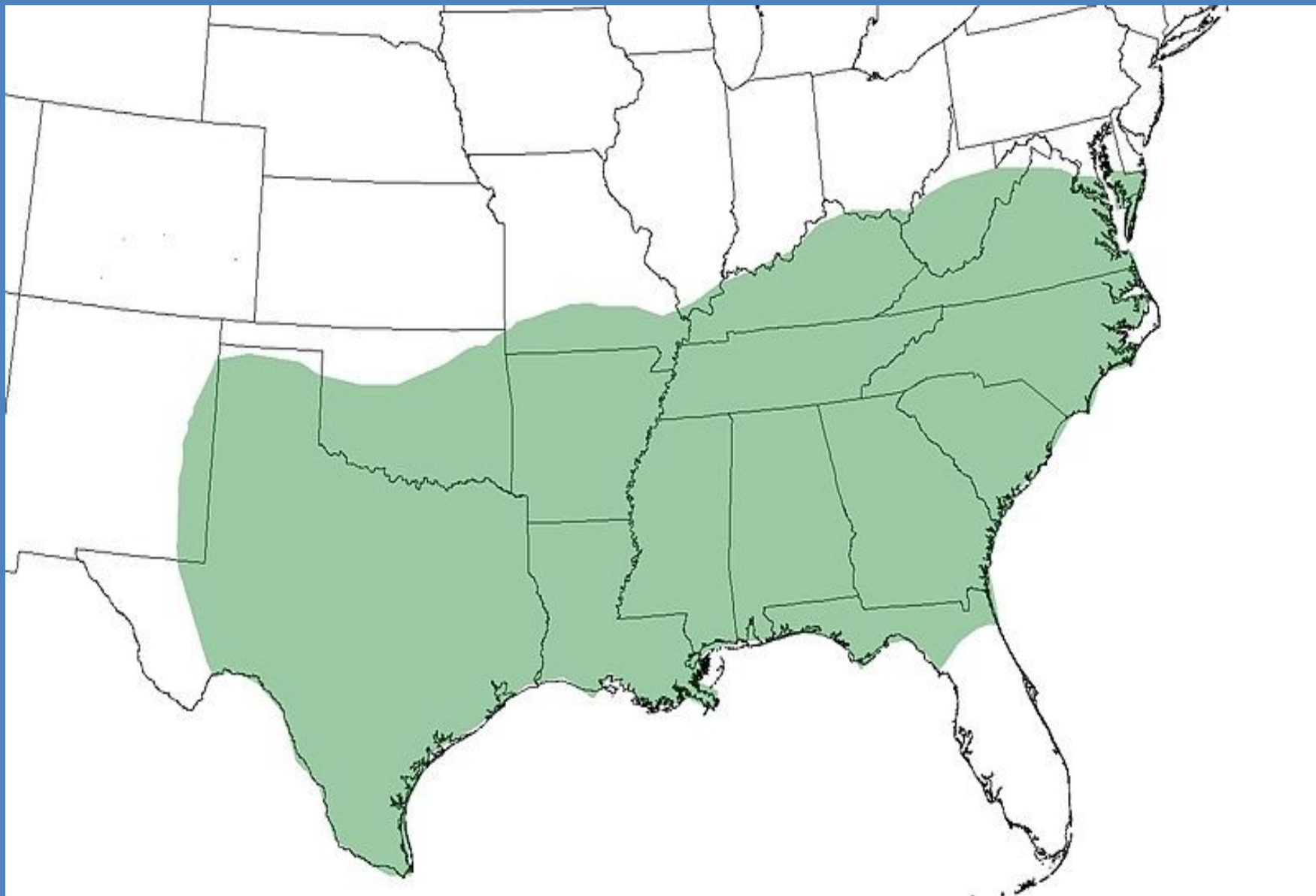


Southern American English (Deep South)



Approximate extent of Southern American English



- South does not have one monolithic dialect, there are vast differences between regions in the area.
- It is a GROUP of dialects.
- African American Vernacular English has a lot in common with Southern dialects because of strong historical ties.
- Southern dialects originated in large part from British immigrants who moved to the area in 17. and 18. centuries.

- Only few generalizations can be made about Southern American English because of the great variation between the regions.
- Pronunciation also differs very much between older and younger generations as well as between numerous ethnical groups.
- Older SAE: distinction between [æɹ], [er] and [ɛɹ] in *marry*, *merry*, and *Mary* is preserved.
- Newer SAE: Merging of [ɛ] and [ɪ] before nasal consonants = *pen* and *pin* are pronounced the same.

- Lax and tense vowel neutralization before L. Pairs like feel/fill become homophones.

Dialects

Atlantic: Virginia Piedmont (most famous, strong influence on the rest of dialects), Coastal Southern.

Midland and Highland: South Midland or Highland Southern, Southern Appalachian.

Gulf of Mexico: Gulf Southern and Mississippi Delta, Florida Cracker.

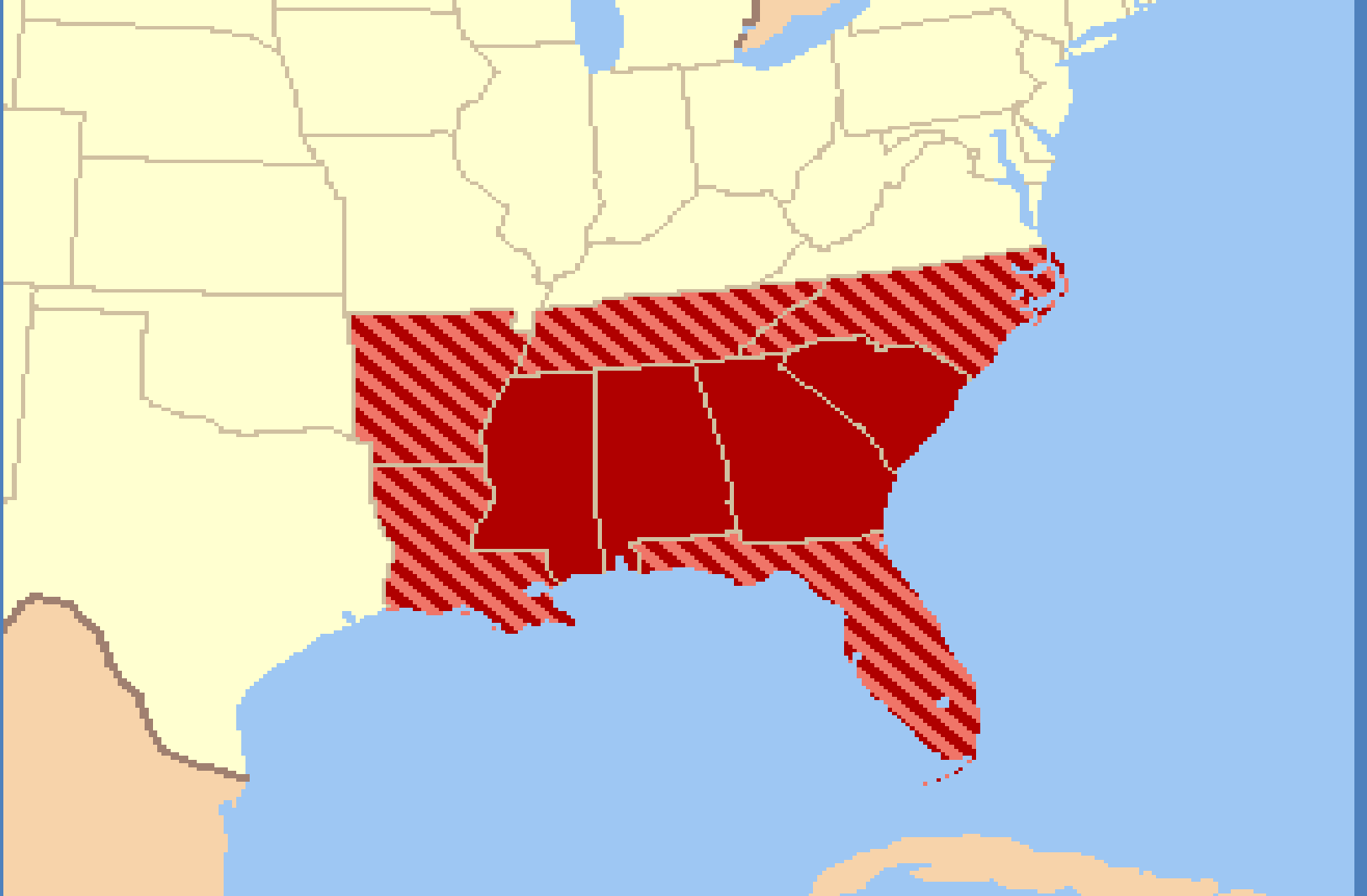
Louisiana: Cajun, Creole, French.

Signature sounds

- Merging of [ɛ] and [ɪ] before nasal consonants = *pen* and *pin* are pronounced the same. (Occasional diphthongization – *end, men*)
- Words such as *yellow, window*: Final vowel pronounced as r-less schwa instead of [oʊ] or [o].
- Monophthongization: Words such as *boy, boil, choice*: diphthong reduced to monophthong [ɔ] . Also (*right, time, like*)
- *Every* is reduced to *evə*.
- -Ing is pronounced as [ɪn] instead of [ɪŋ] in present participles.

- Many nouns are stressed on the first syllable instead on the second: 'police, 'cement, 'Detroit, 'behind.
- Contractions: voiced alveolar fricative [z] becomes voiced alveolar stop [d]. *Isn't* [iznt] = [idnt], *wasn't* [wʌznt] = [wʌdnt].
- The Southern vowel shift: the nuclei of [ɛ] and [ɪ] move to become higher and fronter, of [ɛjə], [ɛ] becomes a tenser [ejə].
- Vowel lowering: [i] is realised as [ɛ] or [aə] before velar nasal. *Sing* [siŋ] = [saəŋ].
- Post coronal glides: words with coronal stops /t/d/n/ have a glide /j/ inserted between the stop and vowel. *Tune, duke, news* become [tju:n], [djuk], [nju:z]

The Deep South



- Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi and South Carolina.
- Famous for: **The Southern drawl.**
- Vowels are longer, monophthongs become diphthongs and diphthongs become triphthongs.

Kit [kit] = [ki:ət], milk [milk] = [mij(ə)k]

Lingering on important words while shortening the less important words.

Rhotic vs. Non-Rhotic

