \_\_\_\_\_
  - h. Texas \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.4** The Ohio River forms the northern border of what state?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.5** The Rio Grande forms the southern border of what state?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.6** What is the easternmost state of this region?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.7** The 100 degree line of longitude runs through which states?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.8** The 30 degree line of latitude runs through which states?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.9** Which country is south of Texas? \_\_\_\_\_

## Geographical Features

The Southern states occupy a large area of the United States. The land in this region is varied. The Appalachian Mountains form the eastern boundary of the region. Mountains can also be found to the west of the region in Arkansas. The northern areas of the region are lush and full of trees. The areas near the Gulf of Mexico are low, flat, and often swampy. The middle of the Southern region offers large areas of land suitable for farming.

Texas is the second largest state in the country. Only Alaska has a larger land area. As you can imagine, the geography of Texas differs greatly. The western parts of Texas and Oklahoma are similar to those of Arizona and New Mexico to the west. Vast grasslands, which are often dry, occupy much of the geography of these western regions.

One of the most important features of the Southern region is the Mississippi River. The river is the second-largest river in the United States. The Missouri River which flows into the Mississippi is longer. The Mississippi river begins in northern Minnesota and flows south for over 2,300 miles into the Gulf of Mexico. The river is an important way for people to transport goods between the North and South.

Barges are large shallow boats that can move large amounts of goods. Coal, corn, and beans are some of the items that are transported on Mississippi River barges. The Mississippi River also forms the border of many U.S. states. Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Arkansas all have a Mississippi River border.

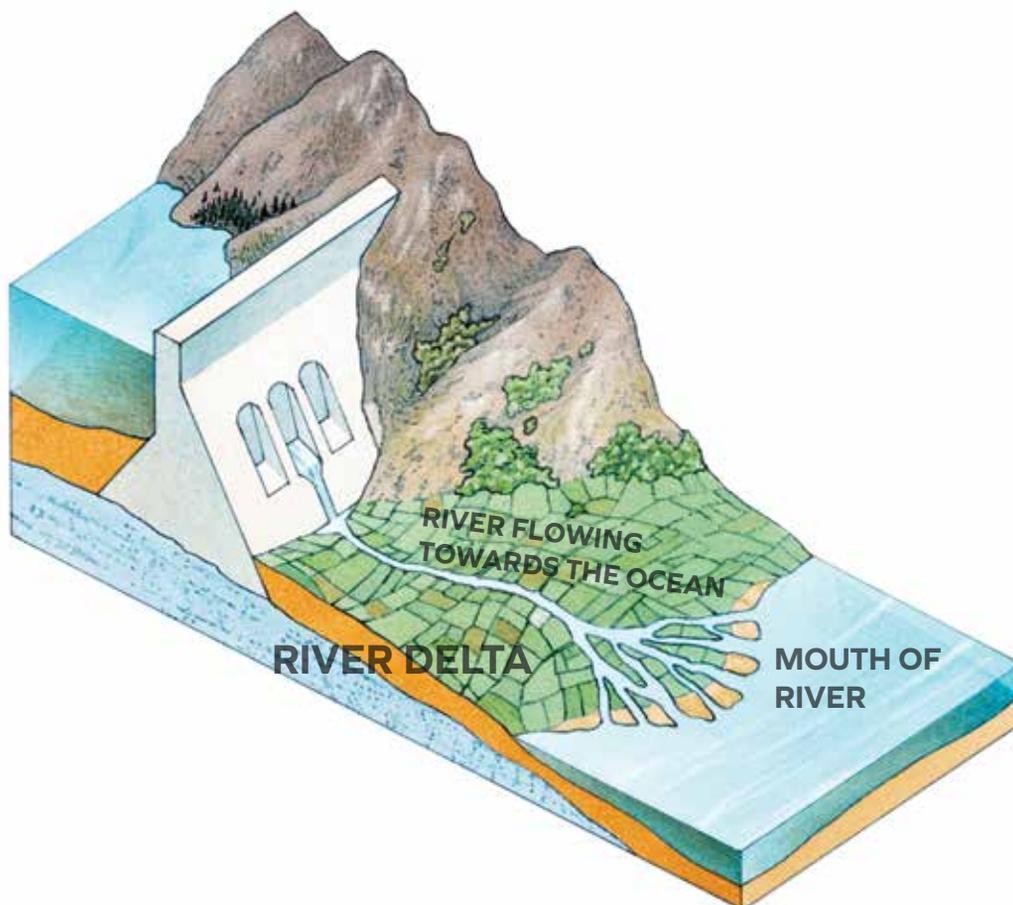
The state of Louisiana is home to a number of interesting geographical features. The first is the Mississippi River **delta**. A delta is the area where a



| Barges move goods up and down the Mississippi River.

river flows into a larger body of water. The flow of water slows as it enters an ocean or lake. As the water slows, **sediment** in the water is deposited at the mouth of the river. Over time, this sediment builds and a large area of land is formed. Often, a river delta is in the shape of a triangle. The Mississippi River delta area is mainly comprised of wetlands. It is home to shrimp, crabs, and crayfish.

Louisiana is also home to numerous **bayous**. A bayou forms when a river or stream slowly flows in a low, flat area. Numerous bayous can be found along the southern Gulf Coast of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. Bayous are home to crawfish, shrimp, and catfish. Large water birds that make their homes in bayous include the great blue heron, the egret, and pelican. Bald cypress trees are abundant in the swampy bayous. These trees can grow to over 100 feet in height. Bald cypress need lots of water to grow. This makes them a perfect tree for the bayou region.





**Fill in the blank.**

- 1.10** The second-largest state in land area is \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 1.11** The second-longest river in the United States is the \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 1.12** A(n) \_\_\_\_\_ forms from sediment at the mouth of a river.
- 1.13** A(n) \_\_\_\_\_ tree grows in swamps and can reach over 100 feet.
- 1.14** A(n) \_\_\_\_\_ forms when a river slowly flows in a low flat area. Many are found along the Gulf Coast.

## Weather

The weather of the Southern region is as varied as its landscape. Along the Gulf Coast, the weather is subtropical. The winters are mild while the summers are hot and humid. The growing season for crops throughout the region is generally six months. Parts of Texas and much of Oklahoma are dry with little rainfall throughout the year. Places of higher elevation have cooler temperatures. Snow and ice is uncommon in the region although it can occur in the mountainous areas.

**Tornadoes** are dangerous weather storms that can occur in this area of the country. Tornadoes are twisting columns of air that start in the clouds and extend to the ground. They are most often funnel shaped with the narrow end touching the earth. The narrow twisting funnel remains on the ground for a few minutes before lifting up into the clouds. However, during this time, the tornado can cause a great deal of damage. Wide tornadoes cause greater destruction. Texas has more tornadoes than any other state. Part of this is due to its large size. Tornadoes can occur in every continent in the world except Antarctica. However, they are especially common in the United States. Most tornadoes occur between the Appalachian and Rocky Mountains. They often happen in the spring and summer months. Most tornadoes take place between 3:00 in the afternoon and 9:00 at night.

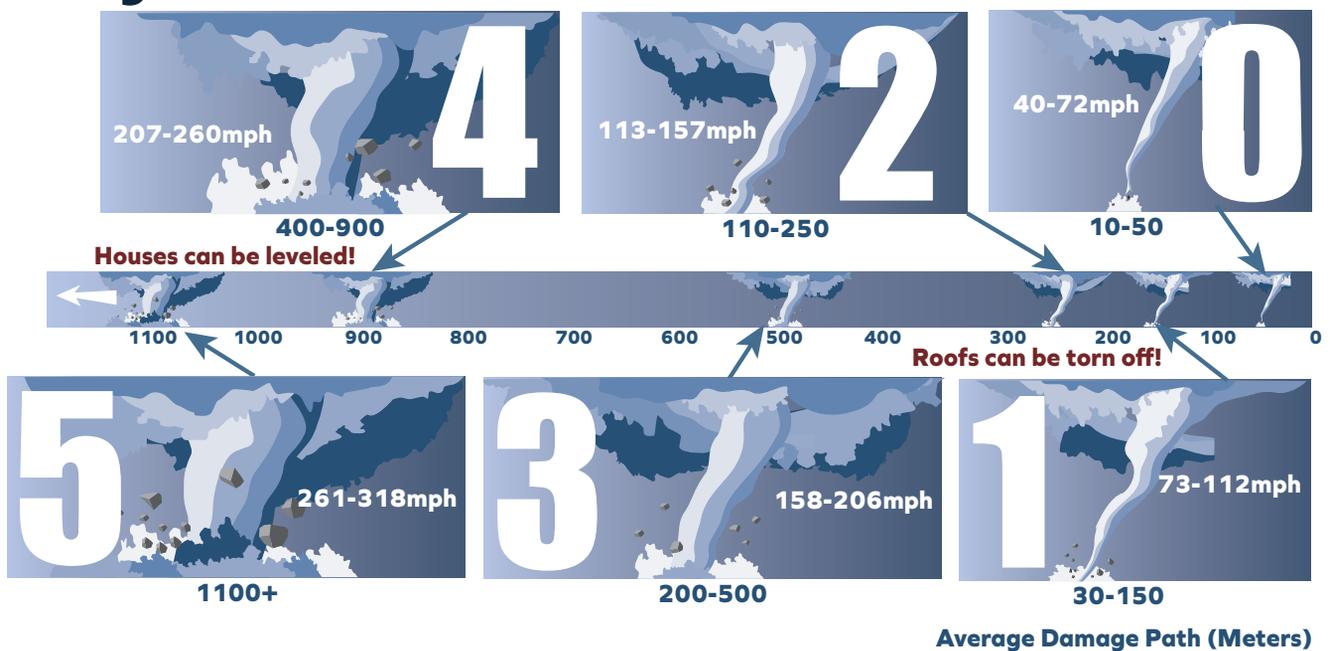


| Tornadoes can destroy whole communities.

Tornadoes typically form out of strong thunderstorms. Some storms produce multiple tornadoes. Just like hurricanes, thunderstorms are divided into categories based on their strength. The Fujita Scale is used to determine the strength of a tornado. A Fujita 0 or F0 is the least severe. These tornadoes have lower wind speeds

and mainly damage trees. F5 tornadoes are the most destructive. These tornadoes are able to rip buildings off their foundations. They can carry debris, like signs, for many miles. Two-thirds of all tornadoes are on the ground for less than 10 minutes and have a wind speed of less than 110 mph. While these tornadoes are dangerous, they do not leave behind wide areas of destruction. Often, little to no warning is given of an approaching tornado. But, when the weather is suitable for a tornado, people should take cover in a basement, an interior room, or low-lying area. People should never try to outrun a tornado.

# Fujita Tornado Scale





**Answer true or false.**

- 1.15** \_\_\_\_\_ Southern winters are cold and icy.
- 1.16** \_\_\_\_\_ The Fujita Scale is used to determine the amount of rain that falls during a storm.
- 1.17** \_\_\_\_\_ Most tornadoes occur during the spring and summer months.
- 1.18** \_\_\_\_\_ When a tornado approaches, people should seek cover in a basement or low-lying area.



**Teacher check:**

Initials \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



**For this Self Test, study what you have read and done.** The Self Test will check what you remember.

# SELF TEST 1

Each answer = 1 point

**Draw a line to the correct answer.**

- |             |          |   |  |
|-------------|----------|---|--|
| <b>1.01</b> | delta    | ● | a. soil that gathers at the mouth of a river |
| <b>1.02</b> | barge    | ● | b. a funnel-shaped storm                     |
| <b>1.03</b> | sediment | ● | c. a slow-moving river in a flat location    |
| <b>1.04</b> | bayou    | ● | d. forms at the mouth of a river             |
| <b>1.05</b> | tornado  | ● | e. transports goods                          |

**Answer true or false.**

- 1.06** \_\_\_\_\_ Maine is not a Southern state.
- 1.07** \_\_\_\_\_ The Mississippi is the largest river in the United States.
- 1.08** \_\_\_\_\_ The Rio Grande forms the northern border of Kentucky.
- 1.09** \_\_\_\_\_ Most tornadoes occur during the spring and summer.
- 1.010** \_\_\_\_\_ The bald cypress is a type of tree that grows in the bayou.

**Fill in the blank.**

**1.011** The Mississippi River flows into the \_\_\_\_\_ .

**1.012** \_\_\_\_\_ is the second-largest U.S. state.

**1.013** The Fujita scale is used to determine the strength of a(n)  
\_\_\_\_\_ .

**1.014** \_\_\_\_\_ is the only continent not to  
experience tornadoes.

**1.015** The Ohio River forms the northern border of  
\_\_\_\_\_ .

**Teacher check:**

Score \_\_\_\_\_

Initials \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_





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