

Name: _____ Date: _____

Gulf Coast Region Scavenger Hunt: Teacher Key

NOTE: Some answers to questions may vary slightly depending on resources used.

Directions: Use Internet resources, maps and atlases, and library resources, the online resources to find the answers to the scavenger hunt questions about the Gulf Coast Region of the U.S. A list of Online Resources has been provided for you. Answer each question correctly and with as much detail as possible.

Online Resources

- **New Orleans City, Louisiana Statistics and Demographics (US Census 2000)** at <http://neworleans.areaconnect.com/statistics.htm>
- **Gulf Coast of the United States** at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gulf_Coast_of_the_United_States
- **Online Newshour: After Hurricane Katrina** at <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/weather/july-dec05/katrina/archive.html>

1. What states make up the Gulf Coast Region of the U.S.?

Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas

2. List 5 major coastal cities in the Gulf Coast Region.

New Orleans, Gulfport, Biloxi, Mobile, and Houston. Answers will vary on this question.

3. List the major bodies of water in the coastal areas of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama.

Mississippi River, Lake Pontchartrain, the Gulf of Mexico—answers may vary to include additional rivers/lakes.

4. What is the elevation of each city:

New Orleans: 10 ft below sea level

Biloxi: 15 feet

Mobile: 16 feet

Gulfport: 25 feet

5. What systems are in place to keep a city such as New Orleans from flooding?

Levees are used to keep the water from the Mississippi River and Lake Pontchartrain out of

the city, and massive pumps are used to remove excess water from the city when needed.

6. What are the major industries in the Gulf Coast Region?

petroleum products/oil refineries, natural gas, salt, sulphur, commercial and recreational fishing, and tourism

7. What are some of the reasons people initially settled in New Orleans 300+ years ago?

Primarily trade: cotton, tobacco, sugar cane, rum, fruit. Later, people came to the area as refugees from the Caribbean. Americans came to the area after the Louisiana Purchase was made. Tourists flocked to the area even back in the 1800's.

8. Who discovered New Orleans/how did it get its name?

Discovered in 1682 by Sieur de la Salle of France. It was named in 1718 by Sieur de la Bienville, who actually founded the city and named it after Phillippe, Duc d'Orleans.

9. Throughout history, the Gulf Coast Region, New Orleans in particular, has been strategically important during times of war. Why is this? Explain.

Because New Orleans is a port city on both an ocean and a river, it can be used as a supply route as well as for movement of troops.

10. What natural resources are available in the Gulf Coast Region?

oil, natural gas, fishing, salt, and agricultural resources

11. List several Gulf Coast industries that all Americans are dependent upon in some way.

Americans depend on oil refineries to produce much of our domestic supply of oil. In addition, pipelines from this region supply natural gas and petroleum products to markets throughout the country.

12. How have industries in the Gulf Coast Region been affected economically by Hurricane Katrina, and what economic impact, if any, could this have on all Americans?

With pipelines off track and refineries shut down, there is less natural gas and petroleum products available, resulting in higher prices for everyone. Gas has had the greatest price increase ever in the week since the storms hit the Gulf Coast. With casinos destroyed, the cities and states will lose millions of dollars each month from tax revenue generated by the gambling industry. In addition, the jobs lost as a result of the storm cost all taxpayers money in the form of aid from the federal government. Finally, insurance rates will probably go up for everyone because of the huge amounts insurers will be forced to pay out to hurricane victims.

13. Complete the table below for each of the cities listed.

City	Population	Major Industries	Tourist Attractions	City Size in miles, including water
New Orleans, LA	485,000	petroleum, natural gas, shipping, tourism	French quarter, Mardi Gras	360 sq miles
Biloxi, MS	51,000	fishing, tourism	sport fishing, casino gambling	38 sq miles
Gulf Port, MS	71,000	fishing, tourism	casino gambling	57 sq miles
Mobile, AL	199,000	fishing		118 sq miles

14. Complete the questions related to population on the table below for each of the cities listed.

City	Population (total for area)	Race (percentage)	Poverty Level (percentage)	Average Income (dollar amount)
New Orleans, LA	1,200,000	African American: 67% White: 22%	28%	\$17,258
Biloxi, MS	51,000	African American: 19% White: 74%	15%	\$17,809
Gulf Port, MS	71,000	African American: 34% White: 62%	18%	\$17,554
Mobile, AL	199,000	African American: 46% White: 40%	21%	\$18,072

15. In what ways is the Port of New Orleans important to people worldwide?

It is the second largest port in the world and the largest in the U.S. in terms of worldwide value of foreign commerce and total waterborne commerce. 6000 ships per year from 60 countries handle 11/2 million tons of cargo. New Orleans is the gateway for trade between the U.S. and South America.