

The Gulf Literacy Principles

What should people know about the Gulf beyond our southern shores?

Gulf Literacy Champions Network

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Summary

The Gulf is a special place and of value to the nation yet is rarely in our national consciousness.

There is a need to share information about the Gulf with our students, Gulf residents and individuals across the nation.

Following the model of the Ocean Literacy Principles, this project aims to develop a set of Principles and Fundamental Concepts about the Gulf.

Value

Gulf Literacy Principles will:

- Focus attention on the Gulf region,
- Identify curriculum gaps and needs,
- Assist educators in finding Gulf-focused teaching materials,
- Influence outreach efforts and exhibitry, and
- Ensure consistent messaging.

Join the movement and help develop the Fundamental Concepts for the Gulf Literacy Principles. Please take this survey and share your Gulf stories, education experiences and opinions with us!



The Gulf Literacy Principles

The Principles are outlined below. We are in the process of developing the Fundamental Concepts. These Concepts, what we collectively highlight and share about the Gulf, should come from those who value it and not confined by individual states' political concerns, funding, or curricula.

1. The Gulf is a unique ecosystem connected to the world's ocean.
2. The Gulf has been shaped by the same forces operating in the world ocean.
3. The Gulf influences weather and climate locally, regionally, and nationally.
4. The Gulf supports a unique diversity of life and ecosystems.
5. The Gulf and humans in its watersheds are inextricably interconnected.
6. Much remains to be learned about the Gulf.
7. The Gulf is socially, economically, and environmentally significant to the region and the nations that surround it.

Example of Fundamental Concepts Ocean Literacy Principle 7 – The ocean is largely unexplored.

A The ocean is the largest unexplored place on Earth—less than 5% of it has been explored. The next generation of explorers and researchers will find great opportunities for discovery, innovation, and investigation.

B Understanding the ocean is more than a matter of curiosity. Exploration, experimentation, and discovery are required to better understand ocean systems and processes. Our very survival hinges upon it.

C Over the last 50 years, use of ocean resources has increased significantly; the future sustainability of ocean resources depends on our understanding of those resources and their potential.

D New technologies, sensors, and tools are expanding our ability to explore the ocean. Scientists are relying more and more on satellites, drifters, buoys, subsea observatories, and unmanned submersibles.

E Use of mathematical models is an essential part of understanding the ocean system. Models help us understand the complexity of the ocean and its interactions with Earth's interior, atmosphere, climate, and land masses.

F Ocean exploration is truly interdisciplinary. It requires close collaboration among biologists, chemists, climatologists, computer programmers, engineers, geologists, meteorologists, physicists, animators, and illustrators. And these interactions foster new ideas and new perspectives for inquiries.



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