How do people affect the environment?

**Foldables**

Summarize
Use a three-tab book foldable to take notes as you read Unit 4. Label the three tabs Geography of the Southeast, Economy of the Southeast, and People of the Southeast.

**The Southeast**
Sequoyah was a Cherokee silversmith who lived in Tennessee. He spent 12 years creating an alphabet that allowed the Cherokee to write their language for the first time.

Today you can visit the Sequoyah Birthplace Museum in Vonore, Tennessee.

Wynton Marsalis began his career in New Orleans and is now a famous jazz trumpet player.

Today you can hear many famous musicians play at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival.
Citizens from all over the United States protested the unfair treatment of African Americans by walking in a march from Selma, Alabama, to Montgomery, Alabama and supporting school desegregation.

Today you can walk the National Historic Trail that follows the path protesters walked between Selma and Montgomery.

Barrier islands form when ocean waves deposit sand along a coast. Assateague Island, one of the most famous of the barrier islands in the Southeast, is known for its population of wild horses.

Today at the annual Pony Penning, you can watch the horses swim to the mainland where the young horses are sold.
The Mississippi is one of the longest rivers in the United States. Steamboats like this one carry tourists up and down the river.

People enjoy all sorts of outdoor activities in the warm Southeast.

Country music often includes fiddles. Nashville, Tennessee, is home to the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum.

The White Magnolia is the state flower of both Mississippi and Louisiana.
**2** The grassy farms of the Southeast are a great place to raise horses. At horse shows, riders and their horses compete for prizes.

**3** Flamingoes live in Everglades National Park. They thrive in wetland environments.

**4** Conch is an ingredient in southeastern chowders and gumbos. The shell is also a popular decorative item.
The Southeast has many water-loving animals in its rivers and wetlands. Islands form in different ways. Some parts of the Southeast are hit by big storms. Walls are built along rivers in the Southeast to help prevent flooding.
A RIVERS AND WETLANDS

The Southeast has a little of everything—mountains, rolling hills, a broad coastal plain, and many islands. Most of all, the region has plenty of water!

The Mississippi River is the second longest river in North America. It runs 2,350 miles from its source, or beginning, in Minnesota to its mouth, or end, at the Gulf of Mexico in Louisiana.

A Region of Wetlands

Much of the Southeast is low, flat land. When rain falls, it does not always drain away. As a result, the Southeast has a lot of wetlands, or areas where water is always on or close to the surface of the ground.

In the past, people often drained wetlands so they could build on the land. Now we know that wetlands are valuable. They act like giant sponges that help control floods. Wetlands also act as filters. As water flows through them, the wetland soils remove pollution from the water. Many plants and animals live in the wetlands of the Southeast.

Quick Check

Summarize How are wetlands valuable?

PLACES

The Okefenokee Swamp covers more than 430,000 acres in Georgia. You can take a boat tour, but watch out for alligators!

Okefenokee Swamp

Plants and Animals of the Southeast

Live Oak  Cattail  Rhododendron  Opossum  Blue Heron  Alligator
Look at the map on pages 164-165. Which bodies of water border the Southeast states? You can see that the Southeast has miles of coastline. The land along the coast is low and flat. In some places, this flatland stretches for many miles inland. The land is rich and good for farming.

Find Florida on the map. Florida is a peninsula, or an area of land that is surrounded by water on three sides.

**Hills and Mountains**

As you move inland from the coast, you come to gently rolling hills. These hills are called the Piedmont, or foothills.
Next are the Appalachian Mountains. These mountains have been worn down by erosion over millions of years. They are not as high as mountains that formed more recently. At 6,684 feet, Mount Mitchell in North Carolina is the highest peak in the Appalachian Mountains. The Appalachian Mountains run through the Northeast and Southeast. Which states do they run through in the Southeast?

Islands

The Southeast also has plenty of islands. Did you know that islands can be formed in different ways? You can read about how three different islands were formed in the chart below.

Quick Check

Summarize What are the landforms in the Southeast?

Islands in the Southeast

**Figure Eight Island, North Carolina**
Barrier islands form as ocean waves drop tons of sand along the coast. They act like barriers, or walls, to protect the mainland from the ocean waves.

**Key West, Florida**
The Florida Keys are made from the bones of coral, a tiny sea animal. As the coral grows together, it may rise above the ocean's surface.

**Puerto Rico**
The island of Puerto Rico formed about 190 million years ago when underground rocks were pushed together and forced upwards.

Which island was made by waves dropping sand along a coast?

These horses live on a farm in the Appalachian Mountains in West Virginia.
If you like warm weather, you'll love the Southeast. Most of the Southeast has a climate of warm or hot summers and mild winters. Near the Gulf of Mexico, the climate is usually warm and humid. Humid air holds lots of moisture.

During the day, sunlight warms both water in the Gulf of Mexico and nearby land. Sunlight warms land faster than it warms water. As the ground warms, it heats the air above it. The warm air rises, and cooler air from over the water moves to replace it. A sea breeze blows from the water toward the land.

As night falls, land cools faster than water. Warm air rises over the water. Cooler air from over the land moves to replace it. A land breeze blows from the land towards the water.

The Gulf of Mexico affects the climate by cooling the land in summer and warming it in winter. In the summer, water stays cooler longer than land does, so cool breezes blow off the Gulf onto the nearby land. In winter, the water is warmer than the land, so the breezes from the water onto the land bring warm air.
In the northern part of the Southeast region, especially in the Appalachian Mountains, it is usually cooler than in the deep South. In winter, there may even be some snow in the mountains of West Virginia, Tennessee, and North Carolina—but it never lasts for long.

The entire region gets rain, but there are also sunny days. In fact, Florida’s nickname is the “Sunshine State.”

**Storm Season**

Sometimes the weather in the Southeast is not so pleasant. Coastal areas in the Southeast may be hit by hurricanes in the late summer and fall. Hurricane winds and waves may cause floods and damage buildings and trees.

**Quick Check**

**Summarize** What is the climate of the Southeast?
Since much of the Southeast is low land, heavy rains can cause floods. To prevent floods, people have built levees, or large walls, along the shores of some rivers to keep the rivers from overflowing.

**Hurricane Damage**

Hurricane Katrina hit land near New Orleans, Louisiana, in 2005. Levees that held back water from a nearby lake were broken. Water rushed in and flooded part of the city. Some people lost their lives, and many people lost their homes. The hurricane’s winds also did millions of dollars worth of damage to towns along the Mississippi and Alabama coasts.

Scientists worry that there may be more and stronger hurricanes in the future, because the world’s climate seems to be getting warmer. Engineers and scientists keep looking for ways to prevent future storms from causing so much damage.

**Quick Check**

Make Inferences What damage may happen when rivers overflow?

1. **VOCABULARY** Write a postcard to a friend that uses the following vocabulary words.
   - source
   - mouth
   - levee

2. **READING SKILL** Summarize

   Use the chart from page 166 to write about the geography of the Southeast.

3. **Write About It** Write a paragraph about what the people in the Southeast have done to prevent flooding.
A **graph** is a drawing that helps you compare information by showing the relationship between things. The graph shown here is a **circle graph**. Circle graphs show how parts of something fit into the whole. Because each part looks like a slice of pie, a circle graph is sometimes called a pie graph.

### Learn It

- The title of the graph tells you what is shown in the graph. This circle graph shows the U.S. states that produce the most grapefruit.
- The labels tell you what each slice represents. You can see that the yellow slice stands for the percentage of grapefruit that is grown in Texas.
- A larger slice means more grapefruit is grown in that state.

### Apply It

- Make a circle graph that shows how much time you spend on each of the following activities during one day: sleeping, eating, school, watching TV, playing sports, doing homework, and other activities.

### Try It

- Compare the slices. Which state grows the most grapefruit?
- Which state grows more grapefruit—California or Texas?
- Which state grows the least grapefruit?
The Economy of the Southeast

The Southeast has rich natural resources of farmland, forests, and minerals.

VOCABULARY
- renewable resource p. 176
- petroleum p. 176
- refinery p. 176
- nonrenewable resource p. 177

READING SKILL
Summarize
Copy the chart below. As you read, fill it in with information about the economy of the Southeast.

STANDARDS FOCUS
SOCIAL STUDIES Production, Distribution, and Consumption
GEOGRAPHY Environment and Society

Essential Question
What is the economy of the Southeast?

A Crops such as cotton and timber are grown on farms in the Southeast.
B Coal is one of the mineral resources in the Southeast.
C Factories in the Southeast make many products.
D In the Southeast, many people work in the service industry.
A RICH LAND

What do you need for farming? Rich soil, plenty of rain, and sunlight are important. The Southeast has all of these, along with short, mild winters.

When the first settlers from Europe came to the Southeast, they began to grow crops. The first crops were indigo (a plant used to make a dark blue dye) and tobacco. Later they began to grow rice and cotton. By the middle of the 1800s, cotton was the most important crop grown in the Southeast. It was sold to factories in Great Britain and in the Northeast.

Farm Products Today

Cotton is not as important to the Southeast’s economy today. Almost every state in the Southeast, however, still grows some cotton.

For centuries, tobacco was a crop that American colonists in the Southeast could sell. Due to health concerns, fewer people today smoke cigarettes. As a result, there’s less demand for tobacco. Farmers in these states are now growing other crops. North Carolina is known for growing sweet potatoes, Georgia for peaches and pecans, and Florida for oranges.

Quick Check

Summarize What crops are grown in the Southeast today?

Map Skill

PLACE Which states grow vegetables?
In addition to its rich soil and good climate, the Southeast has other natural resources that include trees, oil, and coal. As trees are cut down and used for lumber, they can be replaced by planting new trees. Natural materials that can be replaced are called **renewable resources**.

Other resources, such as coal, are found underground. People have been burning coal as fuel for thousands of years. Most of the coal mined in the United States is used to run power plants that make electricity.

**Petroleum**, or oil, is another important underground resource. To reach oil, workers drill deep into the ground. The oil is pumped to the surface, where it is shipped to oil **refineries**. A refinery is a factory that turns the oil into useful products such as gasoline and heating oil.
**Problems with Natural Resources**

Coal and oil are both **nonrenewable resources**, or natural materials that can’t be replaced. Both took millions of years to form. Once the coal or oil is used up, it is gone forever. However, we are not going to run out of coal soon. We have enough to last about 250 years.

Burning coal to run power plants puts pollution into the air, including a gas called carbon dioxide. Many scientists think that too much of this gas in the air is causing the world’s climate to get warmer.

Another problem with coal is the way it is mined. In the past, mines were deep underground. Today coal companies find strip mining easier and cheaper. You can see, by looking at the diagram below, how strip mining destroys forests and changes the land. Whether coal is worth the problems it causes is something people must decide.

**Quick Check**

**Compare and Contrast** How are renewable and nonrenewable resources different?
Are you wearing a shirt made of cotton? Perhaps the cotton was grown and the cloth was made in the Southeast. For many years, textile manufacturing was an important industry, especially in North Carolina. Currently, more and more textiles are being made in other countries.

As textiles have become less important to the Southeast’s economy, electronics and the computer industry have become larger industries. Today factories in the Southeast manufacture paper, furniture, chemicals, cars, and soft drinks. These factories provide employment for many people.
Technology

Technology research is another important part of the Southeast’s economy. Much of this research takes place at universities near Raleigh and Durham in North Carolina. Scientists there study everything from dinosaur eggs to the Mars space flights. Florida and Alabama also have important centers for space research.

**Quick Check**

**Main Idea and Details** What are some products made in the Southeast?
While tourists are enjoying the beaches in the Southeast, they need services that include food, housing, transportation, and renting sports equipment.
Do you know what a snowbird is? It’s a type of bird, but it is also a nickname for people who live in the North during the summer and in the South during winter. Some “snowbirds” stay in the South for the whole winter while others visit for only a short time. In recent years, many people have moved to the Southeast to live year-round.

Each year millions of snowbirds and other tourists visit the Southeast. They enjoy the beaches, national parks, theme parks, and famous places such as Colonial Williamsburg in Virginia. Florida alone attracts about 40 million tourists a year.

**Serving Visitors**

Of course, serving these visitors creates thousands of jobs. Some people work at attractions and theme parks, while other people work in hotels, restaurants, ground and air transportation, and all the other businesses that vacationers need.

**Quick Check**

Make Generalizations Why is the Southeast a popular place to visit in the winter?

1. **Vocabulary** Make a brochure that explains the difference between the following vocabulary words.
   - renewable resource
   - nonrenewable resource

2. **Reading Skill** Summarize Use the chart from page 174 to write a paragraph about the natural resources of the Southeast.

3. **Write About It** Write a paragraph about how mining for coal has changed the environment of the Southeast.

**Essential Question**
The Cherokee and other Native Americans live in the Southeast.

A parade float travels through a crowd in New Orleans, Louisiana.

A. The Cherokee and other Native Americans live in the Southeast.
B. People from around the world came to the Southeast.
C. The civil rights movement brought many changes to the Southeast.
D. Music is an important part of the Southeast’s culture.

Who are the people of the Southeast?

VOCABULARY
- dialect p. 185
- segregation p. 186

READING SKILL
- Summarize
  Copy the chart. Fill it in about the people of the Southeast.

STANDARDS FOCUS
- Culture
- The Uses of Geography
The first people to live in the Southeast were Native Americans, including the Choctaw, Creek, Seminole, and Cherokee. They grew tobacco and “the three sisters”—corn, beans, and squash.

The Cherokee were one of the largest groups of Native Americans. Their lands stretched from Ohio to Alabama. Sequoyah was a Cherokee leader. He invented a way to write the Cherokee language.

**Trail of Tears**

In the 1830s, the United States government forced the Cherokee off their lands so that European settlers could live there. The Cherokee were forced to walk hundreds of miles to what is now Oklahoma. The journey they made was called the Trail of Tears, because so many Cherokee died on the way due to illness, hunger, or exhaustion.

Today, the Cherokee live in many places in the United States, including the Southeast. You can visit Oconaluftee Village in North Carolina to see how a typical Cherokee village would have looked 250 years ago.

**Quick Check**

Summarize Why were the Cherokee forced off their lands?
Have you ever visited St. Augustine, Florida? It was settled by Spanish explorers in 1565. That makes it the oldest continuously lived-in European settlement in this country. Besides Florida, the Spanish explored other parts of the Southeast.

English explorers also came to America. In 1607 they built a colony in Jamestown, Virginia. They eventually built more colonies along the Atlantic Coast. The English colonists learned how to grow tobacco from Native Americans in the area. Later, people from Ireland and Scotland settled in the Appalachian Mountains of Virginia and North and South Carolina. They brought their songs and music, which you can still hear today.

Africans are another group of people whose culture, music, and food are part of the Southeast. Many Africans came to the region unwillingly. Most had been kidnapped and enslaved. They were forced to work on farms in the South.

French Settlers in the Southeast

Some French people settled in Louisiana. Others settled a colony in Canada called Acadia. When the British forced the Acadians out of Canada, many of them fled to Louisiana. Their descendants today are known as Cajuns.
French culture is still seen in Louisiana, especially in New Orleans, where many people speak a dialect of French. A dialect is a form of a language spoken in a certain place by a certain group of people. One dialect is called Louisiana Creole.

The language, customs, and food of all of these cultures became part of the culture of the Southeast. Gumbo, a popular food in the Southeast, is a blend of ingredients from different cultures. You can read below what writer John T. Edge says about Southern food.

Quick Check
Summarize Which immigrant groups came to the Southeast?

Primary Sources

“Food tells us who we are, tells us something about our social, political, and economic ways . . . Food is one of the great shared creations of the South.”

John T. Edge

Write About It Write a sentence about what John T. Edge meant when he said that food is one of the great shared creations of the South.
The American Civil War in the 1860s brought an end to slavery. Changes to the United States Constitution made former enslaved peoples citizens and gave them rights. African Americans still faced unfair treatment and discrimination.

Segregation, or the practice of keeping racial groups separate, was a part of daily life in America. This meant that African American children attended different schools from white children. It also meant that African Americans were not allowed to eat in the same restaurants, ride in the same railway cars, stay at the same hotels, or join the same clubs as white people.

In the late 1950s and 1960s, people began working to give all Americans equal rights. This became known as the civil rights movement. Martin Luther King, Jr., Ralph Abernathy, and Rosa Parks were leaders in this movement. African Americans and other supporters of the civil rights movement held many peaceful protests and marches.
Young people played an important role in the movement. In 1957 nine African American students started attending a high school in Arkansas that had previously had only white students. In North Carolina and Tennessee, African American college students protested by holding “sit-ins.” They would sit at a segregated lunch counter until they were served or until the store closed.

The Civil Rights Movement was successful. In 1964 and 1965, President Lyndon Johnson signed two new laws that protected the rights of all Americans. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 made it illegal to treat people differently because of their race, origin, religion, or gender. The next year, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was passed. This law outlawed practices, like special taxes and tests, that had been used to prevent African Americans from voting.

**Celebrating Freedom**

In many places in the Southeast, African Americans hold a festival every year on June 19th. These “Juneteenth” festivals celebrate the day the end of slavery was announced in Galveston, Texas.

**Quick Check**

**Main Idea and Details** What was the civil rights movement?
The Southeast has a rich musical history. It is home to several different musical styles.

**Music in the Southeast**

Bluegrass is a type of folk music played on fiddles, banjos, and guitars. It traces its roots to the Irish and Scots who settled in the Appalachian Mountains.

Blues is a style of music that was developed by W.C. Handy and other African Americans in Louisiana and Mississippi. Today, blues music is popular around the world.

Jazz music is based on African and European music styles. Jazz began in New Orleans, where a Jazz Festival is still held every year. Louis Armstrong was a famous jazz trumpet player from New Orleans.

The Cajuns of southern Louisiana have a special style of music that uses the fiddle. Zydeco, a musical style that uses the accordion, came from the same area.

Did you know that rock and roll music also started in the South? It combined country, jazz, and African American rhythms. In 1954 a young man from Memphis, Tennessee, made his first record. You may have heard of him—Elvis Presley! He became a well-known entertainer and helped make rock and roll famous.
**Soul Music**

Soul music is based on African American church songs combined with blues. Aretha Franklin, who was born in Memphis, Tennessee, is known as “The Queen of Soul” because of her popular songs.

**Quick Check**

Summarize What musical styles developed in the Southeast?

**Check Understanding**

1. **Vocabulary** Write a sentence using these vocabulary words.
   - dialect
   - segregation

2. **Reading Skill** Summarize Use the chart from page 182 to write about what one group of newcomers added to the culture of the Southeast.

3. **Write About It** Write a paragraph about how different ethnic groups can affect a region’s culture.

▲ Jazz musician Louis Armstrong was famous for playing his trumpet.

Elvis Presley was a famous rock and roll artist.
Unit 4

Review and Assess

Vocabulary

Copy the sentences below on a separate sheet of paper. Use the list of vocabulary words to fill in the blanks.

wetland renewable resource
levee nonrenewable resource

1. A ___ is a wall built to prevent floods.
2. Petroleum is a ___.
3. A swamp is an example of a ___.
4. Trees are a ___.

Comprehension and Critical Thinking

5. Describe the climate of the Southeast.
6. Reading Skill What are the three types of islands found in the Southeast? Summarize.
7. Critical Thinking What makes the Southeast an excellent region for agriculture?
8. Critical Thinking How are petroleum and coal alike?

Skill

Read Circle Graphs

Write a complete sentence to answer each question.

9. How many different sources of electricity does the circle graph show?
10. Which source provides the most electricity in the United States?
1. Which of the following states produce more than one fruit?
   A. Arkansas
   B. Georgia
   C. West Virginia
   D. Tennessee

2. Why is the Southeast a leading producer of oranges?
   A. Oranges grow well in warm climates.
   B. The orange is the official state fruit in several Southeast states.
   C. Native Americans taught settlers to grow oranges.
   D. There is a large demand for juice.

3. Which product is grown in four states in the Southeast?
   A. oranges
   B. cotton
   C. rice
   D. indigo

4. At one time, cotton and tobacco were important crops in the Southeast. Today, agriculture is more varied. Some people feel the variety is better. What is your opinion? Why?

5. Which states in the Southeast would be more likely to have fishing as an industry?
Write About the Big Idea

Narrative Essay
In Unit 4, you read about the geography, economy, and people of the Southeast. Review the notes in the completed foldable.

Begin your essay with an introductory paragraph describing the environment in the Southeast.

Write a paragraph describing how the geography, economy, and people of the Southeast affect the environment. The final paragraph should summarize the main ideas of the essay.

Give a News Report
Work with a partner to give a report about the issue you have researched, as if you were an anchorperson interviewing an environmentalist on a TV news show. Here’s how to do your presentation:

1. Research an environmental issue such as coal mining or overfishing, that may affect the Southeast region.
2. Choose an issue to present.
3. Write a presentation. Come up with questions to discuss during the interview. Give the questions to your partner so he or she can prepare answers.
4. Draw illustrations or graphs to use as examples of the problem.
5. Present your interview to the class. Be sure to explain why the issue is important and what people are trying to do about it.