Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Block:\_\_\_\_\_

# Station 2 Worksheet: The Coastal Plains

What are sinkholes and caverns? How are they related to the coastal plains region?

**Sinkholes= holes that develop underground when water erodes away limestone over a period of time.**

**Caverns= large enough sinkholes or several sinkholes merging together to form an empty capacity**

**-Coastal plains have sinkholes because it has limestone underground and the region is next to the waters (i.e. Gulf of Mexico).**

After reading the article about what happened to the hotel in Florida last year, how does this landscape affect the lives of humans negatively? Can you think of reasons this type of landscape benefitting human society?

**Affects people’s lives negatively because if a building is built on top of limestone, and the area is subjected to water erosion, once the area underneath gets weak enough it will collapse and swallow a building whole. (potentially killing people).**

**These types of landscapes are benefitting because people like to explore caverns and can be a tourist attraction point if it is located safely away from populated areas.**

Wetlands are features of the coastal plains. After reading about wetlands answer the following questions:

1. How are wetlands created?

**-created partly by beavers**

1. Why are wetlands important to the region?

**-acts as a drainage site to prevent floods from happening in cities and populated areas**

**- maintains a high level of biodiversity in wetlands**

1. What is the difference between a swamp and a marsh?

**Swamp= has trees growing in it. Wetlands= no trees but contains the highest level of biodiversity out of all the types of wetlands.**

 Describe the topography, climate, and vegetation of this area:

1. Topography:

**Elevation= less than 200m above sea level**

**Mostly flat and rolling landscapes**

**Has many swamps and marshes**

**Has fertile agricultural land.**

1. Climate:

**Winters are cold and snowy**

**Hot and humid summers**

**(Near south, has mild to warm winters due to subtropical climate—hurricanes tend to strike here)**

1. Vegetation:

**Has very sandy soils. Some lush jungles.**

**Pine forests.**