

SeeSouthernForests.org Orientation Activity: Student Handout

This handout will help you become familiar with the SeeSouthernForests.org interactive mapping tool. Once you have completed this short lesson, you will be ready to explore all of the map's features. You will also be able to discover the importance of southern forests and the benefits they provide to people locally, nationally, and globally such as clean water, recreation, and timber.

Directions: Answer the following questions by yourself or with a partner as you explore the site.

- Go to the website <http://www.SeeSouthernForests.org>.
- Click on 'Explore Maps' from the green tab option bar near the top of the screen, or access the tool through the homepage by clicking on 'Explore Maps'.
- Use the different tools and maps available on the site to answer the following questions.

Map Basics: Using the displayed map answer the following questions.

1. What do you see? Describe what you are looking at?
2. What countries are represented?
3. What ocean(s) or other bodies of water are on the map?
4. What peninsula(s) can you identify?
5. What natural boundaries are represented?
6. What political (human-created) boundaries are represented?
7. Where is your home state? City? County?

Land Cover: Click on the ‘Land Cover’ map option from the grey option bar near the top of the screen. Answer the following questions.

8. What does the blue on the map represent?

9. Find an inland lake in your state or one you have been to.

10. What color are the urban areas? Identify three urban areas you are familiar with that are shown on the map.

11. What color is used to represent forests? Find a forested area near your home.

Find a Place:

- **Click on the ‘Hybrid’ map option from the grey option bar near the top of the screen.**
- **Type in the name of a major city in the ‘Find a Place’ text box, and then zoom in to the maximum setting.**
- **Now answer the following questions.**

12. Identify three major highways in or near the city.

13. Click on the ‘Composition’ tab from the forest features map theme. What is the most prevalent species of tree near the city you selected?

14. Find one park that is represented on the map.

15. Find the closest body of water near the flag icon.

16. Click on the 'Protection' tab from the forest features map theme. Find two protected areas near the city you have selected.

Measuring Distances and Calculating Area:

- **Staying in the Hybrid view, zoom out to the maximum setting. Find the distance legend in the bottom left-hand corner.**
- **Using the line tool, draw lines between key borders and use the distance scale in the bottom left to measure and answer the following questions:**

17. What is the distance from the Western most part of Texas to the eastern shoreline of the U.S. (near Savannah, GA)?

18. What is the width of the Gulf of Mexico, from the southern most point of Texas' east coast to the parallel point on the west coast of Florida?

19. Calculate the approximate total area of the highlighted section of the map (Southern U.S.). Measure from the western most border of Texas to Norfolk, VA, and from Cincinnati, OH to the southern most point of Florida, be sure to include the unit of measure you are using. (Hint: Area = height x width)