

Summary: What's Special About the Lower South

Where People Live

There are eight states in the Lower South: Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina. The climate of the Lower South is mostly warm and damp. Texas and Oklahoma are mostly dry. Many ethnic groups live in the region. Many Cuban Americans, Puerto Ricans, Seminole Indians, and African Americans live in Florida. Cajuns and Creoles live in Louisiana.

Houston is the largest city in the South. Oil was found near Houston in 1901. The Houston Ship Channel was built in 1914. It connected Houston to Galveston Bay on the Gulf of Mexico. Today, Houston is one of the three biggest U.S. ports. The world's biggest medical center is also in Houston. The NASA/Johnson Space Center is nearby. Many people in Houston live in planned communities. There are also rural areas in the Lower South. The only state in the Lower South without a coastline is Oklahoma. Many people catch and sell seafood, especially shrimp. In Mississippi, people raise and sell catfish. Texas has big cattle ranches. People in Florida grow oranges and other fruits.

Work and Recreation

The mild climate makes tourism an important industry in the Lower South. Tourists enjoy hiking, rafting, and fishing. They go to Florida's theme parks. The Mississippi Delta region is the birthplace of a type of music called the blues. New Orleans is the home of jazz. Cajun and zydeco music are popular in Louisiana. Thousands of people work in the four space research centers located in the Lower South. Scientists in Louisiana research pollution.



Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

ethnic group *noun*, people who share the same culture, including language, music, food, and art

planned community *noun*, a place to live that is mapped out ahead of time

pollution *noun*, anything that makes the land, water, or air impure or dirty



After You Read

REVIEW How did natural resources affect the growth of Houston? Underline the sentence that tells you what happened in 1901.

REVIEW What are two kinds of work people do in the Lower South? Highlight sentences that tell about work people do.