

# The Southeast Region



## Resources

The Southeast is rich in natural resources. Natural resources include land, oceans, forests, minerals, and fuels. Land was the first natural resource that attracted people to the Southeast. Growing crops and raising animals was the Southeast's largest industry for many years. An industry is all the businesses that produce one kind of good or provide one kind of service. Today, many industries are important to the region, including the coal-mining industry, the steel-making industry, the lumber industry, and the oil industry.



*Almost half of the peanuts grown in the United States are grown in Georgia.*

Agriculture is an important business in the Southeast region. Agriculture is the business



*Cotton is one of many crops that are produced in the Southeast region.*

of growing crops and raising animals. The Southeast region is good for growing crops because of its flat land, rich soil, and long growing season. Southern farmers can grow crops for most of the year. Everyone loves Georgia's peaches and Florida's citrus fruits! Other farmers produce rice, cotton, tobacco, sugar cane, and peanuts. Because it produces so many food products, the Southeast region has also become a center for food processing.

Because it grows so much cotton, the Southeast is the center of our country's textile industry. Many Southerners work in cotton mills and textile factories. They make yarn, cloth, and carpets. Trees are also raised as a crop. In North Carolina, trees are used to make furniture. More than half of the furniture sold in the United States is made in High Point, North Carolina. In Georgia, Arkansas, and Alabama, people use trees to produce lumber and paper.

A lot of our country's energy is produced in the Southeast. The Gulf Coast, from Louisiana to Mississippi, produces oil and natural gas, a very important resource for our country. Many people work on oil rigs in the Gulf of Mexico. At the foot of the Appalachian Mountains in Tennessee, moving water is used to make electricity.

People in the Appalachian Mountains in West Virginia and Kentucky mine coal. The coal is used to create energy, too. Limestone and iron also come from other mines in this region. The only public diamond mine in the world, Crater of Diamonds, is located in Arkansas, and you are allowed to search for diamonds.



*Oil rigs like this one can be seen from shore along the Gulf of Mexico.*



*Mountain top coal mining.*