

Allendale: Altered Geography

Overview

Students will be introduced to Allendale, SC, as they learn about its prosperity in the 1950s and its economic loss in the 1990s. Students will determine how the transportation routes between the northern United States through South Carolina to Florida impacted this area causing it to become one of the poorest sections of the South Carolina. Information will then be examined to determine ways to improve the prosperity of the area today. The lesson concept can be modified to be taught in such a way as to focus on any South Carolina County.

Connection to the Curriculum

History, economics.

South Carolina Social Studies Academic Standards

- 8-7.1 Summarize the significant aspects of the economic growth experienced by South Carolina during and following World War II, including the contributions of Governor Strom Thurmond in promoting economic growth; the creation of the State Development Board and the technical education system; the benefits of good road systems, a sea port, and the Savannah River site; and the scarcity of labor unions.
- 8-7.5 Explain the economic impact of twentieth century events on South Carolina, including the opening and closing of military bases, the development of industries, the influx of new citizens, and the expansion of port facilities.

Social Studies Literacy Elements

- F. Ask geographic questions: Where is it located? Why is it there? What is significant about its location? How is its location related to that of other people, places, and environments?
- G. Make and record observations about the physical and human characteristics of places
- I. Use maps to observe and interpret geographic information and relationships
- S. Interpret and synthesize information obtained from a variety of sources—graphs, charts, tables, diagrams, texts, photographs, documents, and interviews

Time

Two 90-minute class periods.

Grade Range

8th Grade

Materials

South Carolina: An Atlas
South Carolina Interactive Geography (SCIG) CD-ROM
Computer
Overhead projector and screen
Overhead pen
Action Plan Handout
United States Road Atlas
SC Highway map

Objectives

1. Develop an understanding of how human actions modify the physical and economic environment of a place.
2. Interpret charts and maps in order to discover what has caused the shift in business along Highway 301 to Florida.
3. Create an Action Plan that will work to generate new income and revenue for Allendale, South Carolina.

Suggested Procedures

1. In a United States Road Atlas, locate Highway 301 and point out to the students that it runs from the northeast all the way to Florida. Before the interstate system was built, Highway 301 was heavily traveled by people headed to the Florida beaches for vacation.
2. Using a South Carolina Highway Map, locate Hwy. 301 and I-95. Ask students to speculate on what happened to Allendale once I-95 was built. List their responses on the overhead.
3. View a portion of the SCIG CD-ROM. Go to "Places and Regions - Physical and Human Characteristics of Places - Technology and Change." This section discusses the impact of I-95 on the small towns along Hwy. 301.
4. Ask the students if there are any additional responses they would like to add to their list after viewing SCIG.
5. Land has been purchased that will enable I-77 to extend from Columbia to I-95. It is projected to run south and intersect with Hwy. 278 in Fairfax and then follow Hwy. 278 until it intersects with I-95. With this information, assign the students the task of developing a growth and revitalization Action Plan for Allendale that will involve businesses, citizens, and the government of Allendale.
6. Each group will view the SCIG CD-ROM for pertinent information they will need in order to develop their Action Plan. Access "Uses of Geography - Using Geography to Interpret the Present and Plan for the Future." Hand out the student worksheet that will help with the completion of the action plan. Allow time for the groups create their Action Plans. The maps in Section 6: "Postbellum Landscape" and Section 7: "Contemporary Landscape" found in *South Carolina: An Atlas* should be available to help the students create their Action Plan.
7. Present their Action Plans to the class. Review their initial responses to what impact they think I-95 had on Allendale. Do they think many of these problems will now be alleviated or will further economic planning be necessary?

Suggested Evaluation

1. Completion of Action Plan.

Lesson Extensions

1. Plan the ideal city based on location, resources, etc.
2. Evaluate the town you live in based on location, resources, etc. What has helped, hindered / or progress the growth of your town?

Resources

Brunson, Eva Hightower. *Town of Allendale*. Columbia, S.C., Commercial Printing Company, 1970. (USC Caroliniana Library)

Lawton, Alexania Easterling and Minnie Reeves Wilson. *Allendale on the Savannah*. Bamberg, S.C., Bamberg Herald Printers, 1970.

An Economic Profile: Allendale County. Columbia, S.C., Lower Savannah Regional Planning and Development Commission, 1969.

Searcon, Louis Arthur. *Town of Allendale: A gem of the SC Lowcountry*. Columbia, S.C., n.p., 1949. (USC Caroliniana Library)

South Carolina: An Atlas and South Carolina Interactive Geography (SCIG) CD-ROM
Produced and distributed by the South Carolina Geographic Alliance
1-888-895-2023
www.cas.sc.edu/cege

U.S. Census Bureau

http://www.census.gov/cgi_bin/datamap/cnty?45=005

This site includes the following, which can add additional material to this lesson:

- Current map of area
- 1999 Population Estimates
- Income and Poverty
- 1992 Economic Census
- County Business Patterns Economic Profile

Background Information

Allendale County is in the southern tip of South Carolina, six miles from the Georgia line. Allendale was originally part of Barnwell and Hampton Counties until 1911 when it became the youngest county in the state. The boundaries for the county are the Savannah River to the south, the Salkehatchie River to the west and a meandering line to the east between Allendale and Hampton. The town is located at exactly 32.99087 N latitude, 81.35490 W longitude.

The county of Allendale is basically an agricultural area with a growing season of 246 days. The land is a sandy loam that absorbs the rain, but doesn't erode easily. They grew cotton as the major crop until the 1950s when soybeans replaced it. Other crops were vegetables for truck farming, trees for lumber, and Coastal Bermuda grass that fed local cattle and swine.

In the 1950s, the town became well-known as a major stop-over for tourists going traveling to and from Florida on Highway 301. The town was recognized for its modern motels and eateries. The tourist industry brought a considerable addition to the income into the area. The tourism trade became a permanent form of revenue through the 1970s.

The town housed several large hotels, approximately ten motels and numerous restaurants located on and around Highway 301, both in town and the outskirts. The town had electricity, a modern water and sewage plant, thirty recreational areas, a variety of churches, several small industries for ladies' wear, banks, drug stores, a toy/candy shop, clothing stores and all the necessary businesses for a bustling town on the move.

The county schools included elementary through high schools, an area vocational school and the University of South Carolina - Salkehatchie Regional Campus.

Not only was Highway 301 a busy route, but Highways 321 and 278 were also used through the county to Georgia and points south. National bus lines and trains brought tourists to and through the area daily.

In 1970, South Carolina Governor Robert McNair officially opened a Welcome Center at the Georgia border on Highway 301. The tourist center was expected to greet over 17,000,000 tourists annually. Tourism had become South Carolina's third largest business.

In 1977, Interstate 95 was completed allowing people to travel faster and more directly between the northern and southern regions of the eastern U.S. The speed limit was a consistent 70 miles per hour and did not have any traffic lights. Areas around the interstate exchanges began to build up with restaurants, gas stations and motels to accommodate the travelers' needs. Shopping malls began to spring up around larger towns and cities near the interstate exchanges, bringing quick and easy access to a variety of stores and merchandise.

In the opposite respect, the small towns that had grown from the tourism trade on highways were being by-passed. Businesses declined, the economy dwindled, and people who had worked in the towns began to move away looking for new employment or went on welfare. The businesses began to empty and became neglected.

ACTION PLAN

Things to Consider:

How will the land surrounding the projected I-77 be affected?

Give an example of the kinds of Highway Commercial businesses that might be attracted along I-77.

Study the new interstate system in this area. Can industries now be attracted to this area? Explain. What industries might be attracted to this part of the state?

What affect will I-77 have on the agricultural use of the land?

What zoning issues might you be faced with?

Will new roadways need to be added to accommodate the increase in transportation in this area or will the existing roadways be sufficient. Explain.

Which Council of Governments, or COG, will you be working with? Will they have the same interests at heart as you build your Action Plan that will revitalize this part of the state?

Develop ideas for growth management should your Action Plan be effective.

What plans do you have for sustainable development that will protect the air, water, and other natural resources in the future?

How do you plan to protect the air, water, and natural resources as I-77 is built through this area? What river systems might be affected?