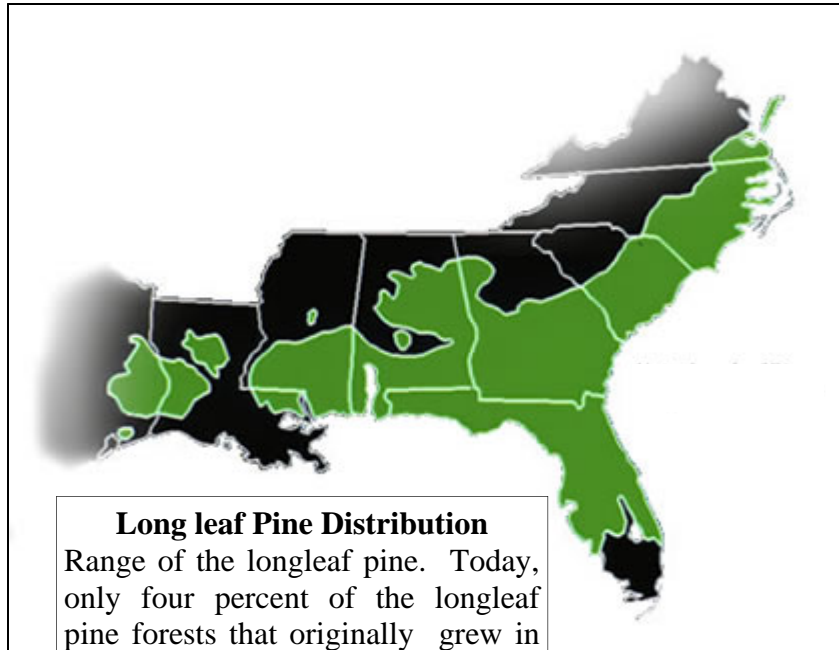


Exploring Florida's Pine Uplands



Long leaf Pine Distribution

Range of the longleaf pine. Today, only four percent of the longleaf pine forests that originally grew in the coastal Plain of North America remain.

Your name _____

People & The Environment

Imagine that it is the year 1880, and you and your family just settled in Florida's Pine Uplands. All of the land you can see around you is yours, and there is no town nearby. To survive, you'll have to make use of the natural resources in the area.

1. What resources will you use to:

a. Build your house? (Yes, we know you'll use wood. What *kind* of wood? Where will you find this wood?)

b. Feed your family? (Remember, people need to eat a balanced diet to stay healthy.)

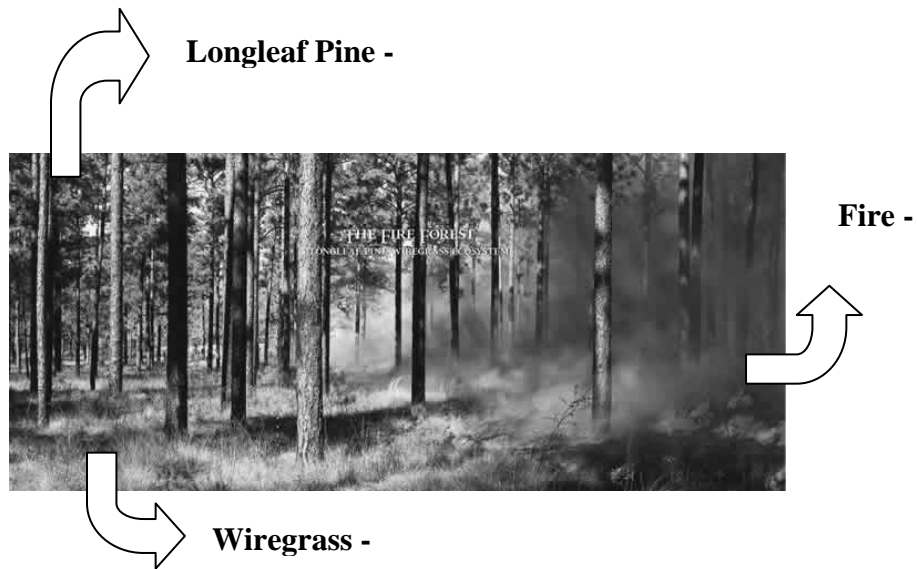
c. Start a business? (You must use the natural resources on your land.)

2. Now that you have established your homestead, it is up to you to protect your property and your family. What natural dangers might you face, and how would you respond to them?

The Natural Ecosystem

For thousands of years, Longleaf Pine/Wiregrass Forests covered southeastern North America. During this time, both plants and animals adapted to the environment.

1. Longleaf pine trees and wiregrass adapted to fire, which was a regular event in the forest. How did the relationship between longleaf pines, wiregrass and fire work?



2. Gopher tortoises are slow, but are able to survive the regular fires in the longleaf pine forest.
 - a. How did gopher tortoises adapt to fire?

 - b. How did this adaptation benefit other animal species in the forest?

Threatened & Endangered Species

Many Florida animals are threatened or endangered. Threatened species are in danger of becoming endangered. Endangered species are in danger of becoming extinct.

Find the following four animals in the exhibition that are, or were, threatened or endangered. For each species,

- Explain why they became endangered.
- How many of the animals live in Florida today?
- How many lived here 100 years ago?

Florida Panther

Florida Black Bear

Gopher Tortoise

Wild Turkey