

<u>Directions:</u> Below are some beautiful pictures from Okefenokee Swamp. Put them on a transparency and show them to your class. Ask the students to respond to the pictures by writing about what they think they will be learning about at the swamp and how this area might be different from where they live.











**Introduction:** You've had the opportunity to visit the very unique area of the Okefenokee Swamp. Now it's your chance to respond to a prompt concerning the outcome of the swamp. (The following prompt is not an accurate situation, but here to get you to think critically)

Prompt: The Okefenokee is under legal jurisdiction due to an accident that occurred there 3 weeks ago. While visiting the refuge, a young man in his twenty's thought it would be cool to see how close he could get to one of the alligators basking in the sun on the banks. Unfortunately, the smell of his lunch still lingering on his hands, and his rapid teasing movements provoked the alligator to attack out of anger. The alligator grabbed the young mans boot and fortunately he was able to pull away with just a lost boot. When he got back home, he sued the refuge stating that "allowing the dangerous alligators to be present throughout the refuge and close to visitors impedes on the safety of the onlookers." At this time, the swamp is under considering of closing its activities for visitors, moving the alligators to zoo and other parks, and giving the land up for sale. It is up to you to testify in court and tell the jury what you think of the situation and of the beautiful area you just visited. On the lines below, describe to the jury why Okefenokee should be kept as a wildlife refuge and not put up for sale.

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