

Welcome To Florida

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

I live in Florida. It is a state in the southeast. Florida is famous for sunshine, beaches, theme parks, citrus fruit, and tourism. It is the 22nd largest state. That makes it pretty average in size, but it is 4th in population behind California, Texas, and New York. You might know some of the major cities, like Miami, Tampa Bay, and Orlando. The state capital is Tallahassee. Now that you know some of the basic facts about Florida, let me tell you a little more about my state.

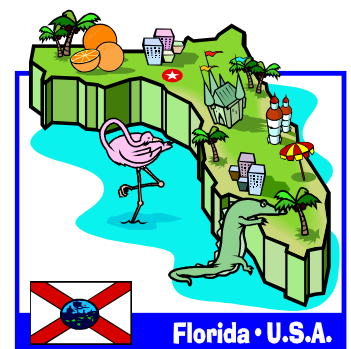
It has the southernmost point in the continental United States at Key West. It is near the countries of the Bahamas and Cuba. Because of its location, it is a very flat and warm state, and it is even swampy in many places. Have you heard of the Everglades? People like to live here, but so do alligators! Florida does not really have four seasons. It really has two. It has a wet, hot season for most of the year, and a dry, cooler season around winter. It is often called *The Sunshine State*, but it is also known as *The Lightning Capital of the World*, because of all the thunderstorms.

With all this hot weather, it makes Florida an ideal place to do some outside stuff. It is a very long peninsula with beaches on three sides and quite a few islands, too. There are hundreds of miles of places to boat, fish, surf, and play in the sun. It also means there are a lot of sports being played. Florida has several pro teams in basketball, football, baseball, and ice hockey. You can catch a game almost any time of the year, or you can get out and play for yourself! Golf is a popular pastime.

Another benefit of the weather is the theme parks. People like to come here when it is cold up north or when they are on spring break. Water parks, theme parks, and the beaches attract thousands of people! Disney, Universal, and Sea World are just a few of the famous parks in Florida.

Florida has a multicultural population. There are Seminole Indians living here. There are also a lot of immigrants from Central America. Spanish is often spoken by the Cuban-American and Mexican-American people living here. You can find many people from Guatemala, Haiti, and other Central American or Caribbean nations. This means there is a lot of interesting and good food around!

Now that you know a little more about Florida, are you thinking about visiting? It is a very popular tourist destination. Hope to see you soon!



Welcome To Florida

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. What is Florida's population ranking?

- A. 1st
- B. 4th
- C. 2nd
- D. 3rd

2. True or False: Florida is one of the largest states in terms of size.

- A. True
- B. False

3. Which of these is Florida NOT famous for?

- A. theme parks
- B. mountains
- C. citrus fruit
- D. beaches

4. Which of these is one of Florida's nicknames?

- A. The Long State
- B. The Mosquito State
- C. The Sunshine State
- D. The Gateway to the Atlantic

5. SHORT ANSWER: Would you like to visit Florida? Why or Why Not?

Welcome To Florida

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. What is Florida's population ranking?
 - A. 1st
 - B. 4th**
 - C. 2nd
 - D. 3rd

2. True or False: Florida is one of the largest states in terms of size.
 - A. True
 - B. False**

3. Which of these is Florida NOT famous for?
 - A. theme parks
 - B. mountains**
 - C. citrus fruit
 - D. beaches

4. Which of these is one of Florida's nicknames?
 - A. The Long State
 - B. The Mosquito State
 - C. The Sunshine State**
 - D. The Gateway to the Atlantic

5. SHORT ANSWER: Would you like to visit Florida? Why or Why Not?

answers vary
