

## Why Jam With Your Students?

The **Gulf Coast Data Jam** gives educators a ready-to-use, standards-aligned opportunity to engage students in **real data, real questions, and real community impact**. Instead of working with abstract or simulated datasets, students analyze information collected right here on the Gulf Coast—making learning more meaningful, relevant, and memorable.

Data Jam projects build **data fluency, critical thinking, collaboration, and scientific reasoning** as students ask questions, analyze trends, interpret evidence, and communicate their findings creatively. Because datasets are local, students are more invested: *this is our story, our history, our community*.

Educators can adapt the experience to fit middle or high school classrooms, science, STEM or interdisciplinary courses, short units or extended projects.

### Customizable Resources for Teachers

- **Editable Student Project Outline:** ([Google Doc link here](#))
- **Editable Student Checklist & Rubric:** ([Google Doc link here](#))

Both resources are classroom-ready and designed to support scaffolding, differentiation, and clear expectations.

*When students work with data from their own backyard, learning becomes personal—and powerful.*

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## NGSS Alignment

The Gulf Coast Data Jam strongly supports **Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)** by emphasizing science and engineering practices, crosscutting concepts, and disciplinary core ideas.

### Science & Engineering Practices

- **Analyzing and Interpreting Data**
- **Asking Questions and Defining Problems**
- **Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions**

- **Engaging in Argument from Evidence**
- **Obtaining, Evaluating, and Communicating Information**

#### **Crosscutting Concepts**

- **Patterns**
- **Cause and Effect**
- **Stability and Change**
- **Systems and System Models**

#### **Disciplinary Connections (examples)**

- **MS-ESS2 / HS-ESS2:** Earth systems, water cycles, human impacts
- **MS-LS2 / HS-LS2:** Ecosystems, environmental change
- **ETS1:** Using data to inform solutions and decision-making

Data Jam also naturally integrates **ELA, math, and social studies skills**, supporting cross-curricular goals and project-based learning initiatives.