

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- 1. Be able to identify at least two benefits of the Florida coastal ecosystem
- 2. Be able to identify at least two challenges facing the Florida coastal ecosystem
- 3. Be able to identify at least two solutions to alleviate some of the pressure put upon the Florida coastal ecosystem

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What makes these places special?

- Environment
- Health
- Community Building
- Economy



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What are the beaches battling?

- Water quality
- Ocean Acidification
- Development
- Coastal Erosion
- Extreme weather
- Marine debris
- Harmful algae blooms





Water Quality and Quantity

- Complicated water control systems
- Dramatic change to the way freshwater flows through the state

Solutions:

- 1) Comprehensive Everglades restoration
- 2) Restoration of waterflow
- 3) Conservation and restoration of wetlands



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Ocean Acidification

- Oysters, clams, and coral have trouble building shells and skeletons
- Wildlife and reefs are vital to economy

Solutions:

- 1) Reduce carbon footprint
- 2) Join causes that address climate change
- Projects for coral restoration



Development

- Loss of habitat
- Sewage treatment and storm water systems
- Prevents island movement

Solutions:

- 1) Conversations for reasonable rate of growth that still protects the natural world
- 2) Restore dunes, native plant growth, manage foot traffic



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Coastal Erosion

- Upland development
- Recreation and cultural resources
- Wildlife habitat

Solutions:

- 1) Living shoreline
- 2) Soft engineering
- 3) Hard engineering





Extreme Weather

- Most hurricanes making landfall
- Highest precipitation rates and lightning strikes
- Homes, businesses, and community infrastructure destroyed

Solutions:

- 1) Green infrastructure
- 2) Planning for building codes
- 3) Funding and help for cleanup after storms



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Marine Debris

- Environmental impact
- Social and public impact
- Economic impact

Solutions:

- 1) Refuse, reduce, reuse, recycle
- 2) Research, education and outreach for litter prevention
- 3) Host "green and clean" events





Harmful Algae Blooms

- Toxins that sicken animals and people
- Starve aquatic life of oxygen and sunlight
- Economic impact

Solutions:

- 1) Control nutrient inputs
- 2) Support outreach into causes, impacts and mitigation
- 3) Marsh restoration, wetland parks, redirecting wastewater



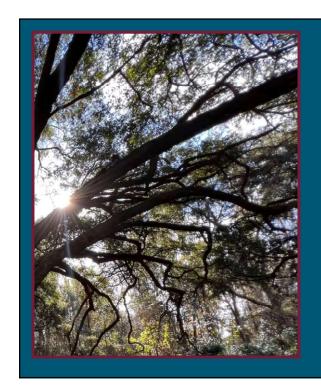


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Working together, we can help save beaches!







Thank You!

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