

Florida's Changing Land

Read how water, wind, and sediment shape Florida landforms.

SC.6.E.6.2 "Recognize that there are a variety of different landforms on Earth's surface such as coastlines, dunes, rivers, mountains, glaciers, deltas, and lakes and relate these landforms as they apply to Florida."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each landform named in the passage. Circle words or sentences that tell how a landform is found, formed, or changed in Florida.

Landforms Across Florida

- ① Florida's edge meets both the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico, creating long coastlines. Along some beaches and barrier islands, wind piles sand into dunes. Dunes can help reduce the force of storm waves before they reach inland areas. Water also shapes the state. The St. Johns River flows north through much of eastern Florida, while Lake Okeechobee is a large lake in the south. A lake is water held in a low area surrounded by land.
- ② Rivers carry bits of rock and soil called sediment. When a river slows near its mouth, it can drop sediment and build a delta. The Apalachicola River forms a delta as it reaches Apalachicola Bay. This wet, branching area shows how a river can change a coastline. Florida does not have mountain ranges, and no glaciers exist there today. Mountains are high areas of land, and glaciers are large moving masses of ice. Florida's low elevation and warm climate help explain these differences.
- ③ These landforms are connected by moving water, wind, and sediment. A river can carry sediment toward the coast, where deposits may add to a delta. Waves and wind can move sand along a coastline and reshape dunes. Lakes collect water inland, rather than at the ocean's edge. Knowing which landforms are present helps people make decisions. For example, people who build near a Florida coast need to consider changing beaches and dunes, while people near a river delta need to consider water and sediment.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What Florida river and lake are named as examples of landforms shaped by water?

2 How can dunes help inland areas during a storm?

3 What happens when a river slows near its mouth that can build a delta?

4 Which two landforms does Florida not have today, and what Florida conditions help explain this?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a four-sentence safety and planning note for a family choosing a place to build near a Florida beach. Name the coastline and dunes, explain one way wind or waves can change them, and state one decision the family should consider.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each landform named in the passage. Circle words or sentences that tell how a landform is found, formed, or changed in Florida. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What Florida river and lake are named as examples of landforms shaped by water?	The St. Johns River and Lake Okeechobee.
2	How can dunes help inland areas during a storm?	They can help reduce the force of storm waves before the waves reach inland areas.
3	What happens when a river slows near its mouth that can build a delta?	The river can drop sediment, which can build a delta.
4	Which two landforms does Florida not have today, and what Florida conditions help explain this?	Florida does not have mountain ranges or glaciers today. Its low elevation and warm climate help explain these differences.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Florida's coastline meets the ocean, and dunes rise beside some beaches. Waves and wind can move sand along the coast and reshape the dunes. The family should choose a site that considers changing beaches and dunes. They should learn about local conditions before building.

Accept equivalent descriptions supported by the passage. For the open response, check for four sentences that name both landforms, accurately describe change by wind or waves, and include a sensible planning decision.