

Florida's Economy



Essential Question

How does the economy affect people?

What do you think?

Words To Know

Look at the words below. Circle the words you already know. Put a question mark next to the words you don't know.

***diverse**

***theme**

interdependent

export

import



NGSS Standards

SS.4.A.8.3 Describe the effect of the United States space program on Florida's economy and growth.

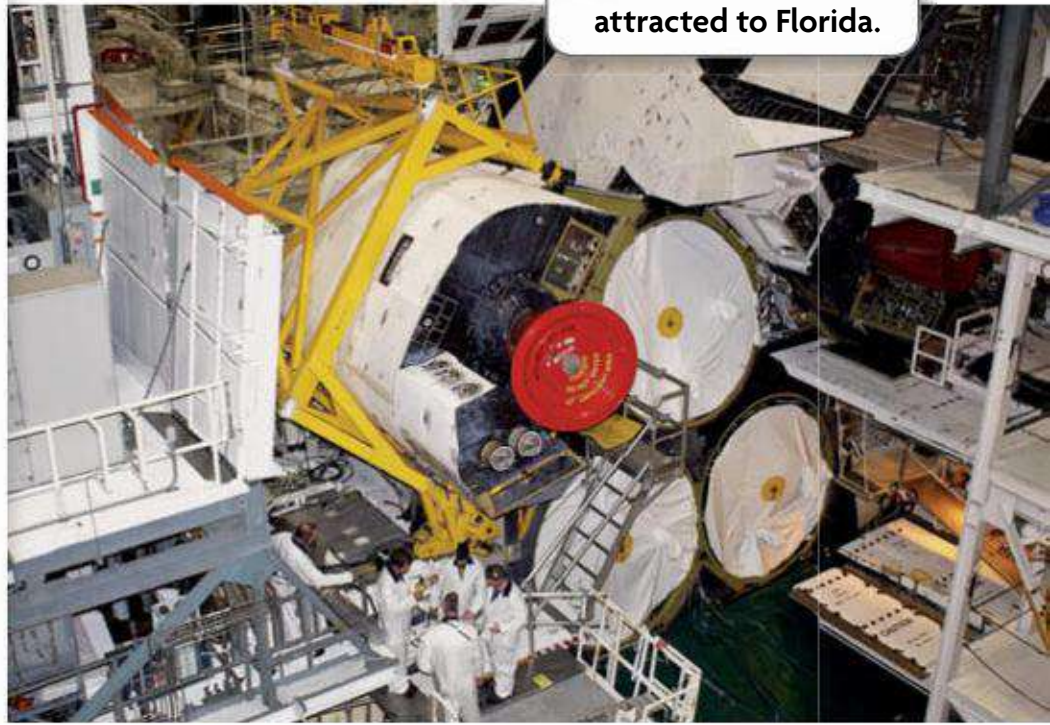
If you had the opportunity to start a business, what kind of business would it be? Why would Florida be a good place for your business? Write your thoughts below.

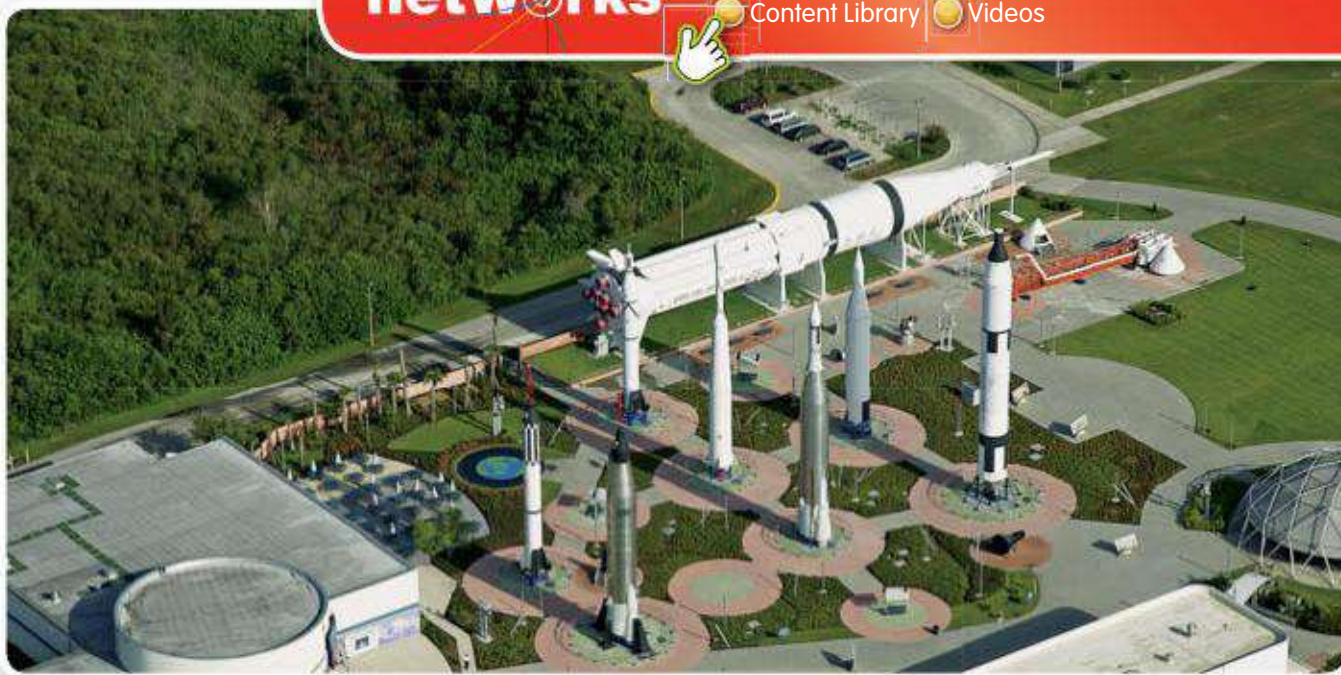
Florida is home to many different kinds of businesses that help our state's economy grow. These companies are attracted to Florida for different reasons. One reason is our geography. Our state's long coastline and many ports attract businesses that trade with other countries. Our mild weather and climate also bring many companies to the state. Agricultural businesses are attracted to Florida because of our many natural resources. Finally, our **diverse** and skilled workforce has helped draw businesses to our state. All of these reasons have made Florida the fourth-largest state economy in the United States!

▼ The space shuttle is maintained by highly skilled workers.



Circle the reasons businesses are attracted to Florida.





▲ The Rocket Garden at the Kennedy Space Center displays many historical rockets for tourists.

NASA Kennedy Space Center (NASA-KSC)

Florida's Space Industry

Florida's geography and weather have attracted one very important industry to our state—the space industry. In 1962 the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) decided to build Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral. NASA chose Cape Canaveral because of its ocean front location. Launching space craft over an ocean is safer than launching it over land.

Kennedy Space Center created new job opportunities for Floridians. These jobs were at the space center itself and also at nearby companies that produced technology and equipment. These new high-tech companies developed and created the technology that rockets and spaceships required. The companies were located in towns and cities around Cape Canaveral. As a result, these towns and cities grew. Larger towns and cities needed more restaurants, schools, and shopping areas. All of this economic growth brought new people into our state. As a result, Florida's population grew.



How has the U.S. space program affected Florida's economy? Fill in the chart below.

Economic effects of the U.S. space program

**NGSS Standards**

SS.4.E.1.2 Explain Florida's role in the national and international economy and conditions that attract businesses to the state.

SS.4.G.1.4 Interpret political and physical maps using map elements (title, compass rose, cardinal directions, intermediate directions, symbols, legend, scale, longitude, latitude).



Circle the natural resources of Florida on this page.
Underline the fruits and vegetables grown here.

Agriculture

Industries that rely on Florida's natural resources also affect Florida's economy and growth. Florida's fertile soil and abundance of water allow for the growing of many kinds of plants. Citrus fruit, such as oranges, grapefruit, tangerines, lemons, and limes, are an important part of our state's economy. Today, Florida produces more than half of all the citrus fruit grown in the United States.

Florida farmers also produce many other crops. In fact, they produce more tomatoes, sugarcane, sweet corn, green beans, green peppers, watermelons, radishes, and eggplant than farmers in any other state.

Florida farmers are also a leading producer of plants that are for decoration only. Florida grows over 200 different types of plants, from small, delicate ferns to large palm trees.

John Coletti / Getty Images

Florida's Farm and Mineral Resources



Map and Globe Skills

Circle phosphate mines. **Underline** oil wells.

▼ An orange harvest



Ranchers and Fishers

Did you know that Florida is also a major cattle-producing state? As you've read, people have been raising cattle in Florida since the first Spanish settlers arrived over 400 years ago. Today, Florida is one of the largest cattle-producing states east of the Mississippi River.

Most of our state's cattle ranches are found in southern Florida. Most young cattle are shipped out of our state while they are still young. Calves are shipped to other states, like Texas, where there is more open land for them to roam.

Many Florida farmers harvest their products from our state's water instead of from the soil. Many fishers work along our state's coastline to catch seafood. Florida fishers catch millions of pounds of fish, such as sea bass, flounder, grouper, and red snapper, each year. They also catch shellfish, such as shrimp, scallops, and oysters.



Why is agriculture important to our state?

▲ Cattle and seafood are a large part of our state's economy.



NGSS Standards

SS.4.E.1.2 Explain Florida's role in the national and international economy and conditions that attract businesses to the state.

Phosphate

In unit 4 you read about the discovery of phosphate in Florida. Today, phosphate is still important to our economy. Bone Valley in central Florida produces 75 percent of the phosphate used in the United States. It also produces 25 percent of the world's supply of this mineral. The phosphate industry employs about 6,000 people directly and 30,000 indirectly. Exporting phosphate is the main reason that the port of Tampa is the 10th largest port in the United States.



Underline the number of people the phosphate industry employs indirectly.

**NGSS Standards**

SS.4.A.8.4 Explain how tourism affects Florida's economy and growth. **SS.4.G.1.4** Interpret political and physical maps using map elements (title, compass rose, cardinal directions, intermediate directions, symbols, legend, scale, longitude, latitude).

SS.4.E.1.1 Identify entrepreneurs from various social and ethnic backgrounds who have influenced Florida and local economy.

DID YOU KNOW?

Disney's success brought other theme parks, including Universal Orlando Resort, Busch Gardens, and SeaWorld to Florida. These parks have created many jobs in Florida. They have also made Florida one of the best places for people to vacation.



Underline how
Walt Disney
World affected our
economy.

Tourism

As you read on page 189, the space industry has helped our economy grow. It has also helped another Florida industry—tourism. Kennedy Space Center is a major tourist attraction that brings about 1.5 million visitors to Florida each year. But visitors to our state enjoy many other attractions, including beach resorts, museums, sporting events, national parks, historic sites, and **theme** parks.

Tourism is very important to Florida. In fact, the tourism industry makes up the largest part of our state's economy! Year-round warm weather and our state's geography are two of the reasons that about 60 million visitors come to our state each year. Tourists spend money on attractions, at restaurants, on hotels, and in stores all across the state. These businesses provide thousands of jobs for Floridians.

Resorts and Theme Parks

The most popular stop for tourists in Florida is the Walt Disney World Resort near Orlando. Founded by Walt Disney, it is the largest resort in the world. Disney World has 4 theme parks and 23 hotels.

▼ Universal Studios in Orlando, Florida



Natural Wonders

Florida also has many natural wonders. One of the most interesting parts of Florida is Everglades National Park. This park, which was founded in 1947, covers 1.5 million acres in southern Florida. That's larger than the entire state of Delaware! The Everglades is home to about 300 kinds of fish and 350 types of birds, including flamingos and egrets. There are also about 45 varieties of plants in the Everglades that grow nowhere else in the world.

Another of our national parks is mostly under water. Biscayne National Park is one of the top scuba diving areas in the United States. Scuba divers come to see more than 40 types of coral and 400 kinds of fish.

Florida also has more than 120 state parks for tourists to enjoy. Look at the map on this page to see the locations of some of our state parks. In the north, near Pensacola, is Big Lagoon State Park. People enjoy boating, fishing, camping, and hiking in this park. In the south is John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park at Key Largo. Pennekamp Park has more visitors than any other state park in Florida.

Florida's State Parks



Map and Globe Skills

Which state park is near Orlando?

Write a short essay about why tourism is important to our state.

An egret in the Everglades



**NGSS Standards**

SS.4.E.1.2 Explain Florida's role in the national and international economy and conditions that attract businesses to the state.



Underline a reason businesses are attracted to our state.

Trade

How do agricultural products and other goods get from Florida to other parts of the country and the world? One way is through ports. A port is a place along a coast where boats and ships can dock safely. Along the state's coastline, Florida has 14 deepwater ports. Florida also has 15 international airports that move goods every day. Our state's water ports and airports are another reason businesses are attracted to Florida.

Trading with other states and countries is important to Florida's businesses. No one place can meet all of the needs and wants of its people. For example, wheat does not grow well in Florida. Therefore, Florida buys wheat products from states that do grow wheat, such as Illinois. On the other hand, oranges do not grow well in Illinois, so Illinois buys most of its oranges from Florida.

This type of economic trade means that states and places around the world are increasingly **interdependent**, or connected. This means that countries rely on each other to meet the needs and wants of their people. Because of Florida's location, ports, and diverse workforce, Florida has become a major gateway for companies wishing to **export** goods to global markets. An export is something that is sold or traded to another country. Likewise, Florida **imports** many goods from other countries. An import is something that is brought in from another country for sale or use.

Image Source / Getty Images

▼ The Port of Miami



Florida's Economy

Use these words to complete the paragraph.

exports
Disney's

technology
agriculture

economy
phosphate

Florida plays a large role in the national and international
_____. The state provides goods and
services to other places. For example, Florida mines a lot of
_____. This product helps farmers around the
country and the world grow their crops. Other places use Florida's space
_____ too. Walt _____
resort has inspired other resorts and theme parks around the world. The
_____ industry helps feed people around the world.
The money Florida earns from these _____ allows
it to buy the goods and services it needs. By buying these products from
other places, Florida helps support the economies of other places.

Lesson 2



Essential Question How does the economy affect a people?

Go back to *Show As You Go!* on pages 174–175. <<<



networks

There's More Online!

Games Assessment