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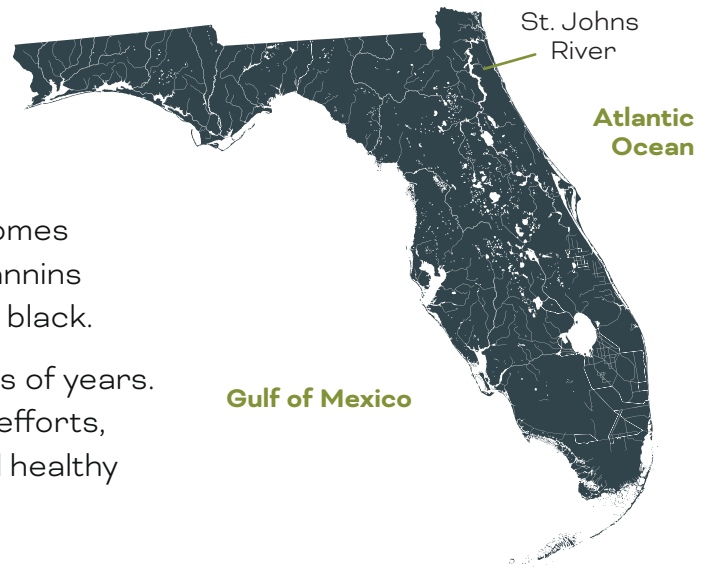
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Answer Key

NONFICTION COMPREHENSION

St. Johns River, Florida

The **St. Johns River** is the longest river in Florida, and it passes through 12 counties in the state. The source of the river is the large marshy area in Indian River County, Florida. It is most famous for being home to a huge variety of wildlife, from birds to mammals to reptiles and even unusual plants. Manatee populations swim up the St. Johns to reach the warmer waters of the Blue Springs during the winter. The St. Johns stretches for 310 miles before meeting its end at the Atlantic Ocean, in a marsh near Vero Beach. The biggest city on its course is Jacksonville, and major tributaries that flow into the St. Johns River include the Wekiva and Econlockhatchee Rivers.



The St. Johns is a blackwater stream. Its water comes from the swamps and marshes that surround it. Tannins from decaying vegetation are what turn the water black.

People have lived near the St. Johns for thousands of years. Today it is the focus of cleanup and conservation efforts, and residents want to make the river as clean and healthy as possible.

Fact File: Name: St. Johns River Length: 310 miles

Source: Indian River County, Florida marshes Mouth: Atlantic Ocean

Cities along it: Jacksonville, Florida

Tributaries: Wekiva River, Econlockhatchee River

Importance to nearby communities: A variety of wildlife lives in the river, including birds, mammals, and reptiles. The community would like to have a healthy and clean river.

Main Idea: The St. Johns River in Florida is an important home to wildlife in the state.

Supporting Detail: Answers will vary, but may include: It is most famous for being home to a huge variety of wildlife, from birds to mammals to reptiles and even unusual plants.