

Summary: Florida's Future

Facing Challenges

Millions of people have moved to Florida. As a result, Florida's population has grown faster than most other states. People like Florida's climate, cultures, and job opportunities.

The growing population is good for Florida in many ways. But a growing population can cause problems too. It hurts the environment and uses up resources. More people produce more trash and pollution. They use more water and electricity.

A growing population also needs more services. Floridians want good health care and schools. More police and firefighters are needed to protect Florida's cities. Dealing with these challenges costs a lot of money!

Floridians can help solve these problems. Citizens need to vote for their leaders carefully. Leaders must plan wisely so that all Floridians get the services they need. They must also protect resources and the environment.

Taking Action

Floridians can take civic responsibility in many ways. They can vote. They can work to change unfair laws and serve on juries. Children also have civic responsibility. They can obey laws. Children can learn about safety and share what they learn with others.

Citizens who want to help their community can also become activists. Some activists work with the government to help people. Others help feed hungry families. Environmental activists protect wetlands and coral reefs. Children can be activists by starting recycling programs in their neighborhoods and schools.

Florida needs problem solvers who understand its history and the problems caused by its growing population. It needs people who care about the environment and have ideas to protect it. It needs people who will make sure all Floridians have the chance to succeed. Learning about Florida's past will help you plan a better future.



Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

civic responsibility *noun*, any action for the common good

activist *noun*, a person who works to solve particular problems



After You Read

REVIEW In what ways does Florida's growing population hurt its environment? Draw a box around two sentences that tell the answer.

REVIEW In what ways can individuals help deal with Florida's problems? Highlight two sentences that tell how Floridians can take civic responsibility. Underline four sentences that tell what activists can do.