

Summary: Climate and Resources

Florida's Climate

Florida is called the “Sunshine State” because its climate is mostly sunny and warm. The climate varies in different parts of the state. In the far south, the weather is usually hot, like tropical places near the equator. In the north, the weather is milder because it is farther from the equator. Most of the state is in the middle. This subtropical region has summers that are hot and rainy. Winters are mostly mild and dry.

Ocean winds make Florida's summers more comfortable. Thunderstorms form above the ocean. They cool the air as they move inland. Florida has more lightning strikes than any other state. It is important to know how to keep safe during storms. Floridians also have to watch out for hurricanes between June and December.

The ocean winds also help make Florida's winters mild. The winds blow across the warm ocean current called the Gulf Stream. This sends warm winds into Florida. Sometimes cold fronts from the north bring freezing temperatures. This usually lasts for only a few days.

Florida's Natural Resources

Florida has many natural resources. Resources such as trees are renewable. They can be replaced by planting more trees. Resources such as coal and oil are nonrenewable. They cannot be replaced. Sun, water, and wind are flow resources. They can only be used when and where we find them. For example, windmills are used to collect energy from the wind. But, windmills only work when the wind blows.

Florida is rich in resources, including its warm, sunny climate. Other resources include the ocean, forests, soil, and minerals. People try not to waste natural resources. Many people recycle resources such as paper and glass.



Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

climate *noun*, the usual weather of a place over a long period of time

natural resources *noun*, things found in nature that are useful to people

renewable resources *noun*, resources that can be replaced

nonrenewable resources *noun*, resources that cannot be replaced

flow resources *noun*, resources that are neither renewable or nonrenewable



After You Read

REVIEW What makes Florida's climate hot and rainy in summer, and mild in winter? Circle two words that tell what makes Florida's summers rainy and its winters mild.

REVIEW What is the difference between renewable and nonrenewable resources? Underline two sentences that tell the answer.