

**Phenomenon:** The American alligator used to be an endangered species, but it is now a regulated and hunted species with a population of over 1.5 million in Louisiana alone.

### **HS-ESS3-3**

#### **ESS3.C Human Impacts on Earth Systems**

HS.ESS3C.a The sustainability of human societies and the biodiversity that supports them requires responsible management of natural resources.

### **HS-EVS1-1**

#### **EVS1A Louisiana's Natural Resources**

HS.EVS1A.a Ecosystem capital can be characterized as goods (removable products) and services such as the functions and values of wetlands.

### **HS-EVS1-2**

#### **EVS1B: Resource Management for Louisiana**

HS.EVS1B.a Population growth along with cultural and economic factors impact resource availability, distribution, and use.

**Resources:** A number of resources for the phenomenon are included below. Teachers should screen the resources and pull photos, quotes, and data that are appropriate to share with high school students. These resources may not be appropriate to be given as-is to students due to length, content, or accessibility of the content.

- [Louisiana Public Broadcasting: Alligator: King of the Bayou \(27 minute video documentary\)](#)
- [Go Gator: Louisiana's Northshore \(4 minute video documentary\)](#)
- [US Fish and Wildlife Service: American Alligator \(2 page PDF leaflet\)](#)
- [Louisiana Alligator Management Program Overview \(webpage\)](#)
- [Louisiana Alligator Management Program Annual Report \(of particular interest: the graph on page 3, tables on pages 19-21\)](#)
- [1967 Report from the American Fisheries Society \(5 page PDF file: about overhunting of alligators prior to the management program\)](#)
- [Alligator Program Lesson Ideas for HS-ESS3-3 with four Excel files containing data](#)

#### **Questions students may pose that could be used for future learning or investigations:**

- ✧ Why did the population get so low to begin with?
- ✧ When was the alligator listed as an endangered species?
- ✧ What was the problem and how was it solved?
- ✧ How did the population rebound?
- ✧ What influenced the population level?
- ✧ How many alligators are you allowed to kill during a hunting season?
- ✧ Why do people hunt alligators?
- ✧ What benefits does hunting provide?
- ✧ How can hunting benefit the habitat or the species?
- ✧ How are alligator hunters and farmers regulated?