

FLORIDA

C. Impacts on coral reefs

In the Caribbean Sea, more than 80 percent of the corals have disappeared in recent decades. These reefs host thousands of species of fish and other marine life and are part of the biodiversity of the tropics. For years researchers have observed an increase in the sewage outflows or use of fertilizers and the loading of nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus. How is a warming climate impacting life in the oceans? Fish can move to cooler areas, but coral reefs are anchored in place. Late-summer water temperatures near the Florida Keys were warmer in the last several decades compared to a century earlier, according to a new study. Researchers indicate that the warmer water temperatures are stressing corals and increasing the number of bleaching corals that become white. "When corals are exposed to water temperatures above 84 F they grow more slowly and can stop growing altogether or die."



D. Life in the Everglades

The Everglades National Park, part of the UNESCO world heritage, is a unique wetland ecosystem in southern Florida. Its 5,000 square miles of slow flowing water has mangrove swamps, cypress, palms, pines and hardwood hammocks, or small islands. Today half of it has been drained for agriculture and settlement. There are a lot of different animals, the most famous and most dangerous are alligators. The Everglades create endless prairies of swampy sawgrass that rise 3 to 10 feet above the surface of the water. What many do not know is that the water is actually quite shallow in most places – so much so that you could stand in it! That's why visitors are shown around on guided tours on propellor-driven airboats.

Just east of the Everglades is Miami, Florida's largest metropolitan area with about 2.5 million people. 46.18% of them are white, 63.58% Hispanic and 18.51% Afro-American. Miami's pleasant winter climate makes it a very popular holiday destination. The beaches of Miami Beach are a famous tourist attraction. Every year Miami welcomes about 100 million tourists from all over the world.

E. Space Camp at Kennedy Space Center

Parents and kids across the nation looking for exciting summer activities can go to Cape Canaveral in Florida. They can take part in interesting adventures, hands-on interactive experiments, the life of an astronaut at a space camp at Kennedy Space Center. Team-building space exploration activities are an integral part of the programs. Participating kids will experience, imagine and interact through motion-based space shuttle mission simulations. They will have the chance to witness firsthand the excitement and everyday challenges faced by astronauts. There are also question-and-answer sessions with actual astronauts. These spring and summer camps include tours of the Space Center. The programs are designed for kids ages 8–14. They usually run Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The program includes a T-shirt, hot lunches and snacks, interesting materials and a graduation ceremony and a certificate. To get a good impression of what a week at a space camp is like, you should go to www.spacecamp.com.

