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THE
AMERICAS
COME TOGETHER FOR NATURE



WHERE IN *THE AMERICAS* IS THE GULF COAST?

Watch *The Americas*. With your students, discuss the biological diversity of the Gulf Coast. Did you know 85% of all North American's wetlands are in this region?

Subjects: Biology, Environmental Science, Geography (landforms, maps)

MATERIALS:

- [The Gulf Coast episode](#) or video snippets
- Access to digital [map](#)
- Student Page: *What Do I Know About the Gulf Coast?*

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Find the Gulf Coast and identify key geographic features.
- Identify producers and consumers.
- Make observations about species and their adaptations.
- Explain how climate change impacts wildlife and habitat.



BEFORE WATCHING *The Americas: The Gulf Coast*

As a class or in groups have students explore and discuss the following questions with each other. Individuals or Groups can utilize maps, or online tools to help answer the questions below:

- Find where you live on a [map](#). World Atlas/GIS Geography: <https://gisgeography.com/north-america-map/>
- Use a digital mapping tool to calculate the distance from where you live to one location along the Gulf Coast.
- Have you ever visited the Gulf Coast? If yes, where did you go? Did you see wildlife?

AFTER WATCHING *The Americas: The Gulf Coast*

Ask students to answer the following questions on the Student Page or discuss as a class or in small groups.

ADAPTATIONS:

For younger students: Ask students to choose their favorite animal found in the Gulf Coast region and using available art supplies draw them in their wetland or coastal habitat.

For older students: Ask students to research the Everglades and create a paper or poster describing the benefits of these wetlands and what can be done to protect them.
(<https://www.nwf.org/Our-Work/Waters/Great-Waters-Restoration/Everglades>)



STUDENT PAGE: *The Americas: The Gulf Coast*

WHAT DO I KNOW ABOUT THE GULF COAST?

Choose a wildlife species featured in this episode that you would like to learn more about and write 5 amazing facts. _____

For each featured plant/animal describe its place in its food chain and larger food web. _____

Describe the relationship between the snail kite and the Florida apple snail? _____

How does the built environment (e.g. towns, cities, roads, etc.) impact wildlife that live in the Everglades or along the Gulf Coast? What is helping to provide a safe space for the ocelot? _____

What are some of the greatest threats to wildlife that call the Gulf Coast home? What solutions would you propose to protect them? _____
