



Beyond the Magic Kingdom: what is the Sunshine State really like?

FACT FILE

23 countries make up the continent of North America – The United States, Canada, Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean (23 Countries)

There are 50 states in the USA. 48 states are known as the contiguous 48 because they are all joined together in one group. Alaska is separated from the 48 by the country of Canada and Hawaii by several thousand kilometres of the Pacific Ocean!

The Magic Kingdom in Florida, in the USA, is the most popular theme park in the world with an average of 53 000 visitors a day and a total of 19 million visitors a year!

Florida's climate is due to the longer hours of sunshine and much warmer temperatures than the UK and because it's closer to the Equator.

Florida is a peninsula - a piece of land that is almost surrounded by water but connected to a larger land mass on one side.

The Kennedy Space Centre is on the east coast of Florida so the rockets can be launched to the east over a huge area of empty ocean. Florida is almost as close as it is possible to get in the USA to the Equator.

Of the seven species of sea turtle in the world, five are found in the waters around Florida. As endangered species much is done to protect them.

Some weather events only occur in tropical and sub-tropical regions like Florida. Florida may be hit by five or more tropical storms or hurricanes each year. They usually form over warm oceans when air rises in spirals over the sea.



Vocabulary

Northern Hemisphere – The half of the Earth that lies north of the equator.

Continent - One of the seven major land areas on the Earth, which are North America, South America, Europe, Africa, Asia, Australia, and Antarctica.

State – In USA each area has its own government within the state. Americans are citizens both of the federal republic and of the state in which they live.

Peninsula – a piece of land that is almost surrounded by water but connected to a larger land mass on one side.

Ocean – is a body of water that composes much of a planet's hydrosphere. These are the Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, Southern (Antarctic), and Arctic Oceans.

Hurricane – Hurricanes are massive storm systems that form over warm ocean waters and move toward land.

Climate – pattern of weather elements in an area over a period. The weather elements include temperature, rainfall, humidity, solar insolation, wind, etc.

Coast – is the area where land meets the sea or ocean

Orbit – an orbit is the gravitationally curved trajectory of an object, such as the trajectory of a planet around a star or a natural satellite around a planet.

Endangered – seriously at risk of extinction.

National park – A park chosen and set aside for some unique quality that makes it indispensable and interesting.