Land Shapes Travel

How Alabama's physical features support tourism

SS24.AS.21a "Describe ways in which Alabama's geography contributes to the state's present-day tourism industry."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline four physical features in the passage, then number each feature and the visitor activity it makes possible with the same number. Circle one local business that could earn money from each activity.

From Beaches to Canyons

1. On a summer morning in Gulf Shores, visitors cross broad sand toward the Gulf of Mexico. Alabama's coastline supports a large tourism economy because warm water and sandy beaches draw swimmers, anglers, and families. Beach trips create demand for hotels, restaurants, fishing charters, and workers who serve guests. The coast also has limits: storms and shifting sand can damage beaches and buildings. Communities invest in beach access and protection so visitors can keep using this natural setting. The important link is not simply that a beach exists. Its physical features make certain visits possible, and those visits support local jobs.

2. North of Mobile Bay, the Mobile-Tensaw Delta offers a different kind of water trip. Rivers divide into channels that run between marshes and forests, creating habitat for fish, alligators, and many birds. The network of waterways gives paddlers routes to explore, while its wildlife draws people who hope to watch animals in their habitat. Visitors may pay local guides, rent kayaks, or buy supplies before setting out. Unlike an open beach, the delta offers sheltered water and close views of wetlands. Those geographic conditions shape the activities visitors choose and the businesses that serve them.

3. In northeastern Alabama, Lookout Mountain rises above valleys, and Little River Canyon cuts through its plateau. Steep canyon walls and high viewpoints attract hikers who want a challenging walk or a wide view. Their trips can support nearby lodging, restaurants, and outdoor shops. Farther west, the Tennessee River flows through a series of reservoirs, including Lake Guntersville, which was formed by a dam. Its broad water and shoreline attract anglers and boaters, creating customers for marinas, fishing guides, and stores. Alabama's varied landforms and waterways therefore support different kinds of tourism, not one statewide attraction.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do the physical features of Alabama's Gulf Coast create customers for local businesses?

2. How does the Mobile-Tensaw Delta's network of waterways support tourism and a local business?

3. Why might Little River Canyon bring visitors and spending to northeastern Alabama?

4. How does Lake Guntersville's geography support tourism businesses?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Create a two-stop Alabama weekend for a visitor who wants one active outing and one quiet wildlife outing. In 5 to 7 sentences, use two different settings from the passage, plan an activity at each, and explain how each setting could bring spending to nearby businesses.

ANSWER KEY

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HIGH SCHOOL · SS24.AS.21a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline four physical features in the passage, then number each feature and the visitor activity it makes possible with the same number. Circle one local business that could earn money from each activity. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do the physical features of Alabama's Gulf Coast create customers for local businesses?	**Warm water and sandy beaches attract swimmers, anglers, and families who may spend money at hotels, restaurants, and fishing charters.**
2	How does the Mobile-Tensaw Delta's network of waterways support tourism and a local business?	**Its channels give paddlers routes to explore. Paddlers may rent kayaks or pay local guides.**
3	Why might Little River Canyon bring visitors and spending to northeastern Alabama?	**Its steep walls and high viewpoints attract hikers, who may spend money at nearby lodging, restaurants, or outdoor shops.**
4	How does Lake Guntersville's geography support tourism businesses?	**The reservoir's broad water and shoreline attract anglers and boaters, who may use marinas, hire fishing guides, or shop at stores.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

On Saturday, my visitor would hike at Little River Canyon. Its steep walls and high viewpoints would make the walk an active outing. The visitor could buy lunch nearby after the hike. On Sunday, the visitor would watch birds in the Mobile-Tensaw Delta. Its marshes and waterways provide habitat for birds and places to observe them. Renting a kayak from a local business would let the visitor explore quietly while supporting the area's tourism economy.

Accept other accurate links between a physical feature, a visitor activity, and local spending that are supported by the passage. The two-stop plan should use distinct settings and address both requested types of outings.