



The Florida Tourist Industry

Join us this week in Florida Studies Weekly as we go on a photo hunt to find one of Florida's strangest creatures. Look! There's one now! Can't you see him over there by that nice family on the beach? Approach carefully, though. Don't make any sudden movements! We don't want to frighten him away before we get a good picture. Okay, get your camera ready. Pretend we're just going to walk on by. Get ready ... On the count of three, we'll quickly aim and shoot. Don't lose your nerve. One ... two ... three ... go! Quickly, turn and take the picture ... SNAP! Great picture! This is good enough to use on the front page of this week's issue of Florida Studies Weekly. Let us present to you ... tah-dah! The Florida tourist!

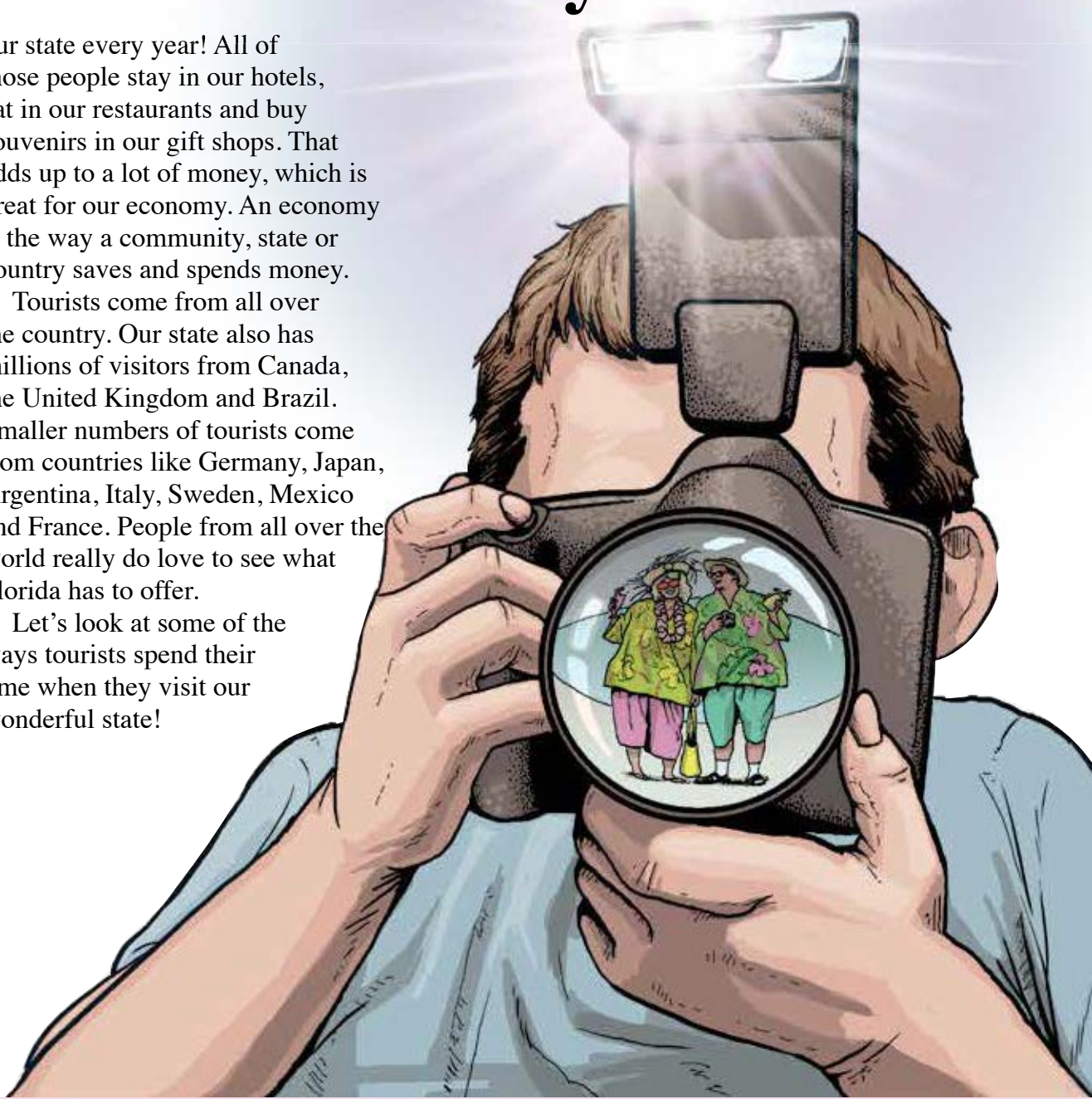
Please notice the baggy shorts and the tropical shirt, worn as one of nature's most clever disguises by these remarkable creatures. Observe also the assortment of cameras, both still and video, dangling about the neck of this fine specimen.

We bet you have seen a LOT of tourists. People from all over the world visit Florida's fun cities, exciting attractions and beautiful nature. Over 95 million people visit

our state every year! All of those people stay in our hotels, eat in our restaurants and buy souvenirs in our gift shops. That adds up to a lot of money, which is great for our economy. An economy is the way a community, state or country saves and spends money.

Tourists come from all over the country. Our state also has millions of visitors from Canada, the United Kingdom and Brazil. Smaller numbers of tourists come from countries like Germany, Japan, Argentina, Italy, Sweden, Mexico and France. People from all over the world really do love to see what Florida has to offer.

Let's look at some of the ways tourists spend their time when they visit our wonderful state!



Connections

Dead Dinosaurs Mess up Vacation Plans

Does this sound like a crazy movie idea? Mischievous dinosaurs wreak havoc on your spring break, pranking you at every turn?

It's not that entertaining, but it is kind of true. You see, things that don't seem like they would affect you — wars in the Middle East,

rebellions in northern Africa — do affect you. And they affect Florida.

Florida needs tourism to survive. But it's been tough for tourists to get here. Why? The dinosaurs. The old, dead, decomposed animals and plants from the time of the dinosaurs: oil. When trouble happens in an oil-producing country, the price of oil goes

up. That means the price of gasoline goes up, too. If the price of gas is up, then people are less likely to drive or fly to Florida for a nice vacation, and BLAM — Florida is missing a key part of its industry.

Remember the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010? Even though

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Florida's Tourist Attractions

Around 100 Million People Per Year Visit Florida!

Do you know what the word diverse means? It means different from other things or consisting of different kinds. That describes Florida pretty well, don't you think? And there is no place in Florida more diverse than the west coast, around Tampa Bay. It's perfect for the person who wants to see a little of everything. Inland, you might visit the Bush Gardens theme park to experience Africa. Or you might go north along the manatee coast, just to get close to nature. Do you like Greek food? Head over to Tarpon Springs. How about Latin music? Try Ybor City, known for its rich Cuban culture. How do you like museums? Sarasota is full of them, famous for arts of all kinds. Whew! So much to see and do!

Party in the Panhandle!

Florida's panhandle looks different from other Florida tourist spots. There are beautiful magnolias (spring flowers), gigantic oak trees and pine trees all over the region. Some people think the country in the panhandle looks more like the rest of the "Deep South" than like Florida. Even the tourist schedule is different: Most of Florida's tourist season starts to wind down around May. That's just when things in the panhandle get rolling! (The tourist season is when tourism is high between January and May.) At least one thing is the same all over the state, even in the panhandle: beautiful beaches. And where are Florida's best beaches? A recent survey rated the panhandle's Grayton Beach, St. Andrews, St. Joseph and St. George Island among the top beaches in the country. Not bad, eh?

Diving in the 'Deep South'

When it comes to diving in the South, you can't do any better than Key West, Florida, and still be in the United States. Not only is Key West the southernmost point of the Continental United States, but it's also a favorite spot for scuba divers from all over the world.

After you read this paragraph, close your eyes for a minute and imagine being able to fly very slowly over the top of a huge banyan tree. Then you turn downward and slowly loop through all the crazy-looking branches at the top of the tree.

Did you do it? If you can imagine that, you have an idea of what scuba diving is like, but instead of flying around a huge banyan tree, you're "flying" around a beautiful underwater coral reef near Key West.



From the Moos to the Mouse

Orlando was once a small town where people grew oranges and raised cattle. Nights were quiet except for the soft mooing of cattle and the clanking of cowbells. All of that changed when Walt Disney came around. Walt had grown up in a poor family, but he was a great filmmaker and businessman. He had already become famous for his cartoons, but he was looking for a place to build something new. Walt decided that Orlando was the perfect location. He bought 28,000 acres of land and built Walt Disney World, which was completed in 1971. Orlando would never be the same again. Millions of people come to Disney World every year. Orlando is where you'll also find Universal Studios, Sea World, Wet 'n Wild and more. Today, when people plan a trip to Florida, Orlando is often one of the places they visit.



The Need for Speed

Do you get excited when you hear the sound of a powerful engine revving up? Is it beautiful music to your Southern ears? Some people think it's nothing but noise, but if you answered "yes" to those two questions, then you have to go to Daytona. Racing fans from all over the world flock to Daytona every year to see the Daytona 500 in February or the Daytona Coke Zero 400 in



The Venice of America

Many cities, towns and even states have nicknames. You know one of Florida's most common nicknames: the Sunshine State. Well, if you've ever been to Fort Lauderdale, you may have learned that it has a nickname, too. Many people call it "The Venice of America." Venice is a city in Italy, way across the ocean, and it's famous for having many rivers and canals running through it. You may have seen pictures of people riding along these canals in small boats called gondolas. Sound fun? Well, in Fort Lauderdale, boaters enjoy hundreds of miles of waterways. You can take a water taxi to the mall, do some shopping, get back on, go to a nice restaurant, and then go see a movie without ever getting in a car.

What about diving? Natural and artificial (man-made) reefs right offshore are great places to dive. Artificial? You bet! They were created purposely by sinking ships in order to create a home for all kinds of sea life. Lowrance and Mercedes are two vessels that were sunk.

Miami

Miami used to be famous all over the country as a great place to retire. Now it's famous for everything else. TV shows like "Miami Vice" and "CSI: Miami" have shown the nation that Miami is alive with music, action and style. In the 1990s, a great deal of remodeling of Miami's buildings in certain parts of town has returned attention and tourists to this area. Now, Miami is a wild ride of a city. The air is alive with Latin music, and the streets are full of variety. If you visit, don't leave without going to Coconut Grove, the oldest settlement on southern Florida's mainland. But it doesn't look old anymore! It's full of great restaurants, art galleries and more.

Florida Facts Great Glades!

You might want to check out Everglades National Park in southern Florida. This area is home to some of the strangest and most beautiful places in the country. Some people call it the River of Grass. Why such a strange name? Slow-moving water flows through marshy grassland almost 50 miles wide. In some places, the grass is so high and thick that it's all you can see; you wouldn't even know a river was flowing through it! The Everglades National Park is also full of all kinds of plants and animals. It's a wild, dangerous and amazing place and well worth a visit. It's a sure thing you've never seen any place like it! Right nearby is Biscayne National Park, the largest national park that has living coral reefs.



Orange, Broward, Franklin and Madison Counties

Orange County: "Orlando tower, 737 coming in for a landing." "Take CWRLD 2 then switch to COSTR 2 and GOOFY 5, 737. MCO (Orlando International Airport), out!" Wow, even pilots have to know about attractions in Orlando, the county seat. It used to be swamp, but now it's the No. 1 tourist destination in the world. Let's see, should we golf? Shop? No way! We want theme parks, and we want 'em now! How many Orlando attractions can you name?

Broward County: Throw on your blades and skate down the promenade in Fort Lauderdale, the Broward county seat. Then, check out the Museum of Discovery and Science and catch an Imax movie. Or spend the day at Flamingo Gardens, where real birds fly around as you walk through! (Do you know why flamingos are pink?) The beach is fabulous here, so make a stop there. Let's go surfin' now!

Franklin County: Hit the Forgotten Coast here, where the county seat is Apalachicola. This county is protected by barrier islands in the Gulf. Not that many people live here, but it's a great place to visit. Slurp some fresh oysters on your way to Cape St. George Lighthouse and enjoy learning about maritime (sea) history here.

Madison County: Where can you see a rodeo, a classic-car show and a karaoke contest? Try Down Home Days in Madison County, where Madison's also the county seat. Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto came right through this county on his way to wild places in the United States. The Four Freedoms Festival will have you saluting the American flag in honor of those who've served our country!

Florida Counties

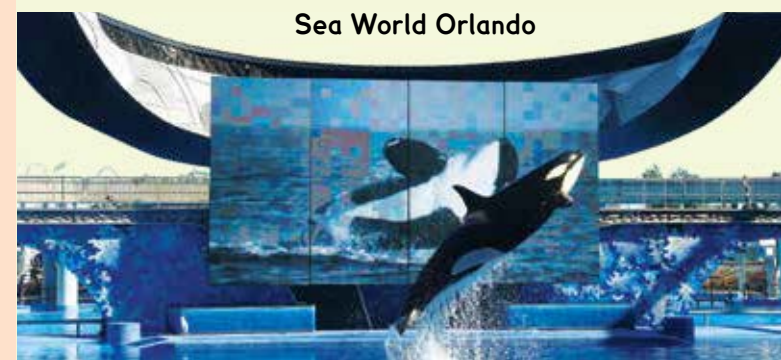


Where would you go?

This Week's Question

Tourists come to our state from all over the world to see what Florida has to offer. Florida has a lot of great places to visit. Tourists can enjoy nature by relaxing on the beach or by swimming in the ocean. People who love history can visit places like Thomas Edison's workshop or a Spanish mission. Visitors who want excitement may spend some time at Disney World or the Gasparilla Festival. Sports fans can watch baseball, football or the Daytona 500. Visitors certainly have a lot to choose from!

Imagine that someone is coming to visit you in Florida for the first time. Do you have any favorite places to visit with that person? If your guest could only stay for a day or two, where would you take them? Write down your ideas and share them with a classmate.



Leatherback Turtle

If you're very lucky, you may catch a glimpse of a few of the world's biggest reptiles on St. Augustine's beaches: leatherback turtles. Leatherback turtles have been around since nearly the time of the dinosaurs, if you can believe it! The biggest leatherback turtle ever to be reported was 10 feet long and weighed 2,000 pounds, but these amazing animals usually grow up to be six feet long and weigh about 1,300 pounds. Still, that's some turtle! Not very many of these turtles actually live in Florida, but some of them stop off here to nest every year on their way from the Arctic to the tropics. That's a trip of about 3,000 miles! Along the way, in order to survive, they need to eat twice their weight in jellyfish every day. Also, these turtles are amazing divers; they can dive as deep as 3,000 feet and stay down there for up to two whole days.

Florida Wildlife



Name _____

- ACROSS

2.

Florida's _____ (two words) lasts from January to May every year.

4.

spring flowers found in Florida's panhandle

6.

different from other things or consisting of different kinds

7.

the largest turtle in the world
- DOWN

1.

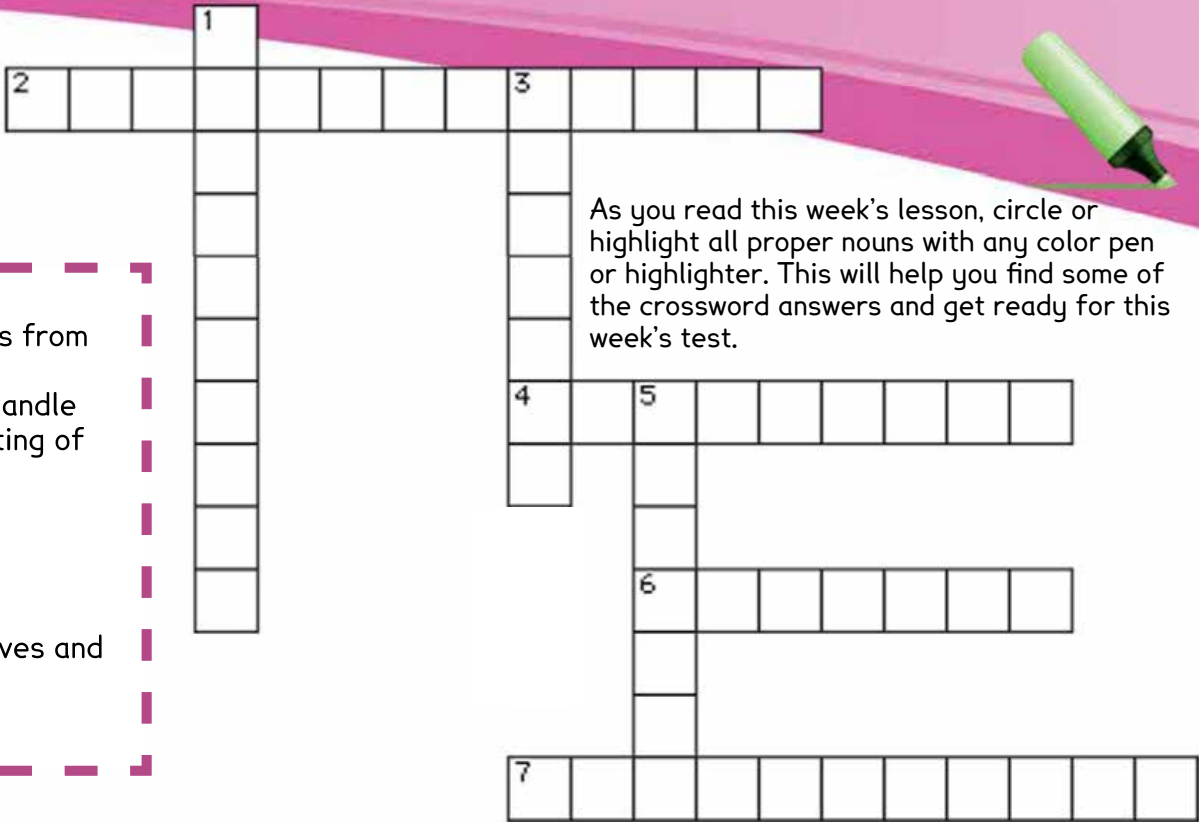
man made; not created by nature

3.

how a community, state or country saves and spends money

5.

little passenger boat in Italy



As you read this week's lesson, circle or highlight all proper nouns with any color pen or highlighter. This will help you find some of the crossword answers and get ready for this week's test.

Florida's tourist industry hasn't seen anything yet because you're about to open a new amusement park.

Let's Write

You are totally in charge of where and what it will be. Before you begin to write, think about your new amusement park. Now write to tell about your new amusement park.

You can make a park that is a combination of many ideas, but try to think of something that's like no other amusement park in Florida.

Dead Dinosaurs Mess up Vacation Plans

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very little oil from that spill ever touched a Florida beach, the impact the disaster had on the tourism industry was monumental.

When you listen to the news, think about how the whole world is connected. A dictator on the other side of the world can affect how far your family can drive for vacation. An oil spill hundreds of miles away can be a disaster for Florida tourism. And the dead dinosaurs? They're just middlemen. It's not their fault. Although it might make a pretty great movie.

Choose one article from this week's magazine and read it again. Circle or highlight the main idea of the article in yellow. Circle or highlight three or more key details in green. (LAFS.4.RI.1.2)

Language Arts Connection

If you'd like to make any editorial comments about our paper, please write to us at support@studiesweekly.com.

Tourists From Around the World

Activity

Use the information in this chart to answer the questions that follow.

Home Country	Tourists in Florida (2015)
Canada	3,560,000
Brazil	1,600,000
Argentina	603,000
Germany	346,000
France	290,000
Italy	170,000
Sweden	170,000

1. Which country sent the most tourists to Florida?

2. Which two countries sent the same number of tourists?

3. Which country sent more tourists, Germany or France?

4. How many countries sent more than 250,000 tourists?

5. Why do you think so many people from Canada visit our state?

1. How do tourists help Florida's economy?
2. Why is Florida such a great place for tourists to visit?
3. Who was most responsible for turning the city of Orlando into a major tourist attraction?
4. What are the busiest months of the year for the tourist business in most areas of our state?
5. What part of Florida has its tourist season during the

Think&Review

- rest of the state's offseason?
6. Describe the leatherback turtle.
7. List one fact you learned (or already knew) about each of the four counties you read about this week.