

# Summary: Florida's Regions

## What Is a Region?

People divide land into regions in different ways. They use physical features, such as landforms, climate, or resources. For example, an area with mountains might be one region. Human features, such as history, language, or culture, are also used to describe regions. A country or a state is a region that shares the same government. One place can be in many regions.

People agree on boundary lines between regions. You can only see these lines on a map. Boundaries that follow natural features like rivers are wavy. Other boundary lines are straight.

Regions that share a common government have special boundaries called borders. Like boundaries, borders are not real lines that you can see. If you live on one side of a border, you might go to a different school than someone who lives on the other side.

## The Regions of Florida

Some geographers divide Florida into three different landform regions: the Atlantic Coastal Plain, the East Gulf Coastal Plain, and the Florida Uplands.

The Atlantic Coastal Plain runs along the eastern coast of Florida from Georgia to the southern tip. It is a low plain close to sea level. It is lined by sandy barrier islands.

The East Gulf Coastal Plain has two parts. The northern part covers the Florida panhandle. The southern part runs along the coast from Tampa to the southern tip. This region includes barrier islands, rivers, and wetlands.

The Florida Uplands is different from the other two regions. It is not a plain. It is a region of low hills in central and northern Florida. Most of it is less than 300 feet above sea level. It includes large forests and sinkhole lakes. These lakes are made when limestone beneath the ground has caved in and water has collected.



### Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

**region** *noun*, an area that has one or more features in common

**boundary** *noun*, a line between regions

**border** *noun*, a line that shows the edge of a region that has the same government

**panhandle** *noun*, the narrow part of Florida that curves along the northern portion of the Gulf of Mexico



### After You Read

**REVIEW** What are some different features that people use to divide areas into regions? Underline three sentences that tell the answer.

**REVIEW** Describe the coastal plain. Draw a box around the paragraph that describes the Atlantic Coastal Plain.

**REVIEW** Which of Florida's physical regions are most alike? Look at the three names of Florida's regions. Circle the names of the two regions that are most alike.