

# The History of FLORIDA



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# GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION, THE LAND, AND THE CLIMATE

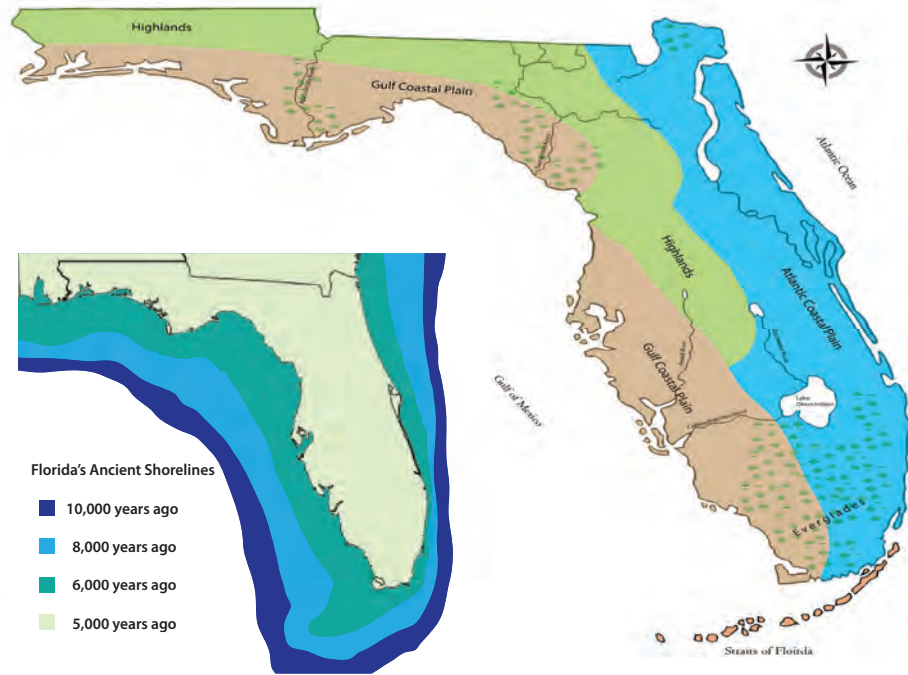
## Florida's Geographic Location

Florida is the southeasternmost state in the United States. It is a *peninsula*, which means it has water on three sides. To the east of Florida is the Atlantic Ocean, to the west is the Gulf of Mexico, and to the south are the Straits of Florida. To the north are the states of Alabama and Georgia.

Our state has a unique shape, which makes it easy to locate on a map. The northwestern part of the state is called the *Panhandle*, because it is shaped like the handle of a frying pan. Two important cities in the Panhandle are Pensacola and Tallahassee, the state's capital. At the tip of south Florida rests a string of islands called the *Florida Keys*. The most famous of these islands are Key Largo, Marathon, and Key West.

## The Land

Between 300 million and 400 million years ago, north Florida was separated from swampy south Florida by a body of water called the *Florida Trench*. Then 200 million years ago, lava from active



Maps courtesy HSPBC.

volcanoes filled in the trench, leaving only a shallow sea. The sand and shells of dead marine animals fossilized to form a limestone plateau, or area of flat land. This plateau finally rose up to form a marshy plain at sea level.

During an Ice Age about 100 million years ago, the water level of the ocean dropped as the water froze, which created glaciers that left Florida twice its present size for thousands of years. When the last Ice Age ended about 12,000 years ago, the ocean levels rose again, and the climate became warmer and wetter. Part of Florida remained underwater, which today we call the *continental shelf*. This shelf slopes gently into the ocean, and at its edge, the water becomes very deep. Over time, the constant rising and falling of water levels helped form the three land regions that currently exist in Florida: the Atlantic Coastal Plain, Florida Highlands, and Gulf Coastal Plain.

Today Florida has several types of landscapes, including lowlands, highlands, and wetlands. The *lowlands* are flat and are found at the Atlantic Coastal Plain and Gulf Coastal Plain, which is mostly covered by grasslands called *savannas*. *Barrier islands*, common along both coasts, are low, narrow strips of land that protect the mainland from stormy seas.

The different regions of Florida are cut by waterways: bays, inlets, lakes, rivers, and canals. The *canals* are man-made to move water from one place to another and for boat travel. The Intracoastal Waterway is a canal along Florida's coastline and stretches from Maine to Texas.

The *Florida Highlands* are hills and other land more than fifty-feet above sea level. They are found in the Panhandle and down the middle of the state.

The last type of Florida landscape is *wetlands*, a lowland in which the water



A cypress swamp.

**Standards:**

SS.4.G.1.1: Identify physical features of Florida.  
 SS.4.G.1.3: Explain how weather impacts Florida.  
 SS.4.G.1.4: Interpret political and physical maps using map elements (title, compass rose, cardinal directions, intermediate directions, symbols, legend, scale, longitude, latitude).  
 SS.4.G.1.In.d: Identify information provided on maps using the title, compass rose, cardinal and intermediate directions, symbols, and key/legend.  
 SS.4.G.1.Su.d: Recognize information provided on a map by its title, cardinal directions, symbols, and key/legend.

LAFS.4.RI.1.1: Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.  
 LAFS.4.RI.2.6: Compare and contrast a firsthand and secondhand account of the same event or topic; describe the differences in focus and the information provided.  
 LAFS.4.RI.3.7: Interpret information presented visually, orally, or quantitatively (e.g., in charts, graphs, diagrams, time lines, animations, or interactive elements on Web pages) and explain how the information contributes to an understanding of the text in which it appears.  
 LAFS.4.W.1.2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.  
 SC.4.N.2.1: Explain that science focuses solely on the natural world.

#### Map Skills:

1. On a map, identify the locations in this section.

#### Test Your Knowledge:

1. When people go to the beach on the east coast of Florida, what ocean do they swim in?

2. A peninsula has water on three sides.

a. Is Florida a peninsula or an island?

b. What bodies of water surround Florida?

3. North and south Florida were separated millions of years ago. What separated them?

4. What three land regions were formed by the constant rising and falling of water levels?

#### Activity:

1. Choose one of the landforms in this section, draw a picture of it, and write a short essay describing it. Provide examples of other landforms.

## Did you know?

Wellington was once called the Flying COW Ranch. C.O.W. are the initials of the former landowner, pilot C. Oliver Wellington.

The community of Lake Clarke Shores was once a pineapple plantation.

The first firefighters in West Palm Beach were called *Flagler Alerts*.

level stays near or above the earth's surface. The Everglades, a huge wetland in the southern part of the peninsula, is only about eight feet above sea level at its highest point. (see page 43, *The Everglades*)

## The Climate

Florida has a mild climate. The temperature never gets very cold, because its southern tip is near the equator. Areas in the Panhandle and north Florida, get cold in the winter. The state's lowest recorded temperature was on February 13, 1899, when it dropped to (minus)  $-2$  degrees Fahrenheit in Tallahassee up in the Panhandle! Florida's climate is good for growing crops and for enjoying warm weather activities all year long.

Florida is also known for its wetness. Rain averages more in Florida than in most other states. Our rainy season is from May to November. Florida residents pay close attention to the meteorologists' forecasts during these months because this is when thunderstorms, tornadoes, tropical storms, and hurricanes typically occur.

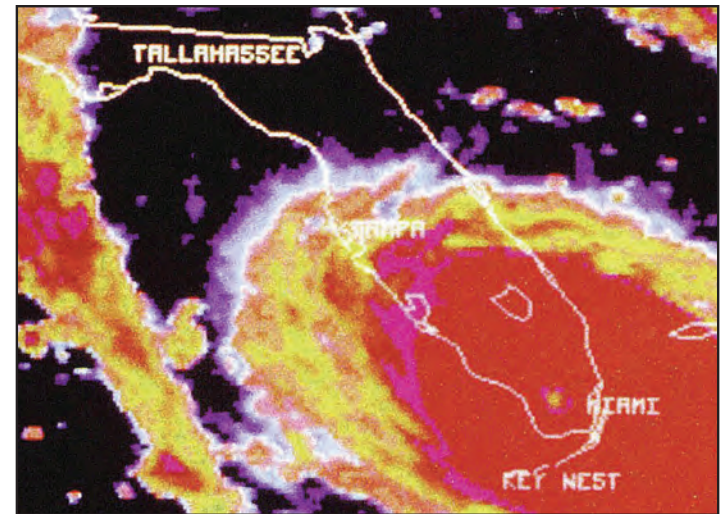
Florida's climate attracts many people. Some come to visit, while others live here during the winter and return to the North for spring and summer. These people are sometimes called *snowbirds*.

## Palm Beach County Geography

Palm Beach County is one of sixty-seven counties in Florida. It is located on the state's southeast coast, which also includes Martin, Broward, and Miami-Dade counties, totaling about 10,818 square miles. To the north of Palm Beach County is Martin County, to the south is Broward County, to the east is the Atlantic Ocean, and to the west are Lake Okeechobee and Hendry County.

Large areas of Palm Beach County contain nature preserves and farmland. Most cities in the county are along the east coast, spreading west from the ocean about twenty to twenty-five miles. There are also a few communities on the east shore of Lake Okeechobee.

Palm Beach County is special for several reasons. First, it is the largest county in Florida. It covers about 2,248 square miles of land and water, more than the states of Delaware or Rhode Island. In 2010, 1,320,134 people lived in the county, and it is one of the fastest-growing counties in the state. Its largest city is the county seat, West Palm



Satellite picture of a hurricane. Courtesy The Palm Beach Post.

Beach, with a population over 102,000. The northernmost community is Tequesta, the southernmost is Boca Raton, and the westernmost is South Bay.

## Barrier Islands and Waterways

The series of barrier islands along the coast of Florida helps protect the mainland from pounding waves and storms. Bridges connect the mainland to the islands. During hurricanes, people living on the barrier islands must evacuate to the mainland for their safety.

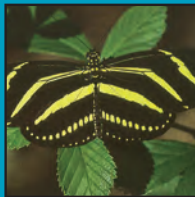
There are many waterways in Palm Beach County. The major one is the Intracoastal Waterway, which runs between the barrier islands and the mainland through Florida. The Loxahatchee River in Jupiter; another waterway, is about eight miles long and flows through Jupiter Inlet into the Atlantic Ocean. The four largest lakes in Palm Beach County are Lake Okeechobee, Lake Mangonia, Clear Lake, and Lake Osborne.

Four major canals connect Lake Okeechobee to the Atlantic Ocean: Miami Canal, North New River Canal, Hillsboro Canal, and West Palm Beach Canal.

The last waterways that form the landscape of Palm Beach County are called *inlets*. Four inlets enter the Intracoastal Waterway through the barrier islands, and all are used for transportation and recreation: Jupiter Inlet, Lake Worth Inlet, Boynton Beach Inlet, and Boca Raton Inlet.



Animal



Butterfly



Bird



Saltwater Fish



Drink



Flower



Saltwater Mammal

# Hurricanes

Weather is a concern for residents and visitors, especially during the hurricane season, from June 1 through November 30 each year. The storms that create hurricanes (*tropical waves*) form over the warm waters of the Atlantic Ocean and gain strength as they head west from Africa toward the Caribbean Sea. As a tropical wave meets a low-pressure area, it begins to spin clock-wise, turning into a *tropical depression*.

When the speed of the wind on its surface reaches forty miles per hour, the depression is called a *tropical storm*. At seventy-four miles per hour, it becomes a *hurricane*, or *tropical cyclone*. A hurricane has an eye at its center, which is an area of calm winds and low pressure surrounded by a wall. This *eye wall* contains thunderstorms, high winds, and rain. All tropical storms and hurricanes are given names in alphabetical order each season.

Although several hurricanes have struck Palm Beach County, none caused as much loss of life and property damage as did the 1928 hurricane. In 1992,

however, Hurricane Andrew caused over \$30 billion in damages in south Florida. As a result, building regulations were made stricter. Residents have learned to prepare for hurricanes. Evacuation routes have been established for those living along the coast. Meteorologists keep the public informed when a hurricane is approaching so people can prepare.

In 2004, Florida was struck by four hurricanes, which was very unusual: Frances and Jeanne (which both hit Palm Beach County), Charley, and Ivan. In 2005, Hurricane Wilma came through Palm Beach County too.

## Hurricanes and the Land Boom and Bust

During the 1920s, so many people in Florida became wealthy by buying and selling real estate that this period became known as the *land boom*. Then the 1926 hurricane destroyed developed areas of south Florida. Many people became afraid to buy here, so land developers and investors lost money. To make matters worse, the catastrophic 1928 hurricane followed. These early hurricanes did not have names. The Weather Service only began naming them in the 1950s, to track them better.

The storm that struck Palm Beach County on September 16, 1928, was equal to a Category 4 hurricane. Strong winds and heavy rainfall caused Lake Okeechobee to overflow. Belle Glade, Pahokee, Canal Point, and South Bay flooded. Flooding and high winds damaged or destroyed almost everything in the hurricane's path, killing more than 3,000 people in the Glades. As a result, the Herbert Hoover Dike was built around Lake Okeechobee.

The survivors overcame the

disaster and rebuilt their towns, but economic hardship and other natural disasters contributed to causing an economic *depression* in Florida. A depression occurs when people cannot afford to buy what they need. In turn, businesses cannot earn enough money to stay open. In October 1929, the entire United States entered the Great Depression. Throughout Palm Beach County, banks closed and people lost their jobs and money, causing businesses to fail. It was not until World War II that the United States, including Florida, received relief from the Depression.

## Lake Okeechobee and the Dike

Part of the western border of Palm Beach County is formed by Lake Okeechobee. Before white settlers arrived, the lake was known by other names: Mayaimi, Espiritu Santo Laguna, Lake Mayaca, Lake Macaco, and Lake Sarrope. Okeechobee comes from a Seminole word meaning *big water*.

Lake Okeechobee is the second largest freshwater lake in the continental United States. It covers more than 730 square miles and is ten to fourteen feet deep. The lake used to provide fresh water to the Everglades but, in the 1920s, people caused a change in the water's natural flow.

To prevent a repeat of the kind of flooding caused by the 1926 and 1928 hurricanes, President Herbert Hoover had an earthen dike built around Lake

### Play the Name Game!

Try to name the Florida state symbols pictured below. Then look for the answers within the following pages.



5

#### Reading Check:

1. Why does Florida have a mild climate?

#### Map Skill:

1. While you read, use a map to locate and identify the areas discussed in this section.

#### Reading Check:

1. What two states are smaller than Palm Beach County?

- a. Washington and Vermont
- b. Delaware and Rhode Island
- c. Connecticut and Massachusetts
- d. New Hampshire and Delaware

2. What disaster happened in 1929?

#### Activity:

1. Get a tropical storm/hurricane tracking map and begin tracking storms.

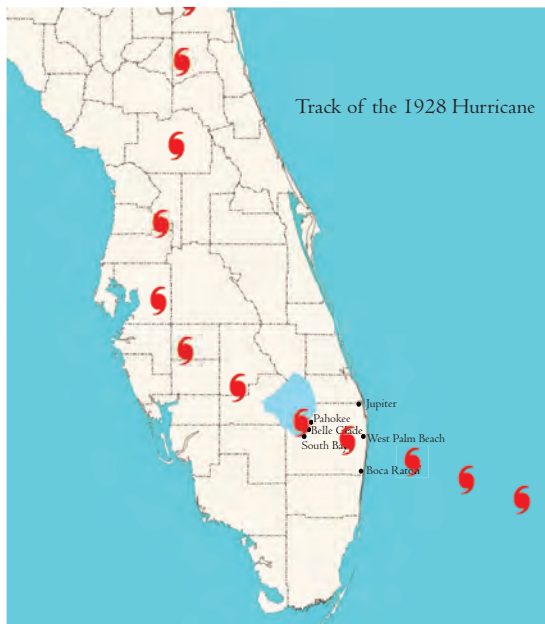
2. Visit [www.pbchistoryonline.org](http://www.pbchistoryonline.org), click on geography. Read "Sandy Flatlands."

- a. Describe a sandy flatland.
- b. Are there sandy flatlands in Palm Beach County?

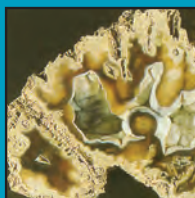
3. Explore the National Hurricane Center website, [www.nhc.noaa.gov](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov). What can you learn from this website about hurricanes?

#### Short Answer:

- 1. What is the eye of a hurricane?
- 2. What is another name for a hurricane?



Shell



Stone



Tree



Wildflower



Reptile



Marine Mammal



Freshwater Fish

# Did you know?

▶ Lantana's first two mayors were women.

▶ Henry Flagler's Royal Poinciana Hotel, once the largest wooden structure in the world, employed 1,200 people to take care of the hotel guests.

▶ In 1962, Iris Hunter became the first African American student at Jupiter High School and only the fourth in Palm Beach County.

## Standards

SS.4.A.9.1: Utilize timelines to sequence key events in Florida history.

SS.4.A.9.In.a: Complete a timeline to sequence important events in Florida history.

MAFS.4.OA.1.2: Multiply or divide to solve word problems involving multiplicative comparison, e.g., by using drawings and equations with a symbol for the unknown number to represent the problem, distinguishing multiplicative comparison from additive comparison.

### Activity:

Create a timeline and chart the hurricanes from 1928 to 2005.

### Math Check:

If the 1928 Hurricane dropped eighteen inches of rain in twenty-four hours, how many inches did it rain per hour?

Okeechobee, which took thirty-eight years. Construction on the dike provided work for people who had lost their jobs in the Great Depression. Today, Lake Okeechobee is completely surrounded by 151 miles of the Hoover Dam that protects the state's rich farmlands from flooding.

The dike also created environmental problems, because it stopped the flow of water that supplied nutrients to the soil and water of the Everglades. Farmers had to use fertilizers to replace the missing nutrients. The water runoff from the fertilized fields flowed into the Everglades, which harmed plants and animals there.

These and other environmental problems have caused other changes. The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) works to restore the Everglades and Lake Okeechobee to something like their natural state and teach people how to care for their environment. This restoration will allow more tourism and recreation and benefit nature and people in the future.

## A Few Major Palm Beach County Hurricanes

September 18, 1926: The "Great Miami Hurricane" cuts a swath of destruction from the Upper Keys to St. Lucie County, causing about \$75 million in damages and killing at least 372 people.

September 16, 1928: A hurricane devastates Palm Beach County and destroys the dike at Lake Okeechobee, flooding the Glades area and killing at least 3,000 people.

September 17, 1947: A hurricane causes a storm surge of up to twenty-two feet around Lake Okeechobee; the dike holds.

October 12, 1947: The second hurricane in a month causes worst flooding on record in south Florida.

August 26, 1949: A hurricane hits Palm Beach County and the Treasure Coast, causing at least \$1 million in damage at Palm

Beach International Airport. The Lake Okeechobee dike and flood system help reduce damage.

August 27, 1964: Hurricane Cleo causes \$50 million in damage in Palm Beach County.

October 14, 1964: Hurricane Isbell crosses the Everglades, striking Palm Beach County. Twenty-two mobile homes are destroyed at Briny Breezes by tornadoes; one man dies in Lake Worth.

September 3, 1979: After killing a thousand people in the Caribbean, Hurricane David moves along the coast of Palm Beach County, causing \$30 million in damages.

September 5, 2004: The winds of Hurricane Frances in Palm Beach County bring down trees and power lines and damage roofs. About twelve inches of rain falls as the storm passes slowly through the area, causing six deaths.

September 26, 2004: Hurricane Jeanne, the second storm in less than a month, causes more damage and two deaths in Palm Beach County.

October 24, 2005: Hurricane Wilma passes over Palm Beach County, leaving trees toppled and other wind and water damage.

September 10, 2017: Hurricane Irma made impact, causing massive damage and loss of life. It was one of the costliest hurricanes in Florida's history.



Storm winds deposited this palm tree in a second-story window, 1947. Courtesy HSPBC.

# FLORIDA'S EARLY NATIVE AMERICANS

Florida's history began long before the area was called *Florida*. When the last Ice Age ended about 12,000 years ago, the first human group, Paleoindians, began to arrive in Florida. They were hunter-gatherers who moved from place to place, searching for food and fresh water. At that time, Florida had little rainfall, so fresh water was difficult to find.

Early Native Americans did not leave written information about their lives, but archaeologists tell their story. They learn about these Native Americans from *artifacts* found at their village and camp sites. Artifacts are tools or items made or altered by man. They can tell us about the people who made or used them.

Important clues about Florida's ancient people are found in shell mounds created when Native Americans ate shellfish and tossed the shells into piles, or mounds. These mounds are also called *middens*, which are trash or garbage heaps. Other mounds were used for rituals or burials. By researching these mounds, archaeologists learn about the everyday life of ancient people: what foods they ate, what tools they used, and what other items they made. Sometimes European goods are found at the sites, which tells us that Native Americans traded with European settlers or collected items from ships wrecked along Florida's coast.

Thousands of Native Americans lived in Florida when European explorers first arrived in the sixteenth century. Sadly, within 200 years, many of the natives died from European diseases or were killed in warfare. Some Native Americans were taken away as slaves.

## Florida's Native American Tribes

When Spanish and French explorers began arriving in Florida in the sixteenth century, they encountered several Native American tribes. The Pensacola, Chatot, Apalachee and

Timucua tribes lived in northern Florida. The Tocobaga and Jororo tribes lived in central Florida. The Ais, Jeaga, Mayaimi (Belle Glade Culture), Tequesta, and Calusa made their homes in southern Florida. Lastly, the Matecumbe lived in the Florida Keys. It is important to understand the lives of the Native Americans who lived in south Florida, so we can better understand state and county history.

## Tribes of South Florida

### The Ais

The Ais lived along the east coast of Florida from the area near Cape Canaveral in Brevard County south to Martin County. They did not farm for their food but relied on fishing,



A Florida Native American burial ceremony, 16th century. HSPBC.

collecting shellfish, hunting, and gathering plants. They took gold, silver, and other goods from Spanish shipwrecks and used them for tools and jewelry. For weapons, the Ais used bows and arrows, spears, and Spanish knives and hatchets. They made canoes from tree trunks. The men grew their hair long and might have worn animal hides or breechcloths of woven plant

**Standards:**

SS.4.A.2.1: Compare Native American tribes in Florida.

SS.4.A.3.2: Describe causes and effects of European colonization on the Native American tribes of Florida.

SS.4.A.9.1: Utilize timelines to sequence key events in Florida history.

SS.4.A.9.In.a: Complete a timeline to sequence important events in Florida history.

LAFS.4.RI.1.1: Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

LAFS.4.RI.3.7: Interpret information presented visually, orally, or quantitatively (e.g., in charts, graphs, diagrams, time lines, animations, or interactive elements on Web pages) and explain how the information contributes to an understanding of the text in which it appears.

LAFS.4.W.1.2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

LAFS.4.W.1.3: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.

SC.L.17.4: Recognize ways plants and animals, including humans, can impact the environment.

VA.4.S.1.3: Create artworks that integrate ideas from culture or history.



State Seal

10,000 BC - 6,500 BC  
Paleoindian

6,500 BC - 5,000 BC  
Early Archaic

#### Reading Check:

1. When did the last Ice Age end?
2. How were shell mounds created?

#### Activity:

1. Go online to research Ice Age. After you do your research, explain an Ice Age.
2. Draw what you think a shell mound may look like.

#### Write About It:

1. What do you think life was like for Jonathan Dickinson and the other English travelers during their journey to St. Augustine?
2. Write a short journal entry from the point of view of one of the travelers. Describe what you see and how you feel, including any concerns.

## Did you know?

Lake Ida is named after Ida Linton, wife of Delray Beach founder William S. Linton.

During the February 1895 freeze, the temperature dropped to 27 degrees Fahrenheit in West Palm Beach.

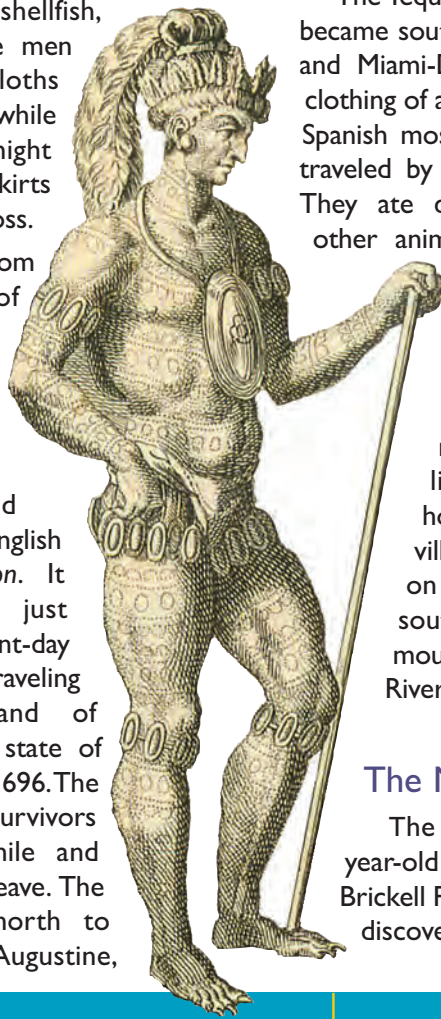
In the early 1920s, the first sugar mill in the Glades area opened near Canal Point.

fibers. Women wore woven palm leaves and skirts made from plant fibers. Their houses were made from palm fronds and according to Jonathan Dickinson, a shipwrecked Englishman, the *cacique's* (leader's) house was "about forty foot long and twenty-five foot wide, covered with palmetto leaves both top and sides."

### The Jeaga

The Jeaga lived along the coast of Palm Beach County. Like the Ais, they were hunter-gatherers that ate game animals such as deer. They gathered coco plums, seagrapes, and palm berries and caught food from the sea, freshwater lakes, and rivers, such as fish, shellfish, and sharks. The men wore breechcloths of woven grass, while the women might have created skirts from Spanish moss.

The Jeaga from the village of Hobe, who are sometimes referred to as *Hobe* Indians, captured the passengers and crew of the English ship *Reformation*. It was wrecked just north of present-day Jupiter while traveling from the island of Jamaica to the state of Pennsylvania in 1696. The Jeaga held the survivors for a little while and then let them leave. The English went north to safety at St. Augustine,



meeting still other native people. One passenger, Jonathan Dickinson, wrote a book describing the land and the natives, including the Jeaga and the Ais.

Dickinson wrote that the Jeaga lived in the village of Hobe atop a large shell mound near Jupiter Inlet. Their wigwam-style homes were made of poles stuck into the ground that created an arch, which they covered with palmetto leaves. Part of their shell mound still stands across from Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse and overlooks Jupiter Inlet. In 1898, the DuBois family built their home on the mound, which became part of DuBois Park, open to the public.

### The Tequesta

The Tequesta lived in villages in what became southern Palm Beach, Broward, and Miami-Dade counties. They wore clothing of animal skins, woven grass, or Spanish moss and, as hunter-gatherers, traveled by canoe to search for food. They ate deer, alligator, turtles, and other animals. From the ocean, the Tequesta caught and gathered fish, oysters, clams, conchs, lobsters, and other seafood. They also gathered plants and roots to eat. They probably lived in palm-thatched homes. Their main village was located on the north and south sides of the mouth of the Miami River.

### The Miami Circle

The 1,800-to-2,000-year-old Miami Circle at Brickell Point in Miami was discovered in 1998 when

archaeologists investigated the site prior to construction of a multi-story apartment complex. This unique circle has twenty-four large holes and many smaller holes carved into limestone bedrock. The diameter of the circle measures thirty-eight feet. Ceramics, animal bones, shells, and stone axes were part of the approximately 143,000



Florida Native Americans ready for battle. HSPBC.

items discovered in the circle area. It was among the main Tequesta village on the south side of the mouth of the Miami River. The Miami Circle may have been a council house or ceremonial structure. It is a designated National Historic Landmark and in 2011 opened as a public park. Since its discovery, several more circles have been discovered in



The DuBois house in Jupiter, built in 1898 on top of a Jeaga shell mound. HSPBC.

5,000 BC - 2,000 BC  
Middle Archaic

2,000 BC - 500 BC  
Late Archaic  
pottery in use in Florida.

500 BC - AD 1,000  
Formative



the heart of downtown where the Miami River meets Biscayne Bay.

## The Calusa

The Calusa lived on the southwest coast of Florida, along inland waterways, and along the Caloosahatchee River, which means *river of the Calusa*. The *Calusa*, which means *fierce people*, targeted Spanish conquistadors, even attacking their ships sitting offshore. This tribe is responsible for wounding Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de León in 1521, causing his death.

The Calusa were excellent seamen and traveled as far as Cuba in canoes made from hollowed-out cypress logs. They also collected treasure from shipwrecks up and down the coast.

Members of this tribe built their homes on stilts with roofs of palmetto leaves. Like most south Florida tribes, the Calusa did not farm, but hunted animals such as deer. They also fished for mullet, catfish, turtles, and eels and ate shellfish such as conch, crab, clam, lobster, and oyster. The Calusa made shell-pointed spears for fishing and hunting. They used many types of shells, bones, and shark teeth for tools and jewelry.

## The Belle Glade Culture

The prehistoric people of the Belle Glade Culture, or Mayaimi, lived around Lake Okeechobee and along the Kissimmee River Valley north to Lake Kissimmee. They

flourished from about 500 BC to AD 1700. Archaeologists named this culture Belle Glade, after excavating a site in Belle Glade in 1934. The pottery recovered was distinctive enough to earn these ancient people a separate name from other Native Americans in Florida.

These *People of the Water* adapted to a watery world; canoes were the main means of transportation. They built unique villages that included earthworks, mounds, and canals. They made hunting and fishing tools from bone, shell, and wood.

This group built large earthworks that dot the Lake Okeechobee region and usually include a combination of mounds, ditches, burrows, and embankments. Belle Glade earthen structures are found in all sizes and shapes. Some of the more impressive sites are found in savannahs, mostly along creeks. The mounds were used for housing, burials, and as architectural elements.

While the men hunted wild animals and fished, the women gathered plant foods such as pond apple, coco plum, seagrape, nuts, berries, and roots. Those of the coontie plant, which required special processing because it is poisonous, were made into flour for bread. Seminoles and Miccosukees, who arrived in the 1700s from Alabama and Georgia, also used the coontie plant to make flour.

By the eighteenth century, most of Florida's Native American tribes were gone from European diseases, warfare, and slavery. They were replaced by groups from Georgia and Alabama, known generally as Seminoles.



### Reading Check:

1. What does "Calusa" mean?
  - a. River of turtles
  - b. Snake River
  - c. River of the Calusa
  - d. None of the above
2. What does "Caloosahatchee" mean? Select the best answer.
3. Who gave the Belle Glade Culture its name?
4. What was the Belle Glade Culture's primary means of transportation?
5. Why were shell middens destroyed in the 20th century?

### Write About It:

1. What do you think life was like for the ancient people who lived around Lake Okeechobee a thousand years ago?

### Map Skill:

1. Identify on a map where the Ais, Jeaga, Tequesta, Calusa, and Belle Glade Culture lived.



Excavating the Belle Glade mounds, 1930s. HSPBC.



The Miami Circle Park at Brickell Point.  
Courtesy Marc Averette.



State  
Animal  
Florida Panther

500 BC

Belle Glade Culture site of Fort Center is occupied.

AD 100

The Tequesta occupy the Miami Circle at Brickell Point, Miami.

AD 750

Belle Glade site of Boynton Beach mounds are occupied.

# Did you know?

▶ In 1911, James McCurdy became the first to pilot a plane over the Palm Beaches.

▶ The original name for Riviera Beach was Oak Lawn.

▶ In 1981, the first personal computer was developed by IBM in Boca Raton.

## Ancient Portrait

In 1928, engineer Karl Riddle discovered a small carved cypress statue (pictured at right) while working on road construction near Pahokee, on the east side of Lake Okeechobee. The human effigy is one of only a few found in south Florida and is believed to represent a shaman, leader, or ancestor. Belle Glade Culture artisans were expert woodworkers. Woodworking tools that may have been used to create the figure include shark teeth attached to a wood or bone handle. Early south Floridians also commonly used barracuda jaws and teeth, shells, and stingray spines. Archaeologists recovered two other human effigies at the Belle Glade mound site during the 1930s. The Riddle effigy is now on display at the Richard and Pat Johnson Palm Beach County History Museum.



LMarconi



## Ancient Shell Mounds

Ancient shell mounds, or middens, were once numerous along Florida's coastline. Large shell middens were formed over hundreds of years and were composed mainly of discarded shells but also of animal bones, broken pottery, stone and shell tools, and other items. Shell middens provide archaeologists with a window into the past. They can reveal the types of animals and fish that people ate, the tools they created and used, and other foods and everyday items. Most of the shell mounds are now gone, destroyed in the twentieth century to make way for development and the shells used to build roads.



## Big Mound City

The Belle Glade Culture site of Big Mound City is an example of a *ceremonial complex*. Its occupation is dated from as early as 500 BC until about AD 1650. Covering 143 acres, the site contains at least twenty-three mounds, at least two of them for burials. The intricate geometric arrangements of earthworks were made of yellow and white sand, except for an earthen platform that contained extensive midden remains. Some of the earthen platforms probably raised temples and residences to avoid frequent flooding. The site plan above is of Big Mound City in northern Palm Beach County and one of the largest archaeological sites in Florida.

AD 750

The historic period Jeaga village of Hobe is occupied at present-day DuBois Park in Jupiter.

# COLONIAL FLORIDA

1513

1819

## The First Spanish Period

The first explorers authorized by the Spanish government arrived in Florida in the sixteenth century. When they met native people, they found most of them to be hostile. Between 1513 and 1565, the Spanish made many attempts to establish permanent settlements in Florida, but were not successful until Pedro Menéndez de Avilés established St. Augustine in 1565.

The King of Spain authorized Juan Ponce de León to search for the land called *Bimimis*; Ponce would be governor of any new lands he might find. Ponce paid to outfit three ships and set sail on March 3, 1513, from Puerto Rico with sixty-five people, including two free Africans, two Indian slaves, one white slave, and one woman.

The explorers found what they thought was an island on April 3, 1513, which Ponce de León named *La Florida* for the Pascua Florida, or feast of flowers, celebrated at Easter. Sailing further south along the coast, Ponce made another discovery—the speedy Gulf Stream current—which ships would later follow to bring treasures to Spain.

Ponce continued south past Miami Beach, west through the Florida Keys, and north to barrier islands near Fort Myers, where he had a small skirmish with the Calusa Indians. Then he backtracked to Puerto Rico, arriving on October 19, 1513. Ponce was awarded a knighthood for his exploration.

In 1521, Juan Ponce de León returned to Florida with 200 settlers and started a Spanish colony on the west coast. Before long, the Calusa attacked the colonists; many were killed, and Ponce was wounded. He sailed for Cuba, where he died of his injuries. León County, Florida, is named in his honor.



Other Spanish conquistadors tried to explore Florida, and they were also unsuccessful. In 1528 an expedition of five ships and 600 men, led by Pánfilo de Narváez, sailed into Tampa Bay. His attempt to establish a colony failed, and he and most of his men died. The survivors worked their way along the gulf coast for eight years in an attempt to make it to the Pánuco province of *New Spain*, now known as Mexico. Four survivors made it, including Esteban, a black slave. During this journey, Esteban gained knowledge that he would later use to lead Spanish explorers through what is now the southwestern United States. Another survivor, Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca, returned to Spain and wrote about the journey.

The next explorer to land at Tampa Bay was Hernando de Soto in 1539, who explored central Florida as well as what would become nine other states. His men became the first Europeans to see the Mississippi River. De Soto died during the trip and was buried in that river, but the rest of his men made it to New Spain. Hernando County, De Soto County, and the De Soto Trail are named in his honor.

Tristán de Luna y Arellano of Spain is known for a short-lived colony at the site of Pensacola, Florida. De Luna arrived in the New World in 1530-1531 and in 1540 joined the Coronado expedition, which explored what is now the southeastern United States and New Spain (Mexico).

Hernando de Soto was born around 1500 in Spain to a poor family, but as a member of the Spanish nobility. After obtaining some education at a university, he was invited to join an expedition to the Indies in 1514, where he and his compatriots explored territories that now comprise Panama, Nicaragua, and Honduras. Later, as second in command during Francisco Pizarro's conquests of Peru and the Incan capital of Cuzco, de Soto increased his wealth. After earning a fortune, de Soto returned to Spain and a life of leisure until he left to conquer Florida in 1539. HSPBC.

**Standards:**

SS.4.A.3.1 Identify explorers who came to Florida and the motivations for their expeditions.

SS.4.A.3.3 Identify the significance of St. Augustine as the oldest permanent European settlement in the United States.

SS.4.A.3.5 Identify the significance of Fort Mose as the first free African community in the United States.

SS.4.A.3.7 Identify nations (Spain, France, England) that controlled Florida before it became a United States territory.

SS.4.A.3.9 Explain how Florida (Adams-Onis Treaty) became a U.S. territory.

SS.4.A.9.1 Utilize timelines to sequence key events in Florida history.

LAFS.4.RI.1.1: Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

LAFS.4.SL.2.4: Report on a topic or text, tell a story, or recount an experience in an organized manner, using appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details to support main ideas or themes; speak clearly at an understandable pace.

1513  
Juan Ponce de León explores Florida.

1528  
Pánfilo de Narváez' expedition to Florida.

1539  
Hernando de Soto's expedition to Florida.

1559  
Tristán de Luna y Arellano attempts to establish a settlement in Florida, at Puerto de Santa Maria (today's Pensacola). It fails within a year.

#### Reading Check:

1. Were the Spanish successful in their first attempts to settle Florida? Why or why not?

2. Who was Esteban, and why is he important to Florida history?

#### Talk About It:

Why do you think the Calusa attacked the Spanish?

#### Test Your Knowledge:

1. Who built St. Augustine?

#### Reading Check:

1. Why did Menéndez go to Florida?

The viceroy of New Spain chose de Luna to establish a colony on the Gulf coast and named him governor of Florida. Five days after landing at Pensacola Bay, however, a hurricane destroyed most of the ships and supplies. The colony barely survived until 1561, when de Luna was ordered back to Spain. He died broke in Mexico City in 1573.

## Jean Ribault Claims Florida for France

In 1562, French explorer Jean Ribault visited Florida to claim land for France. At the mouth of the St. Johns River, he built a monument to mark his claim. He then continued north and built a fort on the Carolina coast. Ribault left thirty men there while he returned to France for supplies. The men at the fort had many problems but were rescued by a passing British ship.

Two years later another Frenchman, René Goulaine de Laudonnière, led 300 men and four women to establish a Florida colony. He built Fort Caroline near present-day Jacksonville, but the colonists ran low on food and were unhappy with Laudonnière's leadership. Just as they decided to leave, Ribault arrived with 500 men, seventy women, and supplies, saving the French colony.

The King of Spain soon sent Pedro Menéndez de Avilés to drive the French out. Ribault was warned by friendly Native Americans that the Spanish were going to attack and sailed south with most of his men. The Spanish killed those who remained at Fort Caroline, then caught up with Ribault and killed most of the French. However, Laudonnière survived and made it back to France. The location where Menéndez killed Ribault and his men became known as Matanzas, which means *massacre*.



Stone column built by Jean Ribault, claiming Florida for France. HSPBC.

## Fort Mose

In the late seventeenth century, slaves from Georgia and South Carolina escaped to Spanish Florida. The King of Spain allowed the runaways to settle at St. Augustine if they became Catholics and pledged their loyalty to Spain.

In the early eighteenth century, Fort Mose was established for the former slaves just north of St. Augustine. About a hundred men, women, and children lived there in the first free African American community in the United States. The men worked as farmers, carpenters, and ironsmiths, and formed a militia that helped defend the Spanish from attacks by the British and Native Americans. Nonetheless, in 1740 the British governor of Georgia, James Oglethorpe, succeeded in destroying

the fort. It was rebuilt, but in 1763, when the British took control of Florida, Fort Mose was abandoned.

## Florida as a British Colony

From 1754 to 1763, the French and Indian War was fought in North America. The British colonies, French, and Spanish, and their Native American allies fought over expanding the European presence in North America and who would be the dominant power. In 1763, the war ended when France, Britain, and Spain signed the Treaty of Paris. During the war, Britain had captured Havana, Cuba, so the Spanish traded Florida to Britain to get it back. The British divided Florida into two territories—East Florida and West Florida—so it would be easier to

## Did you know?

In 1873 Hiram F. Hammon filed the first homestead claim in the Lake Worth area.

In 1911 George Green was the first African American in Delray Beach to run for political office on Lake Worth.

1562

Jean Ribault arrives in the area of the St. Johns River.

1565

Pedro Menéndez de Avilés captures Fort Caroline and establishes St. Augustine.

1568

Sir Francis Drake, British privateer, sacks and burns St. Augustine.

1696

Jonathan Dickinson is shipwrecked near Jupiter.

govern.

## East Florida

East Florida stretched from the Atlantic Ocean to the Apalachicola River with St. Augustine as its capital. The region had good soil, so it was excellent for farming. To attract settlers there, the British government offered *land grants*; grantees would receive land if they farmed it. The settlers also had to agree to defend the new territory. Archaeologists have found evidence that some English settlers may have stayed at Grenville Inlet in the eighteenth century, which today is known as Jupiter Inlet.

## West Florida

West Florida stretched from the Apalachicola River to the Mississippi River, including parts of modern-day Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana; Pensacola was its capital. Sandy soil made farming difficult. West Florida earned most of its money through the sale of animal fur and lumber.

## The American Revolution

The British did not rule Florida for long. The northeastern colonies did not like British rule and began a war known as the American Revolution. The colonists who fought for independence were called *Patriots*, and those who sided with the British were called *Loyalists* because they were loyal to Britain. Florida did not have problems with Britain; many English settlers in East Florida invited Loyalists from South Carolina and Georgia to move to Florida.

Most of the American Revolution took place far north of Florida, despite small raids. While Britain was busy fighting the colonies, Spain invaded West Florida and defeated the British.

## The Second Spanish Period

On September 3, 1783, a second Treaty of Paris was signed, ending the American Revolution and giving the American



A 1765 British map showing East and West Florida. HSPBC.

colonies their independence. It also gave Florida back to the Spanish.

Even though the Spanish again had control of Florida, new Americans flooded into the territory. At first they were searching for runaway slaves, but later they came to live. Problems between the Americans and the Seminoles living in Florida led to the First Seminole War (1817-1818). When the United States invaded Spanish territory to fight the Seminoles, it weakened Spain's control. In 1819, Secretary of State John

## Sloop Commerce vs. HMS Betsy

On August 7, 1775, the South Carolina Navy sloop *Commerce* sailed all night up the Matanzas River toward St. Augustine in search of gunpowder for the cause of freedom. Offshore, near St. Augustine, the crew spotted and boarded the anchored HMS *Betsy* and surprised the sleeping crew. The sailors captured and loaded about 12,000 pounds of gunpowder onto the *Commerce*. The victorious sloop then sailed away without incident. (Content provided by the Palm Beach Chapter of the Sons of the Revolution in the State of Florida)



### Map Skill:

1. On a map, draw where East Florida and West Florida were located.

2. To the left is a British map from 1765. Why do you think Florida is shown as many islands and not one land mass?

### Short Answer:

1. What other present-day states were part of British West Florida?

### Reading Check:

1. How did Spain win control of Florida back from the British?



State Shell  
Horse Conch



State Flag

1715

Spanish Plate Fleet sinks off east coast of Florida.

1750

Seminoles start arriving from Georgia and Alabama (part of the Creek Nation).

1763

Great Britain takes control of Florida. In return, Great Britain returns control of Havana to Spain.

1768

The colony of New Smyrna is established by Dr. Andrew Turnbull.

1775-1783

The American Revolution. Florida remains under British rule.

John Adams and Spanish Minister Luis de Onís signed the Adams-Onís Treaty. This agreement gave Florida to the United States and in return, the United States cancelled the \$9 million debt that Spain owed the United States. This treaty was ratified by the United States in 1821.

## The Birth of St. Augustine

Pedro Menéndez de Avilés built a wooden fort when he landed in Florida. On September 8, 1565, he officially named the settlement St. Augustine. It became the first permanent city in the United States and is considered the oldest city in the continental United States. St. Augustine was established forty-two years before Jamestown, Virginia, and fifty-five years before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock.

## Castillo de San Marcos Facts

From 1672 to 1695, the Spanish built a stone fort, Castillo de San Marcos, to protect St. Augustine, the first permanent settlement by Europeans in the continental United States (established in 1565). It still remains today and is open to the public.

Before the stone fort was built, between 1565 and 1672, there had been nine wooden forts.

The star-shaped Castillo de San Marcos covers about 20.5 acres. The walls are about fourteen feet thick and thirty feet high. The interior plaza is one hundred feet square, and a forty-foot moat surrounds the fort.

A type of stone called *coquina* (Spanish for *little shells*) was used to build the fort. Coquina is made up of ancient shells bonded together over time. The local stone was quarried on Anastasia Island and transported to St. Augustine.

An enemy force has never succeeded in taking the Castillo. The British tried and failed in 1702 and 1740. They only gained control of the fort when Spain turned it over to Great Britain under the 1763 Treaty of Paris at the end of the French and Indian War.

Four flags have flown over the fort: Spanish, British, United States, and the Confederate States of America (during the Civil War).

The fort has had three names under three governments: Castillo de San Marco (Spain 1672-1763, and 1784-1821), Fort St. Mark (Great Britain 1763-1784), and Fort Marion (United States 1821-1942). In 1942, the original name of the fort was restored.



Juan Ponce de León. HSPBC.



Pánfilo de Narváez. Courtesy Florida State Archives.



Pedro Menéndez de Avilés, founder of St. Augustine. Courtesy Library of Congress.



The Castillo de San Marcos, St. Augustine, Florida. Courtesy Library of Congress.

1783

Final naval battle of the American Revolution is fought off Cape Canaveral.

Spain regains Florida at the end of the American Revolution.

1818

First Seminole War. General Andrew Jackson captures Pensacola.

1819

Spain gives up Florida to the U.S.

1821

# TERRITORIAL FLORIDA

1845

Florida became a territory of the United States on March 4, 1822. The territorial legislature established Florida's first two counties, Escambia (formerly British West Florida) and St. Johns (formerly British East Florida). The legislators also established the capital at Tallahassee, because it was midway between St. Augustine in the east and Pensacola in the west. Florida would remain a territory for another twenty-three years.

In 1838, fifty-six men held a special Florida Constitutional Convention and wrote Florida's *constitution*, or plan of government. However, a territory could not become a state until its population reached at least 60,000 people, and there were not that many people living in Florida yet. Problems with the Seminoles had caused many people to move out of Florida and kept others from moving into Florida.

## The Seminoles

Florida has been home to the Seminoles since the 1700s, which was then Spanish Florida. When Florida's original Native American population declined, the Seminoles came here from the Creek tribes in Georgia and Alabama. They were pushed south from their homeland because white settlers wanted their lands. Eventually the Miccosukees and the Seminoles became the two dominant tribes in Florida. Though they are from the same cultural group, they speak two different languages. The Seminoles speak a Maskókí (Muscogee) language, and the Miccosukees speak a dialect of Hitchiti called *Mikisúkí* (Miccosukee). Today, many Seminoles and Miccosukees speak both languages.

The name "Seminoles" could have two meanings. From the Creek phrase *phegee ishti semoli*, Seminole means *wild men*. From the

Osceola. HSPBC.



Spanish word *cimarrones*, Seminole means *runaways*.

Both the Seminoles and Miccosukees came into conflict with Florida's white population. The Seminoles fought three wars with the United States. The First Seminole War (1817-1818) began because Seminoles in Spanish Florida made raids into the United States. Also, slaves from Georgia and Alabama escaped into Florida and began living with Seminoles. General Andrew Jackson led U.S. forces across the border into Florida to fight the Seminoles. He captured several Spanish towns and executed two British citizens because he thought they were spies, but he was unable to stop the Seminoles.

In the 1820s, American settlers entered Florida and clashed with the Seminoles over land. As a result, in 1823 the territorial government of Florida signed the Treaty of Moultrie Creek with the Seminoles, which required the natives (1) to give up their land and settle on four million acres of land in central Florida, and (2) to stop allowing runaway slaves to live with them.

In 1830, President Andrew Jackson—the same man who had, as a general, tried to stop the Seminoles in 1817-1818—signed the Indian Removal Act. The law required all Native Americans to move to the Indian Territory (now Oklahoma), west of the Mississippi River. Many Seminoles did not want to leave their homes. A group of tribal leaders went to see the place where the Seminoles were to relocate and were persuaded to move there. However, when they returned to Florida, many of the chiefs told their people they had been forced to agree.

Seminoles continued to refuse to leave Florida, which led to the Second Seminole War (1835-1842).

Osceola was one Seminole who refused to

### Standards:

SS.4.A.3.8: Explain how the Seminole tribe formed and the purpose for their migration.

SS.4.A.3.In.h: Identify that the Seminole tribe went to the Everglades to hide from soldiers trying to force them to leave Florida.

SS.4.A.3.10 Identify the causes and effects of the Seminole Wars.

SS.4.A.9.1 Utilize timelines to sequence key events in Florida history.

LAFS.4.RI.1.1: Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

LAFS.4.SL.2.4: Report on a topic or text, tell a story, or recount an experience in an organized manner; using appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details to support main ideas or themes; speak clearly at an understandable pace.

LAFS.4.W.1.2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

1821

Andrew Jackson is appointed military governor of Florida.

1821

John W. Simonton buys the island of Key West for \$2,000. The following year, Key West is incorporated as a municipality.

1822

William T. DuVal is appointed first territorial governor.

## RECIPE: Sofki

- 6 cups of water
- Vegetables of your choice (okra is a good choice)
- 1 lb of meat (the Seminoles used venison)
- 1 cup grits

Simmer the water and add the grits and meat. Add vegetables once meat is halfway cooked (about 30 minutes). If the stew becomes too thick, more water can be added. If it is not thick enough, add a quarter cup of water mixed with a tablespoon of arrowroot or cornstarch. The finished stew should have a milky appearance.

Recipe from *The Pioneer Cook in Southeast Florida*. Courtesy Boca Raton Historical Society & Museum.

### Short Answer:

1. What is the meaning of "Seminoles"?

### Talk About It:

1. Why do you think the U.S. government wanted to move Native Americans west of the Mississippi River? Was this right or wrong? How would you have felt if you were a Native American and were told to leave your home?

### Reading Check:

1. Where did the remaining Seminoles go after the end of the Second Seminole War?



Tallahassee, the capital of Florida, in the 1820s. HSPBC.

leave his Florida home. In December 1835, he led a small group of warriors that killed a government agent who had once put Osceola in jail. On the same day, a large group of Seminoles attacked Major Francis L. Dade and over 100 soldiers traveling from one fort to another. Only three of Dade's men survived. Osceola was eventually captured, and died in a South Carolina prison in 1838.

Colonel William Jenkins Worth brought the war to an end in 1842, but no treaty was ever signed. Most of the Seminoles were either killed, or captured and sent west to Indian Territory. A few hundred Seminoles retreated to the Everglades in south Florida. About 1,500 soldiers died and \$20 million was spent in the Second Seminole War, the most of all Native American wars.

Once there was peace in Florida, settlers felt safe enough to move there. They started farms and businesses without fear of Seminole attacks. The territory's population soon reached 60,000, so Florida could enter the Union. On March 3, 1845, Florida became the twenty-seventh state.

Ten years later, the Third Seminole War (1855-1858) began after a military survey team destroyed banana trees in Chief Billy Bowlegs' garden in Big Cypress Swamp. When Bowlegs confronted the men, they refused to either pay for the damage or apologize. The next day, the Seminoles attacked the survey team, killing or wounding all of them and

starting the war. In 1858 Bowlegs' band was forced to surrender and move to the Indian Territory, but the rest of the Seminoles refused to surrender. They moved deeper into the Everglades. Some of the Seminoles and Miccosukees who live in Florida today are descendants of these. After many years of hiding out in

## Coacoochee (ca. 1810-1857)

Coacoochee (Wild Cat) was the son of King Philip, chief of a Miccosukee (Mikasuki) band in Mosquito County, Florida. General Joseph Hernandez captured Coacoochee with Osceola and others in 1837 at a meeting held during a truce. He escaped with other Seminoles, and he and his warriors participated in the Battle of Okeechobee, December 25, 1837. He later surrendered and moved to the Indian Territory. After he failed to be appointed chief of the Seminoles in 1849, he led his band of Seminoles and Black Seminoles into Mexico, where they were welcomed. Coacoochee died of smallpox in Alto, Mexico.

1822

Florida becomes a U.S. territory.

Joseph M. Hernandez is appointed to represent Florida in the U.S. Congress.

William Duval is elected Florida's first non-military governor and serves until 1834.

1824

Tallahassee is established as the capital of Florida.





Seminole Indians near Jupiter Lighthouse in the 1880s. HSPBC.

the swamps, Seminoles were able to rebuild their lives in south Florida. They have become part of Florida's modern society and economy, involved in farming and ranching, and operating hotels, casinos, and other tourist attractions.

## Black Seminoles

### General William Jenkins Worth (1794-1849)

In 1841, Colonel William Jenkins Worth was given command of all U.S. troops in Florida, during the Second Seminole War. The following year, Worth called an end to the war. For his service, he was promoted to brigadier general.

Worth also fought during the Mexican War (1846-1848). In 1847 General Worth led troops ashore at Vera Cruz. The next year, he was in Mexico City when the Mexicans surrendered.

Worth was then promoted to major general and commanded the Department of Texas. He died in San Antonio, Texas, from cholera, an intestinal disease. Fort Worth, Texas; Lake Worth; and the City of Lake Worth are named in his honor.



Colonel William Jenkins Worth. HSPBC.

When the British took control of Florida in 1763, many runaway slaves who had lived free under Spanish rule moved to Cuba. Those remaining in Florida lived with Seminoles as others before them had done. Some were slaves of the Seminoles; others were free, but all were called *Black Seminoles*. Even though the Seminoles protected the blacks, slave owners from the north came after them and tried to return them to their plantations. Sometimes Seminoles lied, saying they owned a free black man in order to protect him.

The Black Seminoles accepted the culture of the Seminoles. They spoke the language, and they dressed like Seminoles. The Black Seminoles were helpful because they knew about farming, shared their crops, and served as interpreters because they spoke English.

Some Black Seminoles rose to important positions in the tribe, such as Abraham, a former slave who had been freed by the British during the War of 1812. Abraham then lived in the towns along the Suwannee River, where Seminole Chief Micanopy protected him as an important interpreter and counselor. Abraham was part of the Seminole delegation that visited Washington, D.C. in 1826. He was one of two interpreters at the 1832 Treaty of Payne's Landing, which forced the Seminoles to leave Florida.

During the Seminole wars, Black Seminoles joined the fight against the United States to keep their freedom. The ones that were caught—mostly during the Second Seminole War—were returned to slavery or sent to the Indian Territory with the Seminoles. A few fled to the Bahamas to avoid capture, where their descendants live today.

Black Seminoles later left the Indian Territory for Mexico or Texas. In the 1870s and 1880s, the U.S. Army enlisted Black Seminoles to fight other Native Americans, and four Black Seminoles were awarded the Medal of Honor. Today, descendants of the Black Seminoles live in Florida, Oklahoma, Texas, and Mexico.

**Short Answer:**

1. How many wars did the Seminoles fight against the U.S.?
2. Which war was the most costly?

**Reading Check:**

1. Why did runaway slaves come to Florida?



State Bird  
Mockingbird



State Saltwater Fish  
Sailfish

1828

Florida's first bank is organized in Tallahassee.

1832

Jacksonville is incorporated as a municipality.

1835

The St. Joseph to Lake Wimico Railroad is the first railroad in Florida.

## Second Seminole War in Palm Beach County

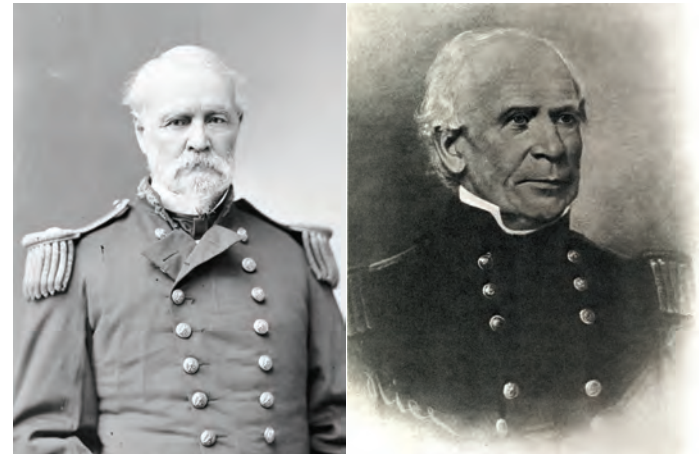
A few years after the Second Seminole War began, it came to what is now Palm Beach County. In January 1838, Navy Lieutenant Levin Powell headed a small group of soldiers and sailors down the Indian River and onto the Loxahatchee River. They encountered a large group of Seminoles west of today's Florida's Turnpike in Jupiter, now known as *Loxahatchee Battlefield Park*. The Seminoles forced the Americans to retreat, and men died on both sides, including one Black Seminole. Soon after, Major General Thomas Jesup led U.S. forces against the Seminoles near the same location and the Seminoles withdrew, after wounding and killing many soldiers.

After this battle, the soldiers moved a few miles east and built Fort Jupiter on what is now known as Pennock Point, about three miles from Jupiter Inlet. The fort closed in 1842 and reopened in the 1850s for the duration of the Third Seminole War.

Jesup tried to end the Second Seminole War by suggesting that the remaining Seminoles move into south Florida to stay, but the government rejected his idea. He was ordered to capture all Seminoles who had gathered at the fort to await the government's response. Of the 678 Seminoles taken, 165 were Black Seminoles.

During this war, several forts were established on the east coast of Florida to supply the military. In 1838, Major William Lauderdale led volunteers and soldiers south to the New River, hacking a supply trail out of the jungle to reach their destination. When they arrived, they constructed a fort that Jesup named Fort Lauderdale. The trail they had forged between the coastal swamps and the Everglades became known as *Military Trail*, which today runs through Palm Beach County into Broward County.

Left to right: Navy Lieutenant Levin Powell during the American Civil War. Powell fought at the first Battle of the Loxahatchee, January 15, 1838. Courtesy Library of Congress. Major General Thomas Jesup, commander of U.S. military forces in Florida during the second Battle of the Loxahatchee, January 24, 1838. HSPBC.



Right: Map of the Seat of War in Florida, 1830s. HSPBC.

1835 - 1842  
Second Seminole War.

1837  
Colonel Zachary Taylor commands U.S. forces against Seminoles at the Battle of Okeechobee.

1838  
Battles of the Loxahatchee in present-day Riverbend Park.



## Osceola (1800-1838)

Osceola's name comes from the Native American term *Asiyahola*. This was the cry made by those drinking a ceremonial black drink that was believed to cleanse the body and spirit.

Osceola was not officially a chief, but he was a strong leader of the Seminoles during the Second Seminole War. Highly respected as a warrior, he led his people against Americans, who wanted the Seminoles to leave their homeland.

In 1835, when U.S. military officials asked Osceola to sign a treaty, he stuck his knife into the document. This treaty would have forced his people to move to the Indian Territory west of the Mississippi River.

In December 1835, a group of warriors led by Osceola killed a government agent, Wiley Thompson, because Thompson had put Osceola in jail earlier.

In 1837, the U.S. Army captured Osceola by tricking him. During a conflict, when a white flag is flown, neither side is supposed to harm or capture the other. When Osceola arrived at a meeting under a white flag of truce, however, soldiers captured him and the other Seminoles who were with him. Osceola was imprisoned in St. Augustine, then moved to Fort Moultrie, South Carolina, where he died in 1838.



Born to a Seminole father and African mother, John Horse (1812-1882), also known as John Cavallo, became a Black Seminole leader during the Second Seminole War. In 1837 he was captured under a white flag of truce with Osceola, Coacoochee (Wildcat), and other Seminoles.

He and Coacoochee escaped from prison at Fort Marion (Castillo de San Marcos) in St. Augustine. That December, when Colonel Zachary Taylor's troops fought Seminole warriors at the Battle of Okeechobee, John Horse led the Black Seminoles among the Seminole force. He later surrendered and was sent to the Indian Territory. He then led a group of Black Seminoles into Mexico. Before he died, John was able to obtain land for his people from the Mexican government. HSPBC.

### Reading Check:

1. Refer to the image caption for John Horse.

a. What does the caption tell you about John Horse?

b. Visit the web site about John Horse, <http://www.johnhorse.com/trail/02/d/25.htm> Read Jesup's Proclamation (four slides). What did you learn about Jesup's Proclamation?

- Continue to explore the website.

- Write down two new pieces of information about John Horse that are not in the caption.

2. What is the Creek word for "people"?

3. "Toklan" is the number two in what language?



Abraham, third from right and standing in center, with delegation of chiefs in Washington, D.C., 1856. Courtesy The Palm Beach Post.



State Drink  
Orange Juice

1838

56 officials from Florida's 20 counties meet in St. Joseph to draft a constitution for statehood.

1840-1842

Soldiers find and name freshwater "Lake Worth" in honor of Colonel William Jenkins Worth.

1840

Population in Florida 54,477 (white 27,961; non-white 26,516).

# Can You Say These Words?

## Alligator:

allapattah (Seminole)

halpate (Miccosukee)

## Dog:

ef-fa (Seminole)

eefe (Miccosukee)

## Cow:

wa-ka (Seminole)

waakee (Miccosukee)

## People:

i-sti (Seminole)

yaate (Miccosukee)

## Mosquito:

o-ki-ha (Seminole)

hoshkotoone

(Miccosukee)

## Water:

o-i-wa (Creek)

oke (Miccosukee)

## Bread:

tak-la-eek-i (Seminole)

pallestee

(Miccosukee)

## Seminole and Miccosukee Language

The Seminoles and Miccosukees have two languages still in use today – Muscogee/Creek (Seminole) and Mikasuki/Hitchiti (Miccosukee) – that are related. Both contain sounds that are difficult to pronounce using the English language.

Some words in the two languages seem to mirror each other, while other times they are totally different. For example, the English word *bread* would be pronounced by Seminoles as “tak-la-eek-i,” and by the Miccosukees “pa-les-tee.” “Dog” is “ef-fa” in Creek and “ee-fe” in Mikasuki. For “cow,” Seminoles say “wa-ka” and Miccosukees say “waa-ke.”

The names of many Florida cities, counties, places, rivers, and lakes are taken from Seminole and Miccosukee words. You may know some of them, below.

Chattahoochee.....marked stones

Chokoloskee.....old house

Hialeah.....prairie

Hypoluxo.....water all around, can't  
get out

Immokalee.....my home/camp

Loxahatchee.....Turtle River

Miami.....that place

Micanopy.....head chief

Ocala.....spring/still water

Opa Locka.....big swamp

Palatka.....ferry/ford, or  
crossing

Yeehaw.....wolf

Pahokee.....grassy water

Apopka.....potato-eating place

Ochopee.....any kind of farm

Okeechobee.....big water

Homosassa.....pepper place

Tallahassee.....old town

Thonotosassa.....flint place

## Numbers

### English

One

Two

Three

Four

Five

Six

Seven

Eight

Nine

Ten

### Seminole

Hum-kin

Ho-ko-lin

Too-chin

Ostin

Chaw-kee-bin

A-pa-kin

Ko-la-pa-kin

Chin-a-pa-kin

Os-ta-pa-kin

Pa-lin

### Miccosukee

taamea

toklan

tocheenan

sheetaaken

chahkeepan

eepaaken

kolapaaken

toshnapaaken

oshtapaaken

pokoolen

1842

Armed Occupation Act provides for land grants in unsettled parts of Florida.

Second Seminole War ends by U.S. Government decision, without treaty or surrender.

1845

# STATEHOOD TO THE CIVIL WAR

1865

## Statehood

The Florida Constitution had been written in 1838, one of the steps towards becoming a state. After the Second Seminole War ended, more settlers came up to Florida, bringing the territory's population to 57,000 people, but still not 60,000, which was needed for statehood.



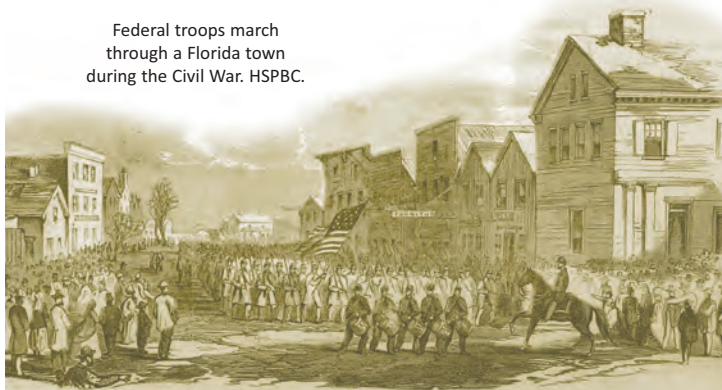
U.S. flag in 1845.

At that time, the U.S. Congress would admit states only in twos: one slave state and one non-slave state, to keep a balance in the congressional representatives. Since Florida was a slave-holding territory, the U.S. Congress would not allow it to become a state until a non-slave territory was also ready to become a state. On March 3, 1845, Florida was finally admitted to the Union as the twenty-seventh state, and Iowa was admitted as a non-slave state.

## The Civil War and Reconstruction

By 1850 the population of Florida had grown to 87,445 people, including about 39,000 slaves and 1,000 free blacks. Differences over slavery between the North and South had been going on for decades. Agriculture dominated the southern economy, where slaves were depended upon to work the fields. The North focused on industries such as manufacturing, which did not depend on slaves.

Federal troops march through a Florida town during the Civil War. HSPBC.



When Abraham Lincoln was elected U.S. president in 1860, the southern states worried that the new government would end slavery, destroying their economy and society. South Carolina was so angry about the outcome of the election that it seceded from the Union in December 1860, separating from the other states under the U.S. government. Less than a month later, Florida became the third state to secede (after Mississippi). Additional states seceded, forming the Confederate States of America. Florida joined it in April 1861. The American Civil War began in April 1861, when South Carolina troops fired on federal forces at Fort Sumter, in Charleston harbor.

An estimated 16,000 Floridians fought in the war. Most were in the Confederacy, but about 2,000 joined the Union army. Nearly 5,000 Florida soldiers lost their lives during the war.

While most of the men in Florida were off fighting in the war, the women, children, and slaves kept the farms and plantations working. They raised crops and cattle to feed Confederate troops. They also sent them pork, fish, fruit, and salt. Florida was the largest producer of salt, which was important to keep meat from spoiling. Salt was separated from seawater at salt factories in coastal areas.

Florida was also an important producer of cattle. Confederate agents ordered thousands of cattle to feed southern troops. For part of the year, cattle were driven north into Georgia and the Carolinas. During the fall and winter seasons, however, there was no grass for the cattle to eat in those states. They were taken instead to Florida, where the climate was mild and grass grew year-round. Thousands of cattle were raised and slaughtered in Florida, salted to avoid spoilage, packaged, and shipped to the Confederate army.

Most of the war was fought outside of Florida. The battles that occurred in the state were Santa Rosa Island in 1861; Olustee, 1864; Marianna, 1864; Gainesville, 1864; and Natural Bridge, 1865. Tallahassee was the only Confederate

### Standards:

SS.4.A.5.1 Describe Florida's involvement (secession, blockades of ports, the battles of Ft. Pickens, Olustee, Ft. Brooke, Natural Bridge, food supply) in the Civil War.

SS.4.A.5.2 Summarize challenges Floridians faced during Reconstruction.

SS.4.A.5.SU.b:

Recognize that during Reconstruction, Florida's freed slaves need jobs and landowners needed workers.

LAFS.4.RI.1.1: Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

LAFS.4.RI.1.3: Explain events, procedures, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text, including what happened and why, based on specific information in the text.

LAFS.4.W.1.2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

1845

Florida becomes the 27th state. David Levi Yulee, Florida's first Jewish U.S. senator, is elected. He also builds Florida's first cross-state railroad.

1850

The federal government passes the Swamp and Overflowed Lands Act, granting Florida the right to do what it wants with the Everglades.

Population of Florida 87,445 (white 47,203; non-white 40,242).

**Reading Check:**

1. Why did Florida have to wait to become a state?

**Research:**

1. What does “secede” mean?

**Short Answer:**

1. Why did South Carolina and other southern states secede from the Union?

2. What event did this action cause?

**Reading Check:**

1. What kind of food did Florida provide to the Confederacy?

2. What state capital, east of the Mississippi River, was never captured by Union forces?

3. Explain sharecropping.

**Short Answer:**

1. What did the southern states have to do before rejoining the Union?



Battle of Olustee, 1864. HSPBC.

capital east of the Mississippi River that was not captured by Union forces.

## The Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse

A lighthouse is an important navigational aid located at either a prominent land feature or a dangerous place for navigation. It warns ships of perilous reefs or coasts and guides them into a safe harbor or back out to sea.

Many lighthouses were built along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts of Florida. Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse, the oldest structure in Palm Beach County, stands at the entrance to Jupiter Inlet, where the Loxahatchee River, Indian River, and Atlantic Ocean meet. Loxahatchee is a Seminole word meaning *turtle river*.

The U.S. Congress approved building the lighthouse at Jupiter to help prevent shipwrecks in 1853, but it was delayed until 1860 because of the Seminole wars. The lighthouse is 156 feet above sea level. The tower is 108 feet high and sits on a 48-foot, ancient high dune, and has 105 steps. The tower is eight bricks thick, or 31.5 inches, at the base and tapers to three bricks thick, or eighteen inches, at the top. The beam of light is 146 feet (focal beam) and can be seen up to twenty-four miles out at sea. Today the lighthouse is still a navigational aid to mariners and is open to the public for tours.

## Confederate Blockade Runners

After the Civil War began, General Winfield Scott recommended to President Abraham Lincoln that Union naval vessels block southern ports so the Confederacy could not ship or receive any goods that would support their war efforts. The plan also called for the Union to take control of the Mississippi River. When the operation, called the *Anaconda Plan*, was launched, Union naval vessels patrolled Florida’s Atlantic and Gulf coasts. Newspapers referred to the *Anaconda Plan* as the *Great Snake* (see map, page 24). These ships patrolled near Jupiter Inlet, searching for Confederate blockade runners coming or going through the inlet.

Confederate-, British-, and Bahamian-owned ships, and those from other countries, would sail to Bermuda, the Bahamas, and Cuba carrying products such as cotton, molasses, and whiskey in exchange for war materials and soap, coffee, dry goods, salt, flour, and alcohol. When ships returned, they sailed through Jupiter Inlet and up the Indian River to various destinations.

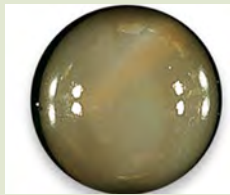
The Union Naval Squadron responsible for patrolling Florida waters was the East Gulf Blockading Squadron headquartered at Key West. Union gunboats pursued Confederate ships to capture or destroy them. Sometimes the Union captured blockade runners, and sometimes blockade runners avoided capture and reached their destinations.



Jupiter Lighthouse in the 1870s. HSPBC.



State  
Wildflower  
*Coreopsis*



State  
Gem  
Moonstone



### Josiah Walls

After the Civil War, freed slave Josiah Walls worked as a teacher and at a sawmill in Alachua County. In 1868, he was a delegate to the Florida Constitutional Convention and served in the Florida Senate. Two years later, Republicans nominated Walls for Florida’s one seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. In a close race, Walls won the election and became the first African American in Florida to be elected to the U.S. Congress.

SEE CIVIL WAR, 23

1851

Dr. John Gorrie patents an ice-making process that eventually lead to A/C.

1855

The Third Seminole War starts when Billy Bowlegs leads attack on U.S. Army surveyors.

1858

The Third Seminole War ends.

1860

Jupiter Lighthouse is placed in operation.

A STORY OF  
**AGRICULTURE**



**GROWING THINGS IN PALM BEACH COUNTY**



HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
of PALM BEACH COUNTY

# Did you Know

▷ In the 1600s, European settlers brought celery to America. Celery is a cool season crop, with growing concentrated in California, Florida, Michigan, and Texas. Florida ranks second in the nation. Most of Florida's celery crop is grown in Palm Beach County.

▷ The bell pepper is the most popular sweet pepper in the United States. As the pepper matures, its color changes from green to red and it becomes sweeter.

▷ Cucumbers belong to the same family as pumpkin, zucchini, watermelon, and other types of squash. Cultivated for over 3,000 years, cucumbers are grown either to be eaten fresh or pickled.

▷ Florida farmers produce 800 million ears of sweet corn annually. Palm Beach County produces approximately 398 million ears of sweet corn a year, which can feed a population of 38 million.

▷ In 1953 James "Junior" Smith started working as a truck driver for Roth Farms, earning eighty cents an hour. He was one of the first African Americans to be promoted by Roth Farms. When he retired in 1996, Smith was managing a 5,000-acre farm and earning over \$100,000 a year.

# VOCABULARY

<b>Agricultural Reserve:</b>	The Agricultural Reserve is an area of eastern Palm Beach County that has been designated as farmland.
<b>Biomass:</b>	Biomass most commonly refers to plant matter grown for use as biofuel. This also includes plant or animal matter used for production of fibers, chemicals, or heat. Biomass may also include biodegradable wastes that can be burned as fuel.
<b>Cash crop:</b>	A cash crop is one that is grown to sell at market and not consumed on the farm.
<b>Ethanol:</b>	Ethanol is a motor fuel alternative to gasoline. It is made from crops such as sugarcane or corn. In the United States, ethanol is mostly made from corn.
<b>Horticulture:</b>	Horticulture is the art and science of the cultivation (growing) of plants. This originates from the Latin hortus (garden) and cultura (culture).
<b>Hydroponics:</b>	Hydroponics originates from the Greek hydro (water) and ponics (working with). It is a technique of growing plants without soil, in a water solution containing dissolved nutrients.
<b>Organic (Agriculture):</b>	Organic refers to a type of agriculture that promotes the use of renewable resources without the use of modified organisms or synthetic pesticides, herbicides, or fertilizers. Organic livestock production promotes concern for animal welfare without the use of synthetic foodstuffs, growth hormones, or antibiotics.

## A PLAN OF RECLAMATION: THE ROLE OF THE LAKE WORTH DRAINAGE DISTRICT

In the early 20th century it became necessary to drain water from the land for building and farming. Early efforts to drain the land involved both companies and private landowners. In 1915 the Lake Worth Drainage District was established to manage land reclamation within its boundaries.

The new drainage district was rectangular in shape — 26 miles long and 8 miles wide — made up of 129,317 acres of land and 3,400 acres of water. Originally made of wood, water control structures were built and operated during the rainy season to drain the land to protect homes and crops from flooding. Among the population of 6,500 property owners, about 400 were farmers cultivating vegetable crops on about 5,000 acres.

The District's chief engineer, Orrin Randolph, submitted a report stating that water would have to be "artificially" drained to prevent "destruction

of crops." His report, "Plan of Reclamation," was adopted by the District and would forever change the landscape. The District's careful water management resulted in the continued prosperity of the region.

Today the Lake Worth Drainage District covers 200 square miles and provides water supply and flood control for more than 700,000 residents. The District is bounded by the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge on the west; Interstate 95 on the east; Okeechobee Boulevard on the north; and the Hillsboro Canal on the south. It includes all or part of 13 municipalities: Atlantis, Boca Raton, Boynton Beach, Delray Beach, Greenacres, Golf, Haverhill, Lake Clarke Shores, Lake Worth, Palm Springs, Royal Palm Beach, Wellington, and West Palm Beach.







Workers in a packing house sorting cucumber, 1952. Courtesy Historical Society of Palm Beach County/Mounts Collection.

## INTRODUCTION

Palm Beach County covers more 2,248 square miles, or 1,438,720 acres, including land and water. That makes our county one of the largest in the State of Florida. It is even larger than the states of Delaware and Rhode Island.

Palm Beach County has been known by several nicknames, but the most important is “Winter Vegetable Capital of the United States.” While most of the nation is under snow and ice and the weather is too cold to grow vegetables, Palm Beach County farmers can still grow crops, about twenty-six different kinds.

Where do our farmers grow their produce? The answer is, all across Palm Beach County. A total of 467,480 acres are used for agriculture, more than in any other Florida county.

The western section of the county is commonly referred to as “the Glades” because it is land that was formerly part of the Everglades. Notice how the word “glades” forms part of the word Everglades. The Glades is part of a larger farming area in south Florida known as the Everglades Agricultural Area or EAA. The EAA covers 700,000 acres

in four counties. The Glades portion, which is in Palm Beach County, contains more than 400,000 acres.

There are also 39,870 acres of farms and other agricultural businesses in the eastern half of the county. Most are in or near Boynton Beach, Delray Beach, Boca Raton, Wellington, Jupiter, and Loxahatchee.

Agriculture is very important to everyone. Farmers grow vegetables and fruit, and raise the cows that supply the milk and meat that we drink and eat. These are sold to companies that process, package, and sell the final product to grocery stores and restaurants. From the planting of the seeds to the selling of the food in stores or serving it in restaurants or at home, a lot of jobs depend on agriculture.

And, remember this: if it were not for farmers, you would have to grow your own food or walk through a lot of fields and forests hunting for something to eat. Now that we know how important farming is to us, let’s examine what agriculture is.

## WHAT IS AGRICULTURE?

The English word “agriculture” comes from the Latin words *ager* (field) and *cultura* (cultivation). Agriculture is the practice of cultivating the soil for the purpose of producing crops and/or raising livestock. It also includes the preparation of these products for consumption.

Agriculture, or farming, simply means that farmers acquire a piece of land and clear it of all native vegetation. Then, with tractors and other equipment, the farmers till the soil to make it loose. After this they plant seeds, such as sweet corn or watermelon. Farmers sometimes apply fertilizer, such as manure, to help the plants grow. The crop is then cultivated with equipment or sometimes sprayed with herbicides to kill weeds. Farmers also spray pesticides to kill predator

insects that would eat the crop before the farmer could harvest it.

Some farmers plant trees, such as oranges or apples. These trees live for many years and once each year the farmer picks the ripe fruit and sends it to market. Other farmers plant pastures for livestock such as cows and sheep. These farmers sell milk, meat, and wool. And there are other types of farms, too, poultry, sod, fish, horse, landscape plants, honey, and sugar. Some experimental farms try to develop crops that can be cheaply converted to ethanol and used instead of gasoline.

Now that we know what agriculture is, let’s explore the history of agriculture in Palm Beach County.

### Florida Standards

SS.4.A.6.1: Describe the economic development of Florida’s major industries.

SS.4.A.6.2 Summarize contributions that immigrant groups made to Florida.

SS.4.A.9.1: Utilize timelines to sequence key events in Florida history.

SS.4.A.9.In.a: Complete a timeline to sequence important events in Florida history.

LAFS.4.RI.1.1: Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

LAFS.4.RI.1.2: Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.

LAFS.4.W.1.3: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.

### Reading Check

1. What is the EAA?
2. The root words for *agriculture* are from what language?
  - a. Spanish
  - b. French
  - c. Germany
  - d. Latin
3. What is the most popular sweet pepper?
4. What happens to the pepper when it changes color?

### Think and Compare

What is horticulture? Is it different agriculture?

### Writing Activity

Poet Ogden Nash wrote this poem about celery:

Celery raw,  
Develops the jaw,  
But celery, stewed,  
is more quietly  
chewed.

Write a poem about your favorite fruit or vegetable.

# Did you Know

- ▶ One breed of cow that was raised in Palm Beach County was a Braford. A Braford is a cross between Brahman cattle and Hereford cattle.
- ▶ Lettuce is a member of the sunflower family and it is the second most popular fresh vegetable in the U.S. The average American eats about thirty pounds each year.
- ▶ Radish is a root that is related to mustard. The Chinese cultivated it thousands of years ago. Radishes have been found in ancient Greek texts and on Egyptian tombs. By the 1600s farmers in Massachusetts were planting radishes. In Florida, radish crops are grown in Orange and Palm Beach Counties. In our county, Hundley Farms, Roth Farms, and A. Duda & Sons grow radishes.
- ▶ In the 1960s scientists at the Everglades Experiment Station developed a hybrid sweet corn called Florida Sweet. The sweet corn grown in the Glades rivaled the corn grown in Iowa. In 1972 a taste test was held between Florida Sweet and the champion corn from Iowa. At six grocery stores in Miami, Florida and Muncie, Indiana, 1,500 people tried the two corns. The Florida Sweet was the best with 86% of the people choosing it over the Iowa corn.



Glades farmers shipped their vegetables to West Palm Beach down the Palm Beach Canal when it opened in 1917. Barges would travel down the canal to the Stub Canal to the turning basin where there were docks, warehouses, and trains to transport the produce to northern markets. Courtesy Historical Society of Palm Beach County.

## GROWING THINGS IN THE EAST: THE COASTAL AREAS

Agriculture in Palm Beach County was first practiced along the shore of Lake Worth by the Seminoles. During the Second Seminole War (1835-1842), U.S. soldiers scouting the lake area found Seminole fields of pumpkin, squash, and other vegetables. In the 1860s, the keepers of the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse and their families were too far from places where they could buy fresh vegetables, so they planted their own vegetable gardens.

In the 1870s the first permanent settlers arrived on the island now named Palm Beach. They began clearing land to farm and thought the area was a "Garden of Eden." The sandy soil was so fertile that anything would grow. The early farmers did discover that tomatoes did not grow very well in the muck west of Lake Worth. However, if they added the ashes of hardwood trees to the soil, their tomato crops would thrive.

In 1878 the Spanish ship, *Providencia*, wrecked on the shores of where the first pioneers were living and farming. Part of the cargo that the ship carried was 20,000 coconuts. Since coconuts are the seeds for coconut trees, many of the settlers thought by planting the coconuts in groves and harvesting them a few years later, they would have a cash crop to sell. They planted coconuts and soon the area was covered with thousands of coconut palm trees. And that is the origin of the name of our county: Palm Beach.

Pioneer farmers planted pineapples, pumpkins, coconuts, peas, beans, radishes, tomatoes, lettuce, and other vegetables. When the crops were ripe, they were harvested and boxed for transportation to northern cities. However, getting the crops to market took a long time. First, the farmers had to put their shipment on a boat, sail to the north end of Lake Worth, unload the boxes onto wagons, and haul it overland about seven and a half miles to Jupiter. Then, they loaded the boxes on boats again which sailed north up the Indian River to Titusville or Jacksonville. It would be many weeks before a farmer learned if his crop arrived safely and was sold. If the shipment was rotten, the farmer received nothing for his crops (imagine all

that work for nothing!). If he was lucky, he received much needed money. For example, in 1879 the Dimick and Geer families actually got a shipment of tomatoes to market in good condition and made \$480 an acre which was a small fortune then. Even though many shipments never made it to market before rotting, the farmers refused to give up.

A faster mode of transportation arrived in the 1890s when Henry Flagler built his Florida East Coast Railroad down the Florida east coast to Miami. Farmers were able to get their more perishable vegetables like tomatoes and bell peppers to market before they rotted. The railroad also allowed for great expansion of agriculture because it was so easy to ship the produce to the northern markets.

By 1890, pineapple was a major local crop. Since pineapples, nicknamed "pines," needed sandy soil, the eastern section of the county was a perfect location for them. In the 1890s, the pineapple fields of the Windella Pineapple Plantation were located on land just north of the historic 1916 Court House in what is now downtown West Palm Beach. By 1929 there were only a few farmers planting pineapples because plant diseases and freezes destroyed the crops and other, more profitable crops were being planted. Also, farmers could not compete with cheaper pineapples imported into the U.S. from the Caribbean.

Through the years, Palm Beach County has had a number of farmers planting a variety of commercial crops from Jupiter to Boca Raton. In Jupiter, the Pennock family had both a dairy farm and an asparagus fernery (a type of fern). The fernery supplied greens to florists across the United States. At times, the fernery made as much a year as the dairy.

Some pioneers experimented with different fruits to create new varieties. In the mid-1880s Elbridge Gale, a retired professor of horticulture came to the Lake Worth area. He homesteaded 160 acres in the area south of 45th Street in West Palm Beach. He planted several mango trees and from these mangoes Gale

produced an improved variety of fruit called the Haden mango. Because of Gale's work with mangoes, we have a town named Mangonia Park.

In Boca Raton, surveyor and farmer Thomas Rickards planted pineapples. He also planted 5,000 citrus trees on fifty-five acres nearby. Another early farmer in the Boca Raton area was Frank Chesebro. He planted potatoes, tomatoes, and banana trees on his farm. Too much rain, grasshoppers, and worms destroyed his crops. Yet he and his family continued to farm and, eventually, the Chesebros had one of the largest farms in Boca Raton.

Clint Moore had the largest farm at 1,600 acres with 500 farm workers that lived on his property. He grew lima beans, peppers, eggplants, and snap beans. Years later, a road in Boca Raton was named after him.

Sixteen dairy farms prospered in the eastern part of the county although it was hard work. One dairyman, M.A. Weaver milked his cows by hand, bottled the milk, and delivered the milk himself to homes in West Palm Beach.

Farming in eastern Palm Beach County continues today although there are fewer farms every year. One eastern farm is the 900-acre Yee Farm, Inc. This family-owned farm grows different Chinese vegetables, which are shipped from their packinghouse in western Boynton Beach to customers all over the United States.

## The Yamato Colony

The Yamato Colony was an agricultural settlement of Japanese farmers. In 1904 Joseph Sakai brought the farmers to north Boca Raton. They called the land that they settled "Yamato," which is an ancient name for Japan. In the beginning, the colony focused on growing pineapples because they could get high prices for the fruit. They also grew citrus and vegetables. Gradually they grew less and less pineapple because of plant diseases and low prices.

# GROWING THINGS IN THE WEST: THE GLADES

## Fishing before Farming

Before agriculture came to the Glades, fishing for catfish was the business of the day. Along the wild shores of Lake Okeechobee fisherman established fishing camps. Before 1910, several fishing companies were founded and the million-dollar industry employed 1,500 people. At its peak, the business shipped out an amazing 6.5 million pounds of catfish a year. By 1912, Lake Okeechobee had been fished out and the industry was gone. Today the lake supports sport fishing and has been called the "Bass Fishing Capital of the World." When the fishing industry died, farming took its place in the Glades. However, before this area could really support farming, the land had to be drained.

## Dredging

By draining the swamps it was possible to create farmland. In 1881 Hamilton Disston purchased four million acres of land from the State of Florida. It stretched from Orlando to south of Lake Okeechobee. Disston paid one million dollars, or twenty-five cents per acre. Draining the swamps would expose fertile muck, perfect for growing crops. In order to completely drain the land, several large canals had to be dug from the Atlantic coast to Lake Okeechobee. Those canals are the Miami, North New River, Hillsboro, West Palm Beach, and the St. Lucie canals. For each mile that was cut, canals drained about 900 acres. Once the water drained off and exposed the rich muck soil, people began moving in and

planting their crops.

By World War II, most of the Yamato colonists had returned to Japan because they had saved up \$500 to buy a house in Japan or left for other states. The colony ended when the few remaining farmers were forced to sell their land to the government because the land was to be cleared and turned into an army base. It is now part of Boca Raton Airport and Florida Atlantic University.

One Japanese colonist remained after World War II. George Morikami purchased and farmed 200 acres in Delray Beach until his death in 1976. He donated his land to Palm Beach County. Today the Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens is America's foremost center for Japanese culture.

## Citrus Groves

Citrus includes fruits such as oranges, tangerines, grapefruits, lemons, and limes. Citrus is not native to Florida. The citrus industry began when the Spanish settled Florida. They planted the first citrus groves in St. Augustine in the 1500s. Grapefruit seeds were first brought to Florida and planted in the 1820s.

Today, oranges and other citrus varieties are one of the state's most important industries. There are about 750,000 acres of citrus groves in Florida.

Palm Beach County once had thousands of acres planted in citrus fruits, including the largest lemon grove in Florida. By 2000, most citrus groves were gone. The owners sold their land so developers could build houses. For example, on Lawrence Road between Gateway Boulevard and Lantana Road there were three citrus groves: Ridgeway Groves, Palm Beach Groves, and Knollwood Groves, one of the oldest groves in the county. Now, all three are residential communities. The last remaining citrus producer is Callery-Judge Groves in Loxahatchee has sold its property to developers who plan to build a housing community.

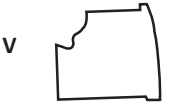
planting their crops.

Canals were beneficial because they also were a means of transportation. Settlers would take the boats to their new land and farmers would ship their produce to the cities. However, there were times when boats could not travel the canals because they easily got clogged with silt (dirt). Once roadways and railroads were built to Lake Okeechobee, travel on the canals stopped. Canals continue to serve an important function today. The canals hold rainwater so the land does not get flooded.

## Farming in the Glades

Agriculture in the Glades started when people were able to drain the land. Beginning about 1904, some of the very first farms in the Glades were established on Ritta and Torry Islands, at the south end of Lake Okeechobee. Farmers planted vegetables, some sugar cane, and banana, grapefruit, and avocado trees. One of the larger farms on Torry Island covered 700 acres. The owners had to cut down the pond apple trees (mistakenly called custard apples), to plant peppers, eggplants, and tomatoes.

South of the lake, farmers began settling Okeelanta. By 1917 it was the largest community in the area. It had 110 families, a hotel, town hall, lumberyard, blacksmith, and a barber. South Bay, on the lake's shore, had at that time only twelve families.



### Reading Check

1. How many crops are grown in Palm Beach County?

2. Radish is related to what plant?

- a. Rice
- b. Celery
- c. Mustard
- d. Cucumber

3. Who founded the Yamato Colony? What was the purpose of the colony? What fruit did they first focus on growing?

4. Lettuce is a member of what family?

- a. Radish
- b. Sunflower
- c. Grass
- d. None of the above

5. How many acres of land are drained for every mile of canal cut? For every five miles of canal cut?

### Short Answer

1. List three fruits that are citrus.

2. What breed of cow is a cross between a Hereford and a Brahman?

### Reading Check

What business was first in the Glades, fishing or farming?

# Did you Know

▶ The tomato, which is native to the Americas, is actually a fruit of the vine. In 1893, however, the U.S Supreme Court ruled that it is a vegetable because we use it as a vegetable and it is eaten as part of the main meal, not as a dessert like grapes. In the U.S., the average person eats about eighteen pounds of tomatoes a year.

## Number of People fed by One U.S. Farmer

**1930** - One farmer supplied

9 people

**1940** - One farmer supplied

19 people

**1950** - One farmer supplied

27 people

**1960** - One farmer supplied

46 people

**1970** - One farmer supplied

75 people

**1980** - One farmer supplied

115 people

**1990** - One farmer supplied

129 people

**2004** - One farmer supplied

144 people

**2014** - One farmer supplied

155 people

To the northeast of Okeelanta, in what is now the downtown business area of Pahokee, farmers were protected by a high natural ridge. In February 1917, farmer J.R. Poland was ready to harvest his peas, beans, peppers, and potatoes. He heard that a frost had damaged crops throughout Florida. But Poland's crops were not affected because the high ridge protected the farm. Other farmers in the area were also unaffected and made large sums of money for their cabbage, beans, and tomatoes. When word spread that the vegetable fields had not been damaged in Pahokee, people started buying muck land to establish farms in the area. By 1920, there were 624 farms on the eastern side of Lake Okeechobee with over 12,000 acres of crops.

When the canal from West Palm Beach opened, farmers in the Glades were able to ship their crops by barge to West Palm Beach where the crates of produce were transferred to the railroad for shipment north. Western farms were so productive that they out-produced other areas of south Florida. In 1920 Fort Lauderdale farmers shipped thirty railroad cars of tomatoes, but Glades farmers shipped more than fifty-five from West Palm Beach. In 1924 Conners Highway, a toll road, opened. Now, travelers could drive from West Palm Beach to Lake Okeechobee and farmers could transport their crops faster and easier, which encouraged other people to take up farming in western Palm Beach County.

Over the years, more farms were established or sold to other farmers who were expanding. A. Duda and Sons came to Palm Beach County in the 1940s. Forty years later they had a 20,000-acre farm in Belle Glade and 7,000 acres in Hendry County. They grew celery, radishes, lettuce, sweet corn, carrots, and sugar cane. By 2005 the farm was the only grower of celery in the state. The Belle Glade farm produces 1.4 million fifty-five to sixty pound boxes of celery annually. In one-square mile of farmland they grow 18.4 million celery plants. A. Duda and Sons have other farms in California, Arizona, Texas, and Mexico.

## Sugar Cane: King of Crops

Sugarcane is a tropical grass that was first grown in Asia over 4,000 years ago. The early settlers living along Lake Worth planted some sugarcane, but the ground was too salty. In the 1920s, near Canal Point in western Palm Beach County, farmers began planting acres of sugarcane, but the 1960s saw the most growth in acreage for the crop. Sugarcane growers use some 440,000 acres in the EAA, most in Palm Beach County. It is the largest crop grown in the county.

One of the first people to invest in sugarcane was Frederick E. Bryant. During World War I, when there was a shortage of sugar Bryant decided he would plant fields of cane. He convinced the U.S. Department of Agriculture to open a sugarcane breeding station at Canal Point. Bryant and his partner, E.T. Anderson, started the Florida Sugar and Food Products Company. They built the first sugar mill in the Glades near Canal Point in 1921. Bryant and Anderson merged their company with Southern Sugar Company, which was purchased by United States Sugar Corporation in 1931 just after U.S. Sugar was established.

After Fidel Castro and the Communist party took control of Cuba in 1959, they quickly confiscated all sugarcane farms in Cuba. Some of the Cuban sugar producers moved to the U.S. and started over. American growers in the Glades saw a chance to increase their sugarcane production. At that time, only 47,000 acres of sugarcane were planted in the EAA. Just four years later growers harvested 138,000 acres of sugarcane. The following year growers increased their output to 228,000 acres.

The Fanjul family was one Cuban family who started over following the Cuban revolution. Their company, Florida Crystals, started as a small farm in 1960 in Palm Beach County. Since then, it has become a fully integrated sugarcane operation. The company plants and harvests sugarcane and then processes it at its sugar mills, packs it, and distributes the product throughout the United



Celery harvester-packing combine used by many growers in the Everglades. Courtesy Everglades Research and Education Center.



Workers cutting sugarcane in the Glades, ca. 1920s. Courtesy Historical Society of Palm Beach County.

States. Florida Crystals has three processing plants: the Okeelanta mill processes 22,000 tons of sugar a day; the Osceola mill processes 13,500 tons a day; and the Sem-Chi rice mill handles rice products. The company was the first to grow certified organic sugar and they also pioneered growing organic rice in Florida. To help provide power for its mills, Florida Crystals has a renewable energy plant. The facility also provides power for about 43,000 homes.

In the 1960s other small to medium size sugarcane growers in the Glades area formed the Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative of Florida. The Cooperative works together to harvest and process their sugarcane and then markets the raw sugar. For forty years the Cooperative had the largest sugar mill in the United States.

## Planting and Harvesting Sugar Cane

South Florida's climate and soil are perfect for growing sugarcane. The planting season is from September through January. Cane stalks are harvested and cut into twenty-inch segments that are laid in furrows and then covered with soil. It takes a couple of weeks for sprouts to appear. Sugarcane grows in thick rows and will be ready to harvest in ten to

Agriculture also includes ornamental plants like the flowers your mother gets on Mother's Day, or the shrubs in the garden at home. Nurseries have been in operation in our county since the early twentieth century. One particular flower grown in Palm Beach County had a festival named after it. The gladiolus flower (gladiolus-singular; gladioli-plural) is a brightly colored plant from Africa. The 1940s and 1950s were the heyday for gladiolus farming. Centered between Boynton Beach and Delray Beach, there were at least eleven nurseries growing gladioli.

With fourteen varieties of gladioli grown in Boynton Beach and Delray Beach nurseries, Palm Beach County became the leading source for the popular flowers in the 1950s. The yearly average of gladioli shipments to

twelve months. Sugarcane harvesting occurs between October and March.

Years ago, field workers cut cane stalks by hand. They used a short machete to harvest the crop and wore metal guards on their hands and legs to protect themselves from getting cut. The metal protection looked very similar to the medieval armor worn by European knights. Since the 1990s, sugarcane harvesting has been done by combine-like machines. Mechanical harvesting cuts the stalks at ground level and transfers them to trailers, which are taken to sugar mills for processing.

## Pest Control

Insects, rats, and mice are a constant problem for farmers. They use different methods to control these pests. One Glades sugarcane grower decided to try a natural method instead of poisons. About twenty-years ago Wayne Boynton was losing crops to rats and mice. To rid his fields of them, he turned to barn owls, who feed on the pesky rats and mice. Boynton set up large birdhouses all over his sugarcane fields for the owls to nest in. As soon as the owls moved in, they began catching and eating the rats and mice. A pair of nesting owls can eat at least 1,500 rodents a year. This is one method of using Mother Nature to control pests instead of using chemicals and pesticides.

# NURSERIES

the north was about 15 million dozen. In 1957 a freeze in the area caused some growers to retire or sell out to developers because their flower crops were destroyed. There are now only a few gladiolus growers still here. You can still buy locally grown, fresh cut gladioli at the Delray Affair every year.

Nurseries continue to supply people and businesses with ornamental plants. In the 1970s, one Delray Beach nursery provided plants to all the flower shops in New York City. A Boynton Beach nursery continues to grow and ship thousands of the red Christmas plants called poinsettias all over the United States.

## Florida Standards

MAFS.4.OA.1.2: Multiply or divide to solve word problems involving multiplicative comparison, e.g., by using drawings and equations with a symbol for the unknown number to represent the problem, distinguishing multiplicative comparison from additive comparison.

### Think and Solve

- Sugar cane stalks average 10% sugar by weight. If a farmer gets 4,000 pounds of sugar cane stalks from his field, how much sugar will he be able to produce from the stalks?
- If Florida Crystal's Okeelanta plant processes 22,000 tons of sugar a day, how many tons of sugar will be processed in 30 days?

### Reading Check

- What kind of predator bird is being used to control rats and mice in the Glades?
- In 2014, one farmer supplied 155 people. How many people can five farmers supply? Nine farmers?
- The tomato native to:
  - Europe
  - Africa
  - the Americas
  - Asia
- Technically, the tomato is a:
  - Fruit
  - Vegetable



Dairyman C.R. Melear standing with his dairy cows as they are being milked. Courtesy Historical Society of Palm Beach County/ Mounts Collection.

## CATTLE, DAIRIES, AND HORSES

You would not know it today, but once there were large herds of cattle in Palm Beach County. As a matter of fact, the first dairy in the county was located in Palm Beach. In the late 1890s pioneer Harlan P. Dye brought the first dairy cows to the area. His dairy was located at the north end of Palm Beach on the grounds of what is now the Palm Beach Country Club. Dye later went to Cuba to operate a dairy to supply milk to U.S. troops stationed there after the Spanish American War (1898).

In the years that followed, others established dairies in the county. By the late 1930s there were sixteen dairies serving the county. Just after World War II, there were about twelve dairy farms in the area between Atlantic Avenue in Delray Beach and Boynton Beach Boulevard in Boynton Beach and along Military Trail. A dairy located in western Delray Beach had 1,500 dairy cows producing 7,000 gallons

of milk every day.

There were also cattle ranches in our county. In 1940 U.S. Sugar started one of the first large beef cattle ranches in the Glades. The King Ranch was another ranch, located south of Belle Glade, where they had 40,000 cattle. They now have a large sod farm on the property that is one of the largest in Florida. King Ranch also grows sugarcane and vegetables.

By the 1990s most dairies and cattle ranchers had moved out of the county to other areas in Florida to continue their dairy or beef cattle operations. Dairyman and ranchers sold their valuable land to developers who then constructed residential communities and businesses on the former pastures.

The equine (horse) industry in Palm Beach County brings in \$150-200 million dollars a year. There are about

6,500 horses in the county. During the winter season when equestrian events are held, the number climbs to over 13,000 horses. Almost 8,000 acres of land are used for horses. The industry is mostly located in Wellington and it includes the sports of polo and professional horse jumping. Some of the world's best polo players come here with their horses to play polo during the winter. Polo has been played here since the 1920s, but it was not until the last few decades that Palm Beach County has become an international polo destination. Wellington is also a major center for horse shows. One of the leading horse training centers is located in Boynton Beach. The facility includes 200 acres of training grounds for race and show horses. However, there is very little commercial horse breeding in our county. There are about 500,000 horses in Florida.

## FARMING NOW AND IN THE FUTURE

Twenty-first century farming in the Glades is now mostly sugarcane with smaller fields for vegetables, sod grass, and rice. But growing vegetables presents challenges with the new laws that prohibit the use of certain chemicals and pesticides, and current restoration projects in the Everglades. Modern farming methods include industrial agriculture,

which involves large fields and/or numbers of animals. It also includes a lot of pesticides, fertilizers, and high levels of mechanization.

The use of farm machines has made agriculture better. Because of mechanization, farming is more efficient and has a higher level of crop production. Other recent advances

in agriculture include hydroponics, organic farming, better management of soil nutrients, and improved weed control. Some growers practice organic farming. These farms use renewable resources, soil conservation, and water to help the environmental quality for future generations. As many as thirteen Palm Beach County farms grow organic vegetables.

Florida Crystals practices organic sugar farming. They are the only sugar grower to produce certified organic sugar. The company is also a pioneer in growing certified organic rice.

Pero Family Farms practices an advanced method of agriculture — hydroponics. They have 8,000 acres of farmland in Delray Beach. With today's year-round demand for fresh vegetables, Pero Farms also uses a state-of-the-art hydroponic greenhouse operation to grow vegetables in a large airplane hanger. While farmers harvest only 13,000 bell peppers on one acre of land, the Pero's are able to pick 228,000 peppers from one hydroponic acre!

Swank Farms, located in Loxahatchee, is a hydroponic and organic farm growing 320 varieties of produce through out the year. They sell their crops to chefs in Miami-Dade County to Orlando.

## In the Future

Some people have said that agriculture in the Glades will end. Farming depends on the muck soil that lies over the limestone bedrock. The muck has subsided over the years because of drainage and cultivation of the land and compaction by machinery, burning, oxidation, and shrinkage caused by dehydration.

Scientists and farmers are trying different ways to preserve the soil. Some growers practice what is called successive planting. Instead of

harvesting a crop, tilling the soil, and then letting it sit bare; farmers plant the next crop right away. This helps preserve the muck. Another method is to flood the field for several months. This is also great for water birds.

There are other issues to face in the future. These include how to produce enough food for a growing population, how to produce food on farms that are profitable, and also protect the environment and natural resources, and how to farm and not upset the Everglades Restoration Project with harmful chemicals from fertilizers. Farmers already limit the use of nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus. Therefore, rainwater runoff will not carry as much contaminates into waterways and wetlands.

Farmers must decide what they will do in the future. They face muck subsidence and the westward movement of developments that surround their farms. Some of them sell their land for more money than they earn from farming. Others stay and create new ways to keep farming, like hydroponics. Some sell their farmland to local or state governments who will protect and conserve it.

Those farmers that continue to grow vegetables in the face of these challenges will be the ones that come up with new methods to provide us with the food we eat. Though there are problems, farmers are smart and innovative, and they will rise to meet the challenges.



### Think and Solve

If you have 1,500 dairy cows and they give 7,000 gallons of milk a day, how many gallons of milk does each cow give a day?

### Reading Check

1. What is hydroponics?

### Think and Write

1. If you were a farmer, which farming method would you practice: organic farming or hydroponic farming? Why?

## The Wedgworths: A Family of Farmers

The Wedgworth family came to Belle Glade in 1930 where Herman Wedgworth was the first plant pathologist at the University of Florida Everglades Environmental Station. Two years later, Herman started his own farm. He then opened a fertilizer plant and the Wedgworth Supply House to provide supplies and equipment for local growers. In 1938 Herman was killed in a farming accident.

Ruth Springer Wedgworth, Herman's wife, had to support three children. She quickly took charge of the family business. Their farm grew celery, sugarcane, and other vegetables in the Belle Glade area. Ruth gained respect in what was then considered a man's world by donning boots and joining the workers in the fields. During World War II, she received numerous awards for the high production of vegetables on the farm. She organized the Florida Celery Exchange and was a charter member of the Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative of Florida. Ruth served on the Governor's Committee on Migrant Workers and other groups devoted to health, education, and social services. Because of her hard work and innovation, Ruth was named Woman of the Year in Agriculture by Progressive Farmer magazine, received a Distinguished Service Award from the Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association and was named Woman of the Year in Florida Agriculture. In 1988 Ruth was inducted to the Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame.

After graduating with an agricultural engineering degree from Michigan State College in 1950, George Herman Wedgworth joined his mother Ruth on the family farm. Together they worked hard and developed Wedgworth Farms, Inc. George helped to build the first mobile celery-harvesting unit in 1950. Then they gradually changed to sugar production after Castro's takeover of Cuba in 1959.

A year later George founded the Sugar Cane Growers



Ruth S. Wedgworth receives the 'Woman of the Year in Agriculture' award for 1986 from Doyle Conner, Florida Commissioner of Agriculture. Courtesy George H. Wedgworth.

Cooperative of Florida, which employs 500 workers. It is one of Belle Glade's largest employers. Since George retired in 2013, his youngest son, Dennis, now manages the farm and Wedgworth's Inc., the state's largest fertilizer company.

George and his sisters, Helen and Barbara, donated \$1 million to the Everglades Research and Education Center where their father worked. At the center a laboratory was named in honor of their mother and father, the Herman H. and Ruth S. Wedgworth Building. Following in his mother's footsteps, George was inducted to the Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame in 1994.

## Eighty-five Years of Family Farming

Swedish immigrants Alfred and Amanda Elfrida Erickson homesteaded in 1911 on the eastern shore of Lake Okeechobee with their four children. By 1923, Alfred Erickson started farming and the whole family pitched in.

Although the hurricane of 1928 removed its roof, the original 1911 house remains in the family more than a century later.

Floyd Arthur Erickson, the youngest of Alfred and Elfrida's children, graduated from the

University of Florida in 1933 with an agricultural degree. He and his brother William Emil Erickson began farming vegetables to ship north. Floyd was interested in tropical fruits and in 1961 he planted a grove of mango and avocado trees.

Floyd's youngest son, Dale Eric Erickson, took over the mango production in 1974 and added other tropical fruits and vegetables. Dale's daughters, Krista and Kimberly, continued the tradition of working in the family business.

In 2000 Krista Erickson began managing daily operations; her son, Brendan Erickson, shows an interest in everything that grows. Kimberly Erickson returned to the farm in 2007 to assume a more active role.

With one of the few mango groves left in south Florida, the Erickson family chose to focus on specialty varieties that were not found in grocery stores, as well as the winter vegetables that have sustained the Erickson Farm for four generations.

## TIME POSTS

- 1830s** Seminoles planted small fields of pumpkins, squash, and other crops along Lake Worth.
- 1860s** Keepers of the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse plant small vegetable gardens.
- Augustus O. Lang plants and cultivates lemons, limes, oranges, and guavas on what is now the island of Palm Beach.
- 1870s** First permanent settlers arrive on Lake Worth and clear land for farming.
- They grow sugarcane, pineapples, pumpkins, potatoes, coconuts, peas, beans, radishes, lettuce, tomatoes, and avocado pears.
- 1880s** Thousands of pineapples are planted in the Lake Worth region.
- Jupiter and Lake Worth Railroad opens. Vegetables are transported 7.5 miles by rail from Juno on the lake to Jupiter then transferred to steamboats traveling north.
- 1890s** Four great freezes (1894, 1895, 1896, 1899) damages or destroys pineapples, green beans, peppers, citrus, and other crops.
- Henry Flagler extends his railroad from Titusville to West Palm Beach then to Miami. This allows for faster shipping of crops to northern markets.
- 1900s** Dredging and draining of the Everglades begins under Governor Napoleon Bonaparte Broward.
- Ritta Island, at the south end of Lake Okeechobee, is settled by farmers.
- Speculators begin buying land in Everglades.
- Dredging of the canals in southeast Florida to Lake Okeechobee begins.
- Palm Beach County is formed (1909).
- 1910s** Farmers start arriving in the Glades and begin clearing land and planting crops.
- United States enters World War I (1917-1918).
- Three-year drought (1917-1919) strikes the Lake Okeechobee area lowering water levels.
- 1920s** USDA opens sugarcane breeding station at Canal Point.
- First sugar mill opens in Canal Point.
- Conners Highway connects the Glades area with West Palm Beach.
- The Everglades Experiment Station opened in Belle Glade.
- There were 101 pineapple growers in Palm Beach County cultivating 925 acres.
- Florida East Coast Railroad extends line from Okeechobee City to Canal Point and Belle Glade. Farmers can ship crops from depots in the Glades.
- Earthen levee completed from Bacom Point to Moore Haven to keep lake from flooding crops.
- 1926 Hurricane strikes southern Lake Okeechobee, breaks levee at Moore Haven and kills over 300 people.
- 1928 Hurricane devastates Palm Beach County. Dike breaks and floods the Glades wiping out settlements and killing at least 3,000 people.
- 1930s** Construction of Herbert Hoover Dike around Lake Okeechobee begins.
- Farmers start growing celery away from the lakeshore.
- Hurricane floods coastal areas from Boynton Beach to Jupiter.
- 85-mile long Herbert Hoover Dike completed three-quarters of the way around Lake Okeechobee.
- 1940s** United States enters World War II (1941-1945).
- A camp was set up in Belle Glade for 200 German POWs working in a canning factory.
- Farmers in Palm Beach County awarded the Army "A" Award for





agricultural achievement. In the winter season of 1942-1943, \$22 million worth of vegetables are grown on 84,000 acres.

First Gladiolus Festival held in Delray Beach.

Hurricane floods cover agricultural fields for weeks. Farm animals starve or die of disease from standing in the high water.

Hurricane damages crops in Palm Beach County and floods many cities. This led to the formation of the Central and Southeastern Flood Control District, which later became known as the South Florida Water Management District.

707,200 acres are designated as the Everglades Agricultural Area

**1950s** Weaver Brothers Dairy is largest in Palm Beach County with over a thousand cows.

Five farms combined to ship two million dozen Gladioli to the north.

Thomas Produce is founded by John Thomas, Sr. It would become Florida's largest vegetable grower in Florida with about 14,000 acres in Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, and Hendry counties.

The height of cattle ranching in Palm Beach County.

**1960s** President Dwight Eisenhower cancels Cuba's three million ton sugar quota.

Scientists develop a new hybrid of corn called Florida Sweet.

**1970s** DuBois Farms formed by four family members.

**1980s** Bowman and Sons Dairy is largest dairy in county with over 1,500 cows.

Most dairy farms and ranches have sold out and/or moved to other areas of Florida.

**1990s** All sugarcane growers switch to mechanized harvesting.

**2000s** Hurricanes Frances, Jeanne, and Wilma take severe toll on county farm fields, especially citrus.

1,110 farms and nurseries in Palm Beach County.

U.S. Sugar agrees to sell its 180,000 acres to South Florida Water Management.

**2010s** 393,545 acres were devoted to growing sugar cane, the county's largest crop.

Palm Beach County leads the nation in the production of sugarcane, fresh sweet corn, and sweet bell peppers. It leads the State in the production of rice, lettuce, radishes, Chinese vegetables, specialty leaf, and celery.



Workers grading potatoes as they come from the field. All potatoes are put through a grader and separated into baskets numbered one, two, or three. Courtesy Historical Society of Palm Beach County.



Farmer Frank Kruse shows off some of his potatoes and beans he harvested from his fields near Belle Glade, 1928. Courtesy Fritz Stein, Jr.

Crops grown in Palm Beach County grow best in certain types of soil. See the list to find out what crops are planted primarily in sand, muck, or both.

<u>Muck:</u>	<u>Sand:</u>	<u>Both soils:</u>
Lettuce	Bell peppers	Sweet corn
Radishes	Tomatoes	
Celery	Specialty peppers	
Beans	Cucumbers	
Chinese leaf	Herbs	
Escarole/Endive	Eggplant	
Chinese cabbage	Specialty tomatoes	
Parsley	Squash	
Cabbage	Specialty eggplant	
Sugar	Specialty beans and peas	
Rice		
Sod		

## Answers

### Page 3

**Reading Check:** 1. What is the EAA? The Everglades Agricultural Area. (page 3); 2. The root words for agriculture are from what language? d. Latin (page 3); 3. a. What is the most popular sweet pepper? The bell pepper is the most popular sweet pepper in the United States. (page 2); b. What happens to the pepper when it changes color? As the pepper matures, its color changes from green to red and it becomes sweeter. (page 2)

**Think and Compare:** 1. What is horticulture? Horticulture is the art and science of the cultivation (growing) of plants. (page 2); 2. Is it different from agriculture? Yes, horticulture focuses on the cultivation of plants whereas agriculture is the practice of cultivating the soil for producing crops and/or raising livestock. (pages 2-3)

**Writing Activity:** Write a poem about your favorite fruit or vegetable. Student answers will vary.

### Page 5

**Reading Check:** 1. How many crops are grown in Palm Beach County? 26 major crops. (page 3); 2. Radish is related to what plant? c. Mustard (page 4); 3. Who founded the Yamato Colony? Joseph Sakai. (page 5) What was the purpose of the colony? It was an agricultural settlement. (page 5) What fruit did they first focus on growing? Pineapples. (page 5); 4. Lettuce is a member of what family? b. Sunflower (page 4); 5. How many acres of land are drained for every mile of canal cut? 900 acres. (page 5) For every five miles of canal cut? 4,500 acres ( $900 \times 5 = 4500$ )

**Short Answer:** 1. List three fruits that are citrus. Oranges, tangerines, grapefruits, lemons, and limes. (page 5); 2. What breed of cow is a cross between a Hereford and a Brahman? A Braford. (page 4)

**Reading Check:** 1. Which business was first in the Glades, fishing or farming? Fishing. (page 5)

### Page 7

**Think and Solve:** 1. Sugar cane stalks average 10% sugar by weight. If a farmer gets 4,000 pounds of sugar cane stalks from his field, how much sugar will he be able to produce from the stalks? 400 pounds of sugar from 4,000 pounds of sugar cane stalk. ( $4000 \times .10 = 400$  pounds of sugar); 2. If Florida Crystal's Okeelanta plant processes 22,000 tons of sugar a day, how many tons of sugar will be processed in 30 days? 660,000 tons of sugar would be processed in 30 days. ( $22000 \times 30 = 660,000$ )

**Reading Check:** 1. What kind of predator bird is being used to control rats and mice in the Glades? Barn owls are being used to control rats and mice. (page 7); 2. In 2014, one farmer supplied 155 people. How many people can five farmers supply? 775 people. ( $155 \times 5 = 775$ ) Nine farmers? 1,395 people. ( $155 \times 9 = 1,395$ ); 3. The tomato native to: c. the Americas (page 7); 4. Technically, the tomato is a: a. Fruit (page 6)

### Page 9

**Think and Solve:** 1. If you have 1,500 dairy cows and they give 7,000 gallons of milk a day, how many gallons of milk does each cow give a day? Each cow would give 4.6 gallons of milk a day. ( $7000 \div 1500 = 4.6$  gallons)

**Reading Check:** 1. What is hydroponics? A technique of growing plants, without soil, in a water solution containing dissolved nutrients. (page 2)

**Think and Write:** If you were a farmer, which farming method would you practice: organic farming or hydroponic farming? Why? Student answers will vary.

## Growing Corn Experiment

### What you will need:

1. Five to six corn kernels; 2. Paper towels; 3. One sandwich-size zipper-lock bag; 4. Water; 5. Black markers

### Directions:

1. Wet a paper towel completely, then wring out excess water. 2. Put five to six corn kernels in the center of the paper towel. (Using this many kernels will increase the chances of sprouting.); 3. Put the paper towel and the kernels in the zipper-lock bag so that the kernels can be seen. Close the bag and label it.; 4. Lay the bag in a place exposed to natural daylight or a grow lamp, where you can observe it.; 5. Check on the bag regularly, water the kernels and watch the corn grow. (When the corn grows too tall for the bag, unzip the top.)

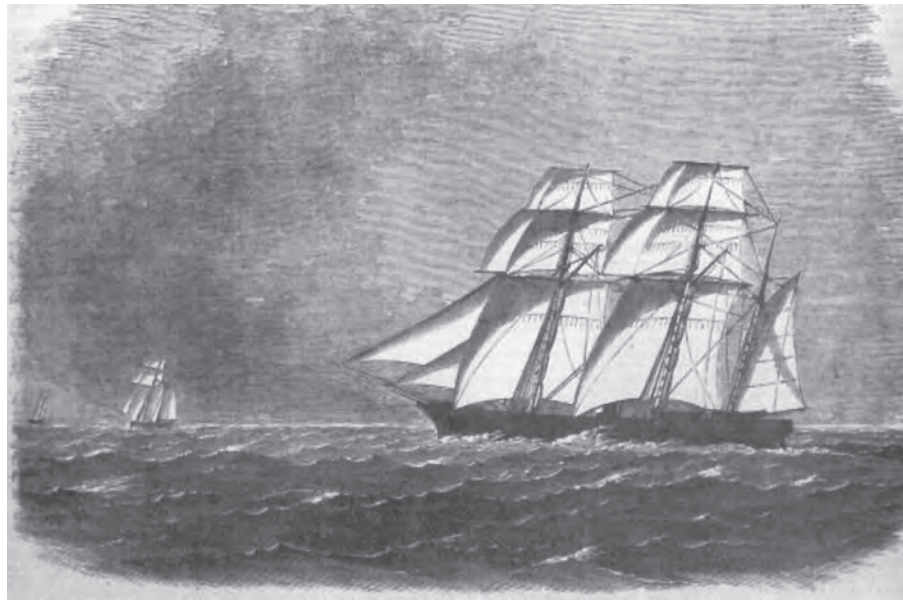
This activity was developed by 4H Cooperative Curriculum System: Visit [www.iowacorn.org/cornuse/cornuse\\_5.html](http://www.iowacorn.org/cornuse/cornuse_5.html)

Union naval forces also carried out raids against Confederate salt works along Florida's coastline. Escaped slaves who were familiar with the area sometimes assisted Union forces; some of them joined the Union Navy, serving on blockading ships.

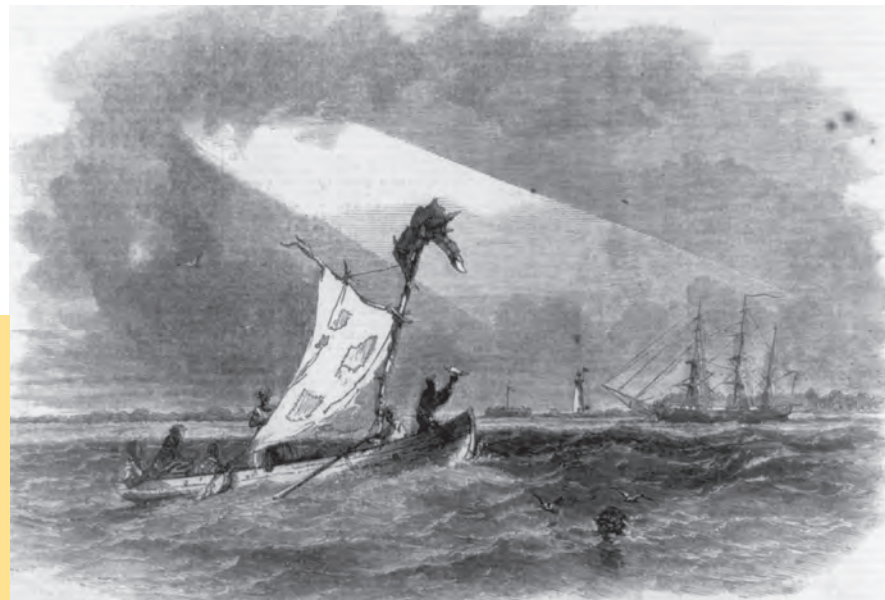
## Reconstruction

In 1863, Abraham Lincoln gave an important speech in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, known as the *Gettysburg Address*. Lincoln stressed that all men are created equal. His words encouraged the North to fight harder to save the Union. On April 9, 1865, Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered to Union General Ulysses S. Grant. The end of the Civil War was a victory for all those who were against slavery.

After the war, the former Confederate States had to rebuild, in a period called *Reconstruction*. It was a time of uncertainty for everyone, especially in the southern states, which had been devastated by the war. The newly freed slaves found themselves without places to live or work. Many of them returned to their plantations to work as paid employees, but a lot of plantation owners did not have money to pay them. The solution was sharecropping. Poor farmers, both black and white, paid plantation owners rent by giving them part of the crops grown on that land, or a *share*, instead of money. This system helped both the plantation



The Confederate warship and blockade runner CSS *Florida*, 1860s. Courtesy Florida State Archives.



Escaped slaves off of Florida attempt to reach a Union naval vessel, 1860s. Courtesy Florida State Archives.

## Emancipation Proclamation

The Emancipation Proclamation was one of Abraham Lincoln's most important acts during his presidency. Issued on January 1, 1863, it stated, "that all persons held as slaves are and henceforward shall be free." The order, however, applied only to the states in rebellion, not to those loyal to the Union. Although the proclamation did not eliminate all slavery in the nation, it did affect the war, because it allowed blacks to serve in the Union army and navy. About 200,000 blacks had served by 1865, when the 13th Amendment was ratified, officially ending slavery.



### Reading Check:

1. Why was the lighthouse built at Jupiter Inlet?
2. What did General Winfield Scott recommend to President Lincoln?

### Short Answer:

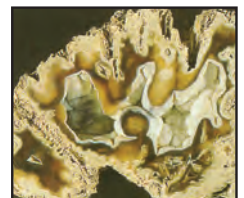
1. What was the purpose of the Anaconda Plan?
2. Why was the Anaconda Plan called the "Great Snake?"

### Reading Check:

1. What is a blockade runner?
2. Who was Josiah Walls and why is he important?

### Activity:

1. Make a drawing or model of the Jupiter Lighthouse.



State  
Stone  
Agatized  
Coral



State  
Flower  
Orange  
Blossom

1860

Population of Florida 140,424  
(white 77,747; non-white 62,677).

1861

Florida state troops seize  
Fort Marion at St. Augustine.

Florida joins the Confederate States of  
America and fights in the Civil War.



A bird's-eye view of Florida and part of Georgia and Alabama by John Bachmann, 1861. This shows the Union naval blockade force along Florida's east and Gulf coasts. Key West and Fort Jefferson remained in Union hands for the duration of the Civil War. Map courtesy Library of Congress.

owners and the freed slaves, but sharecroppers still barely made enough to live on.

To be readmitted to the Union, southern states were required to take certain actions: 1) to rewrite their constitutions, eliminating slavery, and 2) to pass the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which granted citizenship to all people born in the United States. Florida completed these actions and rejoined the Union in 1868.

A map of General Winfield Scott's Anaconda Plan to cut off the Confederacy from much need supplies. Scott's plan was sometimes referred to as Scott's *Great Snake*. Union naval forces blockaded the southern states along the Atlantic coast, Gulf coast, and the Mississippi River. Map courtesy Library of Congress.



1861 - 1865

American Civil War.

1864

Battle of Olustee, the largest fought in Florida and a Confederate victory.

1865

Battle of Natural Bridge. Defeat of Union troops keeps Tallahassee from being captured.

1868

Florida is readmitted to Union.

# 1870 THE PIONEER ERA 1894

## Early Pioneers

After the Civil War, the period called *Reconstruction* (1865-1877) started in the southern states. Florida had not experienced as much destruction as other southern states had, so rebuilding Florida mainly meant improving its government and economy.

People from the North began visiting Florida because they were drawn by the widely available land and warm climate, which was not only comfortable, but good for growing crops year-round. To create more farmland, people began draining the swamps. In 1881 Hamilton Disston purchased four million acres of land from the state, from Orlando to south of Lake Okeechobee. He paid one million dollars, or twenty-five cents per acre.

The Disston purchase included the northern edge of the Everglades. When he had the area drained, fertile soil was exposed that was perfect for growing crops. People moved into the area, many established farms, and resulting settlements later grew into towns and cities. Florida's efforts to rebuild its economy were successful, and it soon became a leader in agriculture.



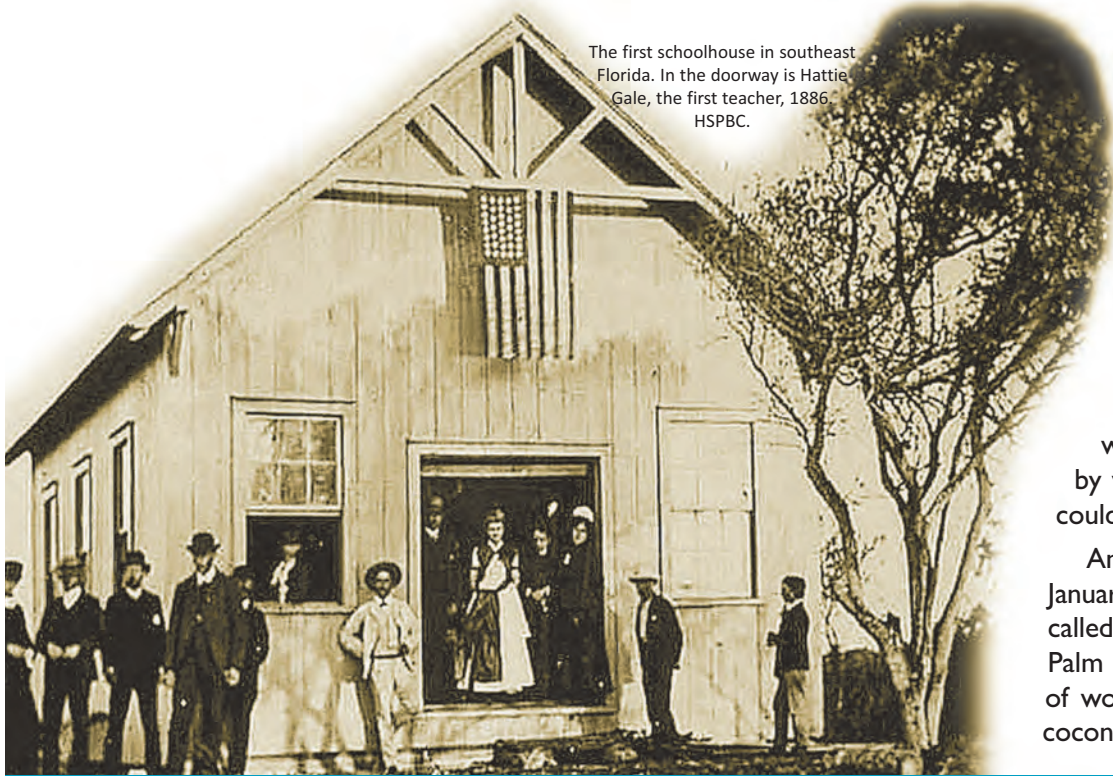
An early pioneer's canvas-and-wood home in the 1870s. HSPBC.

During Reconstruction, pioneers began moving into present-day Palm Beach County.

In the 1870s, several families from the Midwest established homesteads around Lake Worth. They found a green jungle with no paths, roads, or means of transportation. They could only walk from place to place. If they owned a boat, they could travel by water.

The typical house of most settlers was made from palmetto thatching and items found at the beach. Items salvaged from shipwrecks were plentiful and used in variety of ways. Pioneers were mainly farmers, but also survived by what they created and by what they could grow, hunt, and fish.

An important shipwreck occurred on January 9, 1878, when a small Spanish ship called *Providencia* broke up on the shores of Palm Beach. The barq was carrying a cargo of wooden logs, animal hides, and 20,000 coconuts. Two settlers claimed the cargo



The first schoolhouse in southeast Florida. In the doorway is Hattie Gale, the first teacher, 1886. HSPBC.

**Standards:**

SS.4.A.1.1: Analyze primary and secondary resources to identify significant individuals and events throughout Florida history.

SS.4.A.4.1: Explain the effects of technological advances on Florida.

SS.4.A.4.2: Describe pioneer life in Florida.

SS.4.A.9.1: Utilize timelines to sequence key events in Florida history.

SS.4.G.1.1: Identify physical features of Florida.

SS.4.G.1.Su.a: Recognize selected physical features of Florida, such as bodies of water and landforms.

LAFS.4.RI.1.1: Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

LAFS.4.RI.1.3: Explain events, procedures, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text, including what happened and why, based on specific information in the text.

LAFS.4.W.1.2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

MAFS.4.OA.1.2: Multiply or divide to solve word problems involving multiplicative comparison, e.g., by using drawings and equations with a symbol for the unknown number to represent the problem, distinguishing multiplicative comparison from additive comparison.

1866-1877  
Period of Reconstruction.

1870  
Population of Florida 187,748 (white 96,057; non-white 91,691); Dade County 25.

1871 - 1873  
Josiah Thomas Walls is the first elected African American U.S. representative from Florida.

1876  
Florida plays a role in the controversial presidential election between Samuel Tilden and Rutherford Hayes. Florida is one of three states with disputed elector votes. After political maneuvering, Hayes is elected president.

## RECIPE: Florida Cookies

- 2 cups of sugar
- 1 cup of water
- 1 cup of lard
- 1/2 tsp baking soda
- Flour
- Cinnamon, ginger or lemon for flavor

Mix all ingredients together until dough is stiff. Roll as thin as possible, cut, and bake in a very hot oven [350 degrees] until brown.

Recipe from *The Pioneer Cook in Southeast Florida*. Courtesy Boca Raton Historical Society & Museum.

### Reading Check:

1. Why did people come to Florida?

### Short Answer:

1. Describe the typical house of the settlers.
2. What ship brought 20,000 coconuts?
3. How did the coconuts change our area?

### Reading Check:

1. How long was the Jupiter and Lake Worth Railroad? Why was it closed?
2. Why was the Jupiter and Lake Worth Railroad also called the "Celestial Railroad"?

### Research:

1. Go online and visit [www.pbchistoryonline.org](http://www.pbchistoryonline.org). Click on "Pioneers" then "Teaching and Preaching." Read the web page.

- What did you learn about Hattie Gale and the first schoolhouse?



The Orange Grove House of Refuge was built in 1876 on a beach just north of present-day Atlantic Avenue in Delray Beach. HSPBC

and sold the coconuts to their fellow pioneers for two and one-half cents each. The settlers planted the coconuts in groves because they planned to develop them into a cash crop. It was from these coconut groves that the island, the county, and, eventually, several towns earned their names, including West Palm Beach and Palm Beach.

Numerous shipwrecks occurred along the east coast of Florida between Vero Beach and Miami that sometimes

## Christmas Dinner Pioneer Style

In his memoir, Charlie Pierce wrote that his family spent the Christmas of 1873 at Charlie Moore's place on Lake Worth. They ate a scrumptious dinner that included opossum with sweet potatoes covered with bacon strips, biscuits with cane syrup, and prickly pear pie for dessert. Seven years later, the small community shared Christmas dinner on the grounds of the Cocconut Grove House Hotel. This meal included roast venison, turkey, bread, biscuits, salads, cakes, pies, and pudding.

left sailors stranded with nowhere to go. The U.S. government built five *houses of refuge* along the coast as temporary shelter for shipwreck survivors. The Orange Grove House of Refuge Number Three was built in 1876 on a beach north of present-day Atlantic Avenue in Delray Beach. It was destroyed by fire in 1927. The only refuge still standing today is the Gilbert's Bar House of Refuge in

Martin County, which is open to the public.

By 1886 the community around Lake Worth had grown so much that the residents demanded a school. The Dade County School District provided money, and the settlers donated the land and raised more money for lumber and school supplies. They also volunteered their time to build the first schoolhouse, which opened in March 1886. The first term was only three months long. Seven students attended school that first day, taught by sixteen-year-old Hattie Gale.

This school building has been preserved and moved to Phipps Ocean Park on South Ocean Boulevard in Palm Beach. Most students know it as the *Little Red Schoolhouse*.

The Jupiter and Lake Worth Railroad (also known as the *Celestial Railroad*) was the area's first railway. When it opened in 1889,

it stretched from Jupiter to Juno (which was in a different location than today's Juno Beach) and was seven and one-half miles long. There were two other stops called Mars and Venus, which were only to get wood to feed the wood-burning engine. The railway was built to transport

## Millie Gildersleeve

In the 1870s or 1880s, Mildred "Millie" Gildersleeve became one of the first African American pioneers to settle in what is Palm Beach County. A former slave from Georgia, she married another African American pioneer, M. Jacob "Jake" Gildersleeve. Millie worked as a midwife and assisted Dr. Richard B. Potter, the first doctor on Lake Worth, to deliver most of the babies born in the area. Dr. Potter would pull up to Millie's wharf and toot his whistle. Millie would run out the door with her medical bag, which contained everything she needed. Jake and Millie owned a vegetable farm in today's Riviera Beach. Jake died in 1931, and Millie in 1950. Their daughter Katy was one of the first African Americans born in Palm Beach County. Millie and Jake raised five children in all, and their descendants still live here. James Henry Harper Jr. became a Florida state representative, and his great-great-great grandson Bradley G. Harper became a criminal judge.



A pioneer's palmetto-thatch house, 1870s. HSPBC.

1879

Florida's first telephones are installed in Jacksonville.

1880

Population of Florida 269,493 (white 142,965; non-white 126,690); Dade County 257.

1881

Governor William D. Bloxham drains part of the Everglades for development.

produce and passengers. Passengers were charged ten cents a mile, or seventy-five cents one-way, for the thirty-minute journey. The train had no way to turn around, so it went forward from Jupiter to Juno (going south) and in reverse from Juno to Jupiter (going north). Legend has it that the engineer would stop the train when wild game animals were sighted. Passengers would get off the train, shoot the animal, and give a portion of their kill to the engineer. In 1895, the railway went out of business; it was sold at auction a year later. The Celestial Railroad could not compete with Henry Flagler's Florida East Coast Railway.

## Postal Service and the Barefoot Mailman

When early pioneers left their homes in the North, they continued to communicate with their families and friends back home. It was not easy to send a letter, though. They could not email or even drop a letter in a mailbox. At first, settlers depended on the honesty of passing ship crews to take and deliver their mail. They also asked beachwalkers to carry and deliver mail on their way up and down the coast. These methods were not dependable. Sending a letter from Lake Worth to Miami took several weeks. First, it had to travel to Jacksonville. Then it was shipped to Cuba or Key West, and finally it went to Miami. Can you see why it took several weeks?

To solve this problem, the U.S. Postal Service set up a special route where several men took turns walking from Palm Beach to Miami and back. These mailmen later became known as *barefoot mailmen* because they walked barefoot along the beach, carrying their shoes over their shoulders. The first barefoot mailman was Edwin Ruthven Bradley, who was paid \$600 a year to make his weekly trips.

These adventurous mailmen traveled a route that was 136 miles round-trip and took three days each way. Each man walked an average of 7,000 miles a year. Most of the time, a



A barefoot mailman rows past alligators lying near one of the inlets. HSPBC.



A barefoot mailman walks along the beach. HSPBC.

mailman left Lake Worth on Monday and arrived in Miami on Wednesday. He began his return trip on Thursday and arrived home on Saturday. During his journey, the mail carrier spent the nights at houses of refuge in today's Delray Beach and Fort Lauderdale. In Miami, he spent the night at a hotel. On Lake Worth, at Hillsboro Inlet, New River, and Biscayne Bay, the mailman had to cross water using boats left for his use.

There are many stories about the barefoot mailmen. They often charged a small fee to take passengers with them. One such passenger was upset over the long, hot walk, limited fresh water, and poor food. As revenge, he sent some coconuts through the mail. Then he sent a package of rocks. When he tried to mail a small tree, the mailman finally complained to the postal service in Washington, D.C. That resulted in a weight limit being placed on all deliveries.

Mailman Ed Hamilton lost his life while trying to complete his route. When Hamilton arrived at the Hillsboro Inlet on his way to Miami, he found someone had moved the mail boat to the far side of the inlet. To retrieve the boat, he left his mailbag and clothes in a tree and apparently tried to swim across the inlet. Later, a search party found his mailbag and clothes, but Hamilton was never found. No one knows whether Hamilton drowned or if sharks or alligators attacked him.

At least twenty brave men walked the beaches to deliver the mail from 1885 to 1893. Then a road opened between

### Did You Know...?

At a time when most postmasters were white, one of the area's earliest postmistresses was African American. In 1889, Fannie James was appointed postmistress of Jewell, which became the city of Lake Worth. She operated the post office from 1890 to 1903. Fannie and her husband, Samuel, were the first settlers in that area, and they owned much of the property that is now downtown Lake Worth.

1881

Hamilton Disston buys 4 million acres of land.

1885-1912

Henry M. Flagler develops the east coast of Florida and builds railroad from St. Augustine to Key West, while Henry B. Plant engages in the same activities on the west coast of Florida.



#### Map Skill:

1. Using a map, trace the route the barefoot mailmen had to walk from Lake Worth to Miami.

#### Write About It:

1. Write a one-page essay about what it would be like to be a barefoot mailman.

#### Reading Check:

Refer to Millie Gildersleeve.

1. What was the author's purpose for writing about her?

2. How did Millie contribute to the pioneer community?

#### Math Skills:

1. If you made \$600 a year as a barefoot mailman, what was your monthly salary?



State Tree  
Sabal Palm



State Mammal  
Porpoise



Early pioneers of Palm Beach County, late 19th century. HSPBC.

Lantana and Miami, and the barefoot mailmen were no longer needed; the mail went on a stagecoach line.

By today's standards, the barefoot-mailman system was primitive and dangerous, but it worked for the pioneers. Since then, automated services have been developed to help mail carriers package and send mail all over the world. They travel in automobiles and even in airplanes. The barefoot mailmen would be amazed at how efficiently mail is delivered in the twenty-first century.

## Carpetbagger

During the Reconstruction era, northerners came south to take advantage of the unstable socio-economic situation following the Civil War. These opportunists received the nickname *carpetbaggers* because they carried soft-sided luggage bags made from carpets.

## Making Syrup – Pioneer Style

In 1879, some pioneers decided to try to make syrup from sugar cane. They began by constructing a mill to do the processing. They created rollers from logs found on the beach. A mule named Jenny provided the power to turn the rollers. The liquid from the cane was boiled in a huge iron kettle until it thickened into syrup. When the pioneers tasted their first batch of homemade sugar cane syrup, it was disgusting! It was salty, not sweet. The settlers realized that the soil where the sugar cane had grown had salt in it from the sea spray that the wind spread over the area. The pioneers' attempt at making syrup came to an end.

## What Did the Settlers Do for Soap?

When we run out of soap, we go to the store, but the early settlers on Lake Worth could not do that. The nearest store was in Titusville, about 160 miles to the north by boat. What did they do when they ran out of soap? They made their own. The pioneers collected hardwood ash from campfires and placed it in a barrel with a hole in the bottom. Then they added water to the barrel with the ash. When the water drained into a pail, the result was lye, which then went into an iron kettle. Last, the settlers added fat, usually from alligators, and boiled it over an open flame to create soap.

## David Levy Yulee (1810-1886)

David Levy Yulee was born in St. Thomas, West Indies, the son of Jewish Portuguese parents. As a young boy, he and his family came to Virginia, and then moved to Florida. Yulee studied and practiced law in St. Augustine. In 1838, while Florida was still a territory, he served as a delegate to the Florida Constitutional Convention, and was a representative to the U.S. Congress in the early 1840s. After Florida became a state, Yulee was elected to the U.S. Senate and served 1845-1851 and 1855-1861. He was the first man of Jewish descent to serve as U.S. senator. During the Civil War, he was a congressman for the Confederate States of America, so he served almost a year in prison at Fort Pulaski after the war ended.

Besides working with the government, Yulee owned a plantation and a sugar mill. He is also considered the "Father of Florida's Railroads" because he completed Florida's first cross-state railroad. That system connected Cedar Key on the west coast to Fernandina on the east coast. In 1880, Yulee moved to Washington, D.C., and six years later, he died in New York City.

## 'Mexico Frank'

The pioneers knew Frank Lopez as "Mexico Frank." He arrived on Lake Worth in the summer of 1874, and for three years, did different jobs for the pioneers. During the winter of 1877 Frank boarded his small boat and sailed south. He never returned. He might be the first Hispanic known by name to live in what became Palm Beach County.

1887

The African American community, Eatonville, is incorporated. It is the country's oldest African American town.

1889

Phosphate is discovered in Florida.

1890

Population of Florida 391,422; Dade County 995.



1894

# THE FLAGLER ERA BOOM TO BUST

1920s

## Railroads and Hotels



Henry Morrison Flagler. HSPBC.

Henry Morrison Flagler first came to Florida in 1878 because his wife's doctor advised that his wife, Mary's health might improve if she spent the winters in milder weather. The couple spent only one winter in Florida before Mary died in 1881.

Two years later Flagler married his second wife, Ida, and took her to visit St. Augustine. Flagler quickly realized that there were neither enough hotels in the

city, nor a reliable transportation system to get there. Flagler decided to return to St. Augustine in 1885 and build the grand Ponce de León Hotel. He knew that improved transportation would bring more visitors to his new hotel, so he bought the Jacksonville, St. Augustine and Halifax Railroad, the beginning of his railroad empire in Florida. Flagler continued to buy and build railroad lines, which eventually connected the entire east coast of Florida and became known as the *Florida East Coast Railway*.

In the early 1890s, Flagler visited south Florida and became enchanted by its beauty. After his visit, he decided to buy land in Palm Beach and construct a winter resort



Land speculators in West Palm Beach, circa 1910-1920. HSPBC.

for wealthy tourists on the island. In 1894 he opened the Hotel Royal Poinciana overlooking Lake Worth, and two years later, the Palm Beach Inn (later renamed The Breakers) on the ocean beach.

Flagler designed a city across Lake Worth to be the commercial and residential area to support the resort. This west side community incorporated as West Palm Beach in 1894. By then Flagler's railroad reached the new town, bringing wealthy visitors and new residents to the area.

It also shipped vegetables and fruits more quickly to northern cities, which helped the local economy. By 1896 Flagler extended the Florida East Coast Railway south to Miami, and in 1912 it reached Key West. The railroad was important for bringing more



Alligator hunting in Palm Beach County in the late 1890s. HSPBC.

### Standards:

SS.4.A.1.1 Analyze primary and secondary resources to identify significant individuals and events throughout Florida history.  
 SS.4.A.6.3 Describe the contributions of significant individuals to Florida.  
 SS.4.A.7.1 Describe the causes and effects of the 1920s Florida land boom and bust.  
 SS.4.A.9.1 Utilize timelines to sequence key events in Florida history.  
 SS.4.E.1.1 Identify entrepreneurs from various social and ethnic backgrounds who have influenced Florida and local economy.  
 LAFS.4.RI.1.1: Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.  
 LAFS.4.RI.1.2: Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.  
 LAFS.4.RI.1.3: Explain events, procedures, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text, including what happened and why, based on specific information in the text.

### Reading Check:

1. What benefits did the Florida East Coast Railroad provide to Palm Beach County?

### Think About It:

1. Why do you think Flagler named his first hotel the Ponce de León Hotel?

### Reading Check:

1. What are some events that led to the 1920s Florida Land Bust?

1894

West Palm Beach is incorporated as a municipality.

1895

Severe frost almost destroys entire citrus industry in Florida.

1896

Miami is incorporated as a municipality.

1898

Spanish-American War; US military gathers at various Florida locations to prepare to invade Cuba and Puerto Rico.

people and goods to Florida's east coast.

## Land Boom and Bust

By the 1920s, Florida had a population of 968,470 people. Just five years later, it reached 1,263,540. What caused such a rise in the population?

The 1920s were called the *Roaring '20s*. It was a time when a person's wealth and success were measured by what he or she owned, and the economy was prospering. Many people had good jobs and could buy what they needed, so businesses were making money. Buying things *on credit* became popular. When you buy something on credit, you buy it now but pay for it later. People from all over the United States poured into Florida to buy land for cheap prices and then sell it for higher prices. These *land speculators* bought land to make a profit quickly. So much land was being bought in the 1920s that this period was called the *Florida Land Boom*.

During the boom, some people bought and sold land in Florida without ever coming to the state. They hired young, hard-working men and women to show their land to prospective buyers. New buyers would put a *binder* on the contract to sell the land. A binder was a non-refundable down payment for the land. The rest of the money was to be paid in thirty days. *Non-refundable* means that the buyers could not get

their money back even if there was a problem with the sale. With land prices rising quickly, many buyers planned to sell again at a profit before the end of the thirty days.

Sometimes the buyers did not have enough money to pay for the land, only just enough to pay the binder. If they resold their land for profit before the end of the thirty



Whitehall, home of Henry Morrison Flagler. HSPBC.

days, they had no problem. But if they didn't sell the land, they didn't have enough money to keep it. They lost the land as well as the binder money they had paid.

As land was bought and sold at higher prices, serious problems developed. Housing costs went up in Florida. The railway system could not transport all the building materials needed to build homes and businesses in south Florida. The land prices stopped going up, so many of the speculators could not sell their property. Suddenly,

there were thousands of acres of overpriced land without any buyers. Many landowners lost everything because they could not make the final payment for the land they had bought on a binder.

The Land Boom stopped almost as suddenly as it had started, turning the Land Boom into a Land Bust. To make matters worse, newspapers

told readers to stay away from Florida because of unethical and illegal land deals.

In addition to these problems, several natural disasters hurt Florida's economy, and the state went into a *depression*. During an economic depression, people lose their jobs and can't afford to buy what they need. In turn, businesses cannot make enough money. In October 1929, the United States went into the Great Depression when the stock market crashed.

## Henry Plant

Henry Bradley Plant is often compared to Henry Flagler. While Flagler developed the east coast of Florida, Plant developed the west coast of Florida. Plant bought a string of railroads to connect Florida with the northern United States. He also began a steamship business to trade with the islands of the Caribbean. Just as Flagler had built fancy hotels, so did Plant. Most famous was his Tampa Bay Hotel, built in 1891, which became a National Historic Landmark and the home of the Henry B. Plant Museum.

## 1928 Hurricane

Hurricanes are important to understanding Florida's history. On September 16, 1928, a great storm struck Palm Beach County, equal to a Category 4 hurricane. The deadly storm reached the shore with winds of 130 to 150 miles per hour, dropping more than eighteen inches of rain in less than twenty-four hours. This hurricane damaged almost everything in its path. The strong winds and heavy rainfall caused Lake Okeechobee to overflow and flood Belle Glade, Pahokee, South Bay, and Canal Point. The flooding and high winds killed more than 3,000 people in Palm Beach County. Yet the survivors overcame the disaster and rebuilt their cities and towns.

## Strange but True ...

Between the 1890s and 1920s, there were strict rules for women. One rule was that women could not show bare legs on the beach. They had to wear black hose under their bathing suits. There was even a male beach patrol to make sure the rules were followed.

1895

Mary McLeod Bethune establishes a school for African American girls in Daytona Beach. The school later becomes Bethune-Cookman College.

1900

Population of Florida 528,542;  
Dade County 4,955.

1905

Greek divers are brought to Tarpon Springs to exploit the sponge industry. The sponge industry is still big there today.

1909

Palm Beach County is incorporated as a municipality.



Alligator Joe at his alligator farm, Palm Beach, ca. 1900. HSPBC.

## Alligator Joe

Early visitors to Palm Beach had many activities to choose from while enjoying Florida's mild winters. The local newspaper reported available activities daily. Visitors could golf, go fishing, and bathe in the pool or surf. They could go sailing to take in the sights of Munyon's Island and the inlet. People could also visit a number of commercial tourist attractions. Among the most popular of these attractions was Alligator Joe's alligator farm. At the farm, Alligator Joe entertained the crowds with his alligator wrestling.

According to a 1903 newspaper account, Alligator Joe had "hundreds of alligators and crocodiles," and the farm was only "about a mile from Royal Poinciana grounds on [the] cycle path." Anyone desiring to walk or take a wheelchair ride could break up their trip with a stop at Joe's to visit the reptiles and the occasional manatee.

Alligator Joe, born Warren Frazee on March 1, 1873, was a native Floridian. He came to this area from Jacksonville around 1898. Pictures of him show a large man with a long, flowing mustache. One newspaper account put Joe's weight at 340 pounds. The same article also claimed that "Old Jumbo," one of Joe's alligators, was 2,000 years old and weighed 2,000 pounds. Most pictures show Joe in a wide-brim hat, with a pistol on his belt or a rifle in his hand, and alligators nearby. Close examinations of the pictures, however, reveal that some of those alligators were stuffed or newly dead.

Alligator Joe was known throughout the country. He had alligator farms or exhibitions in Chicago, Kansas City, and Denver. *The Daily Tropical Sun* reported that he employed Florida natives to manage his long-distance businesses. Joe also trapped manatees. In 1903 he sent a pair of manatees to the New York Zoological Society for display in the group's aquarium. By 1915 trapping manatees violated Florida law, but with the blessing of federal and local government officials, Joe captured one more manatee for display at the Panama Exposition in San Francisco.

In March or April of 1915, Alligator Joe filled a number of train cars with "live alligators, manatees, and game fish of the sea" for the Panama Exposition and headed for San Francisco. Unfortunately, his alligator wrestling did not prove to be a good way to keep in shape. On May 30, 1915, Warren Frazee died of illnesses related to his obesity.

### Reading Check:

1. Who was Henry Plant and what did he accomplish?

2. Refer to the "Alligator Joe" article to answer the following questions.

A. What is the least likely reason the author wrote the article?

- a. To discuss an early tourist attraction.
- b. To let readers know about Alligator Joe.
- c. To share Joe's contribution to local history.
- d. To address early wildlife preservation.

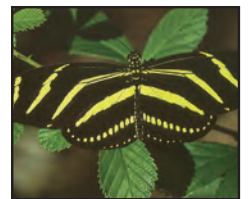
B. Which of the following is an activity mentioned in the article?

- a. Going to Disney World.
- b. Taking in the sights at Munyon Island.
- c. Driving to Sea World.
- d. All of the above.

C. What is Alligator Joe's real name?

D. What did a 1903 newspaper account say about Alligator Joe?

E. According to the article, who was Old Jumbo?



State  
Butterfly  
Zebra  
Longwing

1910

Population of Florida 752,619;  
Palm Beach County 5,577.

1913

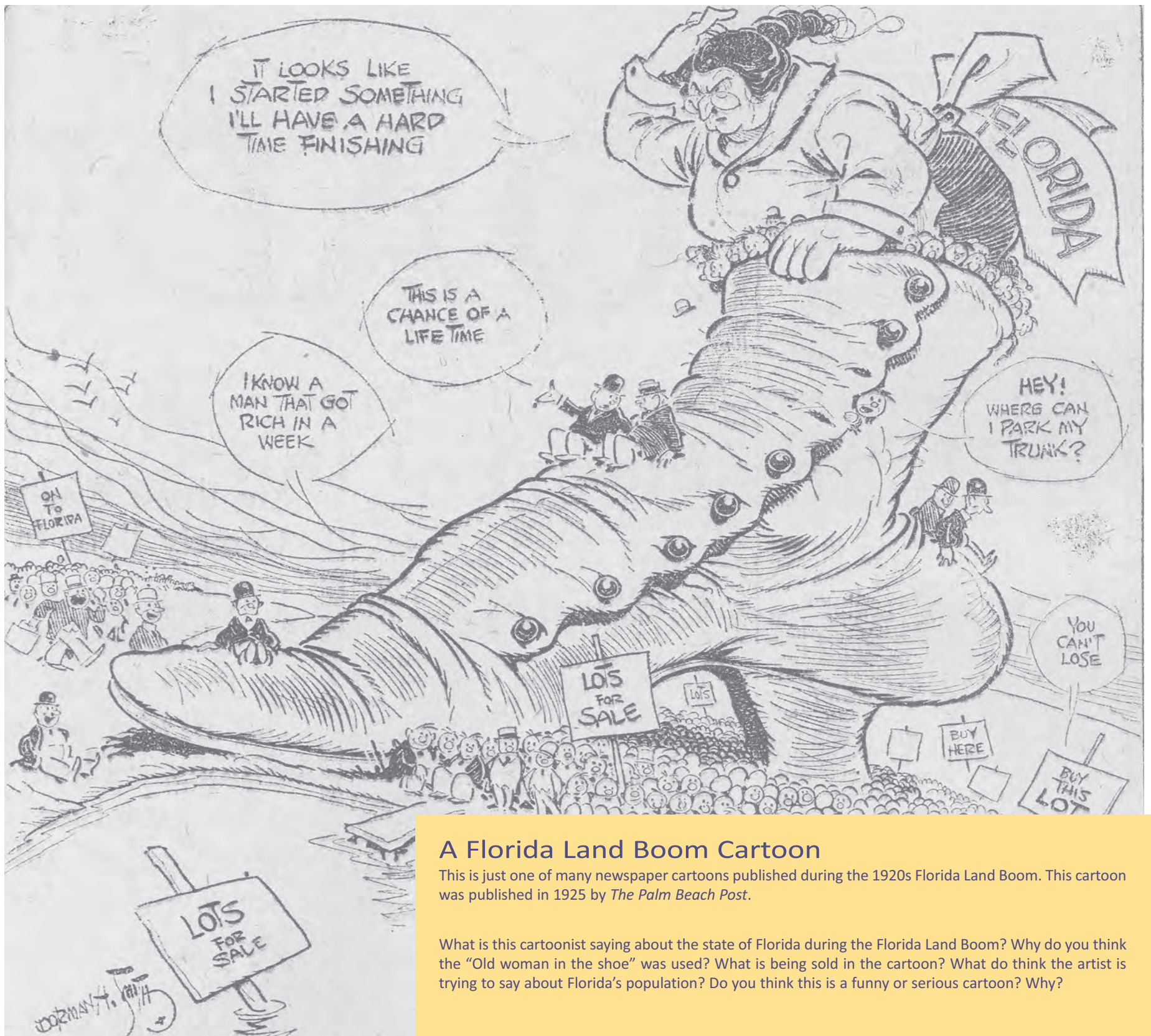
Henry M. Flagler dies in Palm  
Beach and is buried in St.  
Augustine.

1914

The first U.S. airplane passenger service  
begins from Tampa to St. Petersburg.

1914-1918

World War I; US enters the  
war in 1917.



## A Florida Land Boom Cartoon

This is just one of many newspaper cartoons published during the 1920s Florida Land Boom. This cartoon was published in 1925 by *The Palm Beach Post*.

What is this cartoonist saying about the state of Florida during the Florida Land Boom? Why do you think the "Old woman in the shoe" was used? What is being sold in the cartoon? What do you think the artist is trying to say about Florida's population? Do you think this is a funny or serious cartoon? Why?

1920

Population of Florida 968,470,  
Palm Beach County 18,654.

1923

The African American community of  
Rosewood is destroyed by whites because  
of racial unrest.

# 1926 THE GREAT DEPRESSION THROUGH WORLD WAR II 1945

## Florida in the Great Depression

The 1926 Land Bust, followed by devastating hurricanes in 1926 and 1928, eroded confidence in Florida's economy and sent it into an economic depression. In October 1929, the stock market crashed, and the entire nation went into the Great Depression, which would last until World War II. Also in 1929, Florida's citrus crops suffered from a terrible infestation of the Mediterranean fruit fly, putting more stress on the economy.

During the years of the Great Depression, Florida benefitted during the winter months from tourism and people who visited their second homes in the state. *Tin Can Tourists*, those who built their own motor homes, also visited Florida during the winter, although police checked visitors at the state border to be sure they could support themselves during their stay. Nevertheless, there was not enough income in Florida, its government had no way to provide relief work, and the state constitution forbade deficit spending. Many people had no way to earn a living.

The Florida State Racing Commission, established in 1931, legalized gambling at horse and dog racing tracks and at Jai Alai



Mini-golf in West Palm Beach across from the Comeau Building on Clematis Street, 1930s. HSPBC.

frontons, which allowed the state to earn revenue from the taxes paid by winners. However, this was not much help because people did not have much money to place bets.

When Franklin D. Roosevelt became president of the United States, he established relief organizations to put people back to work.

## The New Deal

In 1932, Franklin Delano Roosevelt ran for president, promising a *New Deal* for Americans. He said he would lower the unemployment rate and boost the economy. After his inauguration in March 1933, Roosevelt launched his *Alphabet Soup* of initiatives across the country. Two programs that helped Florida by providing jobs were the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the Works Progress Administration (WPA).

The CCC was created and brought to Florida in 1933, hiring more than 40,000 young men. They were put to work helping in many areas: establishing new state parks, and planting over thirteen million trees. When the Overseas Railroad was destroyed by



People withdraw money from a bank. Banks closed because of the Great Depression. HSPBC.

**Standards:**  
 SS.4.A.7.2 Summarize challenges Floridians faced during the Great Depression.  
 SS.4.A.7.3 Identify Florida's role in World War II.  
 SS.4.A.9.1 Utilize timelines to sequence key events in Florida history.  
 LAFS.4.RI.1.1: Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.  
 LAFS.4.RI.1.2: Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.  
 LAFS.4.W.1.2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.  
 LAFS.4.W.3.7: Conduct short research projects that build knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic.

**Reading Check:**  
 1. What did the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) do for Florida?  
 2. What occurred in October 1929?  
 3. Who was Zora Neale Hurston?  
 4. Go online and research Hurston. Write a one-page report about her and her contributions.

**As You Read:**  
 1. List and explain the various ways the people and places of Palm Beach County helped the war effort.



the 1935 Labor Day hurricane, they helped replace it with the Oversea Highway. This new road opened to vehicles in 1938, connecting Key West with the mainland; parts of it are still used today.

The WPA created about 40,000 jobs for unemployed artists, musicians, writers, researchers, and teachers. Artists created colorful paintings for libraries, post offices, and other public buildings. Writers interviewed and recorded local people

to collect history and stories. One writer, Zora Neale Hurston, was an anthropologist, folklorist, and novelist, and traveled the South collecting stories and writing about its rural areas. Veronica Hull interviewed residents of the Conch community in Riviera Beach while photographer Charles Foster took photos of the residents, and Stetson Kennedy, who later became known for his exposés on the clandestine activities of the Ku Klux Klan, recorded their songs and poetry.

In addition to these two programs, Florida's industries began to grow again, helping the state's economy. The citrus industry developed new ways to package and can fruit that allowed the fruit to stay fresh longer. Paper mills were built in several Florida cities, including Jacksonville, Panama City, and Pensacola. Finally, the aviation industry brought tourists to the state by planes; by 1939, three airlines operated in Florida. More tourists meant that more money was spent in Florida. President Roosevelt's New Deal helped Florida's economy prosper.

## World War II

World War II helped America, including Florida, recover from the Great Depression. Florida businesses produced war supplies. More than 250,000 Floridians joined the U.S. Armed Forces. The warm climate and flat land made the state a perfect place to train pilots and other soldiers. The military established bases throughout Florida,



Shipwreck off Palm Beach County after a German submarine attack. Note the lifeboats on the beach. HSPBC.

including Fort Myers, Lakeland, Vero Beach, West Palm Beach, Boca Raton, and Miami, which provided job opportunities for local civilians.

During the war, thousands of troops were stationed or trained in Florida. In 1941, Morrison Field in West Palm Beach became an army airbase. Only a year later, the army opened an airbase in Boca Raton and took over the nearby Boca Raton Club, turning it into housing for military trainees. Florida hotels were used for military housing and hospitals. The Palm Beach oceanfront hotel, The Breakers, was converted into Ream General Army Hospital to treat wounded soldiers.

In 1942, the German navy began attacks by submarines along Florida's Atlantic coast. German subs, called U-boats, torpedoed and sank or damaged ships carrying supplies to Europe. The Germans hoped their attacks would weaken the U.S war plan.

Many of the U-boat attacks came at night. German submarines saw outlines of the American ships against the bright shore lights. Residents along the coast, therefore, had to dim or hide their lights behind curtains. To slow down the German U-boats, Civil Air Patrol squadrons in Florida patrolled the coastal waters. This effort helped to stop the German attacks along Florida's coast by 1943.

While many Floridians were off fighting overseas, the rest of the residents helped with the war at home. They worked in the growing shipbuilding and farming industries. Women filled many jobs left by

men who had joined the military, working on farms and factories in record numbers. They picked crops and packaged them to be shipped to the troops. Everyone in Florida worked to help end the war. Schools held contests to see who could collect the most scrap metal or paper to support the war effort.

## Morrison Field

In 1940, the U.S. Army Air Corps, forerunner of the U.S. Air Force, established Air Transport Command at Morrison Field, which had opened in 1936 west of West Palm Beach. The army added barracks and other buildings, and a hangar for 3,000 soldiers who would be stationed there during the coming war.

More than 45,000 troops either trained at or flew out of West Palm Beach for destinations around the world, including for the invasion of Normandy, France, on D-Day. As many as 250 women from the Women's Army Corps (WAC) also served at Morrison Field. The 313th Material Squadron from Miami Municipal Airport moved to Morrison Field in 1942 to handle air cargo and maintain the airport and its aircraft. A thousand men worked around the clock to overhaul, repair, and test aircraft before returning them to service.

Military aircraft flew between Morrison Field and India, from which they made trips to China. This trip over the Himalayan Mountains, nicknamed "flying the hump," took over two weeks each way. The planes made stops in Puerto Rico, British Guinea, and Brazil before crossing the 1,428 miles of ocean to Ascension Island. From there, they stopped in Liberia, then flew up the west coast of Africa and across the Sahara Desert to French Morocco in North Africa, and on to India. Military secrecy demanded that Palm Beach County's civilians had little idea of the importance of this command until after it was deactivated in 1947.

The Army Air Force established the 1st Air Weather Group at Morrison Field in 1946 to administer, train, equip, and organize the four squadrons that gathered weather information that

1929

U.S. Sugar Corporation begins operations in the Everglades.

1930

Population of Florida 1,468,211; Palm Beach County 51,781.

1933

David Sholtz is elected Florida's first Jewish governor.

Guiseppe Zangara attempted to assassinate President-elect Roosevelt in Miami; Mayor Anton Cermak of Chicago is killed.

were then assigned to the Air Weather Service; it had started its first squadron in Ohio in 1942. The 55th Squadron flew a B-29 over a hurricane for the first time from Morrison Field on October 7, 1946, with three photographers and a public relations officer on board to cover the event.

Morrison Field was deactivated in June 1947 and returned to Palm Beach County's control. A year later, county commissioners voted to rename the facility *Palm Beach International Airport*, even though the community had mixed feelings about losing the name that held historical significance, and that thousands of former servicemen and women might choose to revisit.

From 1951 to 1953, part of the airport served again as an air force base, where 23,000 airmen trained during the Korean War. The base was deactivated in 1959 and returned to Palm Beach County once again. As air traffic has increased, the airport has been expanded to accommodate travelers. As a memorial to its service as a military base, the airport dedicated a new terminal in 1988 to U.S. Navy Commander David McCampbell (1910-1996), a lifelong resident of Palm Beach County and World War II flying ace who received the Congressional Medal of Honor.

## Boca Raton Army Air Field

By the time World War II began, both the U.S. Navy and the Army Signal Corps had developed techniques for air and ground *radar* (an acronym for radio detection and ranging). A radar post in the hills above Pearl Harbor spotted the Japanese attack in December 1941 but could not alert the main forces in time. The Signal Corps opened a radar school at Camp Murphy, now Jonathan Dickinson State Park in Martin County, and the Army

Air Corps wanted a similar site nearby. They considered Vero Beach, but after campaigning by Boca Raton's then mayor Jonas C. "Joe" Mitchell, the Air Corps' Radio School No. 2 opened (No. 1 was in Illinois), on land that would become the site of Florida Atlantic University and Boca Raton Airport.

About fifty owners of property totaling more than 5,820 acres, including the Town of Boca Raton and the Lake Worth Drainage District, were forced to sell their land to the U.S. government under the Second War Purposes Act. As explained in the *Miami Herald* on May 17, 1942, owners were notified "to vacate immediately all the land west of the railroad at Boca Raton. No financial offer has been made by the government to the owners of the land, but an appraisal is being made." Some people reportedly resisted being moved from their land or felt officials treated them unfairly. In addition to legal owners, about forty African American families that were *squatters* in the neighborhood of 40th Street had to move. Squatters are people who reside on property that they do not own, which is illegal.

Boca Raton Army Air Field officially opened on October 12, 1942. The army constructed more than 800 buildings and four runways, where B-17 pilots trained and airplanes came from all over to have radar installed. Cadets sometimes spent up to twenty hours per day on academic and military training to learn engineering, aerodynamics, and communications. After finishing their education at Yale University, these cadets were commissioned officers.

The Air Corps also took over the luxurious Boca Raton Club to house trainees and officers attending the radar



African American soldiers of the 99th Platoon, Morrison Field, 1942-1945. HSPBC.

training school. Conditions were anything but elegant, however. The expensive furnishings had been replaced by standard army bunks housing eight to a room, and poor water pressure made bathing difficult, but no excuse was allowed in completing the rigorous schedule. When the club became too crowded, officials turned the grounds, including the golf course, into a tent camp.

African American soldiers were segregated in Squadron F. Their housing, meals, training, and recreation were all separate from those of the white soldiers.

Although Boca Raton's population was only 723 in 1940, during the war years it increased by 30,000 servicemen and women, civilian employees, and their families. Over 100,000 troops passed through Boca Raton for training or *en route* to service in the Pacific or Europe. The activity created a boom for the area, as Boca Raton residents could not fill all the needs of the military alone. In 1944 the Boca Raton Club was returned to its owner and reopened as the Boca Raton Hotel and Club. The Boca Raton Army Air Field operated until 1947, when it closed.

### Reading Check:

1. What does POW stand for?
2. What school was at Boca Raton Army Air Field?
3. The word *radar* is an acronym. What does it stand for?
4. When did Morrison Field open?

### Short Answer:

1. Why did the prisoners at Belle Glade POW Camp go on strike?
2. What kind of work did the prisoners-of-war do?
3. Explain what "flying the hump" was.

### Think About It:

1. Why did the government take away people's land to build Boca Raton Army Air Field?
2. Why do you think African American soldiers were segregated from the white troops?
3. An airplane from the 55th Squadron, 1st Air Weather Group, made a special flight in October 1946. What kind of airplane was it and what did it do for the first time?

1935

Florida Keys Labor Day Hurricane destroys Flagler's Oversea Railroad to Key West and kills hundreds.

1940

Population of Florida 1,897,414; Palm Beach County 79,989.

1941 - 1945  
World War II.

## Belle Glade POW Camp

During World War II, the War Manpower Commission called for prisoner-of-war (POW) camps to be established in some states to fill the labor shortage caused by the draft. More than 9,000 German prisoners were sent to Camp Blanding near Starke, Florida. From there, the POWs were assigned to one of the twenty-two camps in the state. From March to December 1945, after picking oranges in the Orlando area, about 250 POWs were sent to a camp just east of Belle Glade, next to the Everglades Experiment Station. Another camp was located at Clewiston in Hendry County.

The prisoners and camp guards ate the same food, as required by the Geneva Convention. Years later some of the guards reported having had a mutual respect and camaraderie with many of their captives. Two weeks after arriving, however, the prisoners initiated a strike when their cigarette rations were



World War II ace, U.S. Navy Commander David McCampbell. Courtesy Florida State Archives.

reduced. Because Americans were beginning to hear about Nazi concentration camps at that time, national attention and congressional reactions led to thirty-nine “troublemakers” being returned to Camp Blanding. Strikers were restricted to bread and water until they returned to work.

Many POWs worked in a bean-canning factory or helped to build the Lake Okeechobee Dike. Others harvested sugarcane from before 8 a.m. to about 3 p.m., for which they were paid eighty cents a day. County agricultural agent Marvin V. “Red” Mounts sometimes had to convince local farmers to hire the Germans. While temperatures over 100 degrees and snakes often made the fieldwork miserable, many of the Germans enjoyed hunting snakes to make souvenirs from their skins.

When the Belle Glade camp closed, its flagpole was given to American Legion Post #20 at 101 S.E. Avenue D in Belle Glade.



Morrison Field in West Palm Beach during World War II. Right: Grace Morrison was one of the first local women interested in aviation and took flying lessons at Belvedere Field, where she made her first solo flight in 1932. Afterwards, Grace joined the Palm Beach County Airport Association and became its president. She led the way in getting a modern airport built in Palm Beach County. In September 1936, before the airport officially opened, she was killed in a traffic accident near Titusville, Florida. When the airport was dedicated on December 19, 1936, it was named Morrison Field in her honor.



Left: An aerial view of Boca Raton Army Air Field in 1942. It was the largest air field in Palm Beach County during the war. Courtesy USAF Historical Research Department, Maxwell AFB.

1942

Four German saboteurs are captured in Florida.

1942 - 1943

German U-boats attack cargo and supply ships off Florida's east coast.



# 1946 POST-WORLD WAR II TO PRESENT 2018

## Florida's Population

After World War II, the population of Florida and Palm Beach County grew quickly. Many of the soldiers stationed here during World War II saw Florida as a land of opportunity and moved here after the war. As a result, Florida experienced a second land boom, which started in the 1950s and has not stopped. There have been, however, several periods when the economy slowed down but recovered a few years later. The most recent slowdown was in 2007, when the real estate and banking industries crashed.

The state population nearly doubled from 1950 (2,771,305) to 1960 (4,951,560). The rise in population required more industry, agriculture, recreation, and housing. Every ten years, Florida becomes home to at least two million more people. Such growth requires additional resources.

As more people move to Florida, the population becomes more diverse, which means a variety of people who have different languages and cultures. Europeans, Asians, West Indians, and Hispanics have become a large part of our culture. Since World War II, Florida has also become home to a large population of immigrants from Cuba and Haiti.

In 2014 the U.S. Census Bureau reported that Florida was the third most populated state, having surpassed New York. Only California and Texas have more residents. The population figure—nearly twenty million—does not include snowbirds. These are the people who live in Florida only during the warm winter months.

## Palm Beach County's Diverse Population

During the 1870s and 1880s, some of the pioneers were African Americans who came to the Lake Worth region seeking a better life. In the 1890s, many people came to work on Henry Flagler's railroad and hotels. He also established West Palm Beach, which attracted more people looking for

good jobs and better housing. Among those following Flagler were European immigrants and African Americans.

In the early twentieth century, Japanese settlers were enticed by Flagler's Model Land Company to establish an agricultural community. This colony, Yamato, was located between Delray Beach and Boca Raton.

Hispanics have been making their homes here for at least a hundred years and are the county's fastest growing population. But it was not until after World War II that the permanent population of Palm Beach County exploded. People came to the area from all around the globe, and they are still doing so today.

## African Americans

By the late nineteenth century, a small population of African Americans lived on Lake Worth. When Henry Flagler started building in Palm Beach, people of many races came to work in the hotels and on the railroad. One of the earliest communities for the workers was in Palm Beach, an African

	<b>Florida</b>	<b>PBC</b>
1910	752,619	5,557
1920	968,470	18,654
1930	1,468,211	51,781
1940	1,897,414	79,989
1950	2,771,305	114,688
1960	4,951,560	228,106
1970	6,791,418	348,993
1980	9,746,324	576,758
1990	12,937,926	863,365
2000	15,982,378	1,131,191
2010	18,801,310	1,320,134

**Standards:**  
 SS.4.A.6.2 Summarize contributions immigrant groups made to Florida.  
 SS.4.A.8.2 Describe how and why immigration impacts Florida today.  
 SS.4.A.8.4 Explain how tourism affects Florida's economy and growth;  
 SS.4.A.9.1 Utilize timelines to sequence key events in Florida history.  
 LAFS.4.RI.1.1: Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.  
 LAFS.4.RI.1.2: Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.  
 LAFS.4.RI.2.6: Compare and contrast a firsthand and secondhand account of the same event or topic; describe the differences in focus and the information provided.  
 LAFS.4.W.1.2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.  
 LAFS.4.W.1.3: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.  
 LAFS.4.SL.2.4: Report on a topic or text, tell a story, or recount an experience in an organized manner, using appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details to support main ideas or themes; speak clearly at an understandable pace.  
 MAFS.4.NBT.2.4: Fluently add and subtract multi-digit whole numbers using the standard algorithm.

<p>1947 Everglades National Park is established.</p>	<p>1950 Population of Florida 2,771,305; Palm Beach County 114,688.</p>	<p>1953 Largest migration of Puerto Ricans to the U.S. mainland, with 69,124 emigrating to Florida, New York, and New Jersey.</p>	<p>1955 Construction begins on Florida's Turnpike.</p>
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**Reading Check:**

1. What is Florida's rank in population in the U.S.?

2. Make a list of names and occupations of the African Americans mentioned in this section.

3. Look at the Population Chart. In which decade did Palm Beach County have the most population growth? In which decade did Florida have the least population growth?

**As You Read:**

1. In the text, highlight the names of the groups that are part of Palm Beach County's diverse population.

American community called the Styx.

In Greek mythology, the River Styx leads to the underworld. In Palm Beach, the Styx existed from the early 1890s to the early 1900s as home for many of Flagler's workers. Several men owned parts of the land occupied by the Styx. According to a local legend, Flagler once owned the Styx property, but this is not true. In the early twentieth century, Edward and John Bradley bought the land to develop. Because the residents paid rent and

did not own the land, they moved to West Palm Beach. Many of them bought land and built homes in the Northwest District, Freshwater District, and Pleasant City neighborhoods.

Some African Americans worked on the railroad, some helped build hotels, and still others

ran their own businesses. One businessman was Haley Mickens, who ran a wheelchair business in Palm Beach. Mickens was also a founder of the Payne Chapel A.M.E. Church, which is now located in West Palm Beach.

African Americans also lived in other communities in Palm Beach County. In Riviera Beach, Will Melton and the Gildersleeve family settled in the 1880s and 1890s. In the 1890s, African American farmers settled in present-day Boynton Beach. Some of Delray Beach's settlers had come to work on Flagler's railroad as it moved south. They settled in neighborhoods known as Green's Corner, Hannah Town, and Davis Town. These early African American communities were located near today's Atlantic Avenue.

In the 1920s, wealthy African Americans lived in the Freshwater District of West Palm Beach. Local African American contractors built most of the houses there. Hazel Augustus, thought to be West Palm Beach's first African American architect, designed many of the houses and churches in Freshwater. He designed his own home at 615 Division Street.

African American professionals came to West Palm Beach to set up their own offices. They worked as doctors, dentists, and pharmacists. Dr. Thomas LeRoy Jefferson was the first African American doctor



Fishing off the coast of Palm Beach County. HSPBC.

to come to West Palm Beach. Dr. Warren Hale Collie, a veteran of World War I, was one of the first African American dentists to practice in the county. In 1933, Dr. Joseph Wiley Jenkins moved to West Palm Beach, where he and his wife, Roberta, opened the Economical Drug Store at the corner of Fourth Street and Rosemary Avenue. Roberta designed their dream home on Virginia Avenue, which is now Division Avenue. In 1996, the City of West Palm Beach bought this house and preserved it. It is now the home of the Artists Showcase of the Palm Beaches.

In 2016, Bradley G. Harper became the first African American elected as a county judge without first having been appointed by the governor. Judge Harper is a sixth-generation native of Palm Beach County, a great-great-great-grandson of Millie Gildersleeve. Harper graduated from Morehouse College and University of Florida College of Law. A practicing attorney, he also is active in the community, and founded the Blueprint Leadership Program and Boyz to Men Mentoring Program to expose children to the justice system and local history and to train students to be leaders.

Throughout the years, other African Americans

The west end of Royal Park Bridge during a hurricane in 1949. HSPBC



1957

The Seminole tribe is legally incorporated.

1959

Busch Gardens theme park opens.

1960

Population of Florida 4,951,560; Palm Beach County 228,106.

1961

An assassination attempt fails on President-elect John F. Kennedy in Palm Beach.

have played important roles in the history and development of Palm Beach County. Many are prominent business owners who provide needed jobs and are involved in politics at the local, state, and national levels. Their history and continued contributions are important to the past, present, and future development of Palm Beach County and Florida.

## The Yamato Colony

The Yamato Colony was an agricultural settlement of Japanese farmers brought to north Boca Raton by Joseph Sakai, who worked for Flagler's Model Land Company. They called the land that they settled *Yamato*, an ancient name for Japan meaning *large peaceful country*. At first, the colony focused on growing pineapples because the farmers could sell the fruit for high prices. They also grew citrus and vegetables. Pineapple farming ended when the fruit was destroyed by disease and cheaper pineapples from the Caribbean made it unprofitable to grow them in Florida.

By World War II, most of the Yamato colonists had returned to Japan or moved to other states. The colony ended when the few remaining farmers were forced to leave during World War II because some of their land was needed for an army base. Yamato Road in Boca Raton is named in honor of this community of Japanese farmers.

## Hispanics of Palm Beach County

Hispanics are the fastest-growing part of the population, not only in Palm Beach County but in the entire nation. Between 1980 and 2010, the number of Hispanics in the county grew from 28,505 to 250,832. Cubans, Puerto Ricans, and Mexicans are still in the majority, but immigrants from Central and South American countries are on the rise.

Large groups of Mexicans and Guatemalans live in Lake Worth, and there is a large Guatemalan community in Jupiter. Although the Guatemalan Maya are usually grouped with Hispanics, the Maya are Native Americans and are of Mayan descent. They speak one of the many Mayan-language dialects. Puerto Ricans make up a large part of the Hispanic population in West Palm Beach, and also live in other communities throughout the county.

The Hispanic/Latin community is steadily making in-roads in all aspects of life in Palm Beach County. They own and operate their own businesses. Many work as lawyers, doctors, and in the service and agricultural industries.

In 1991, Nancy Perez was appointed the county's first Hispanic American judge. As the twenty-first century progresses, Hispanics and Latinos will take other leading roles in the development of Palm Beach County.



Joseph Bernadel joined the U.S. Army in 1975 after immigrating to the United States from Haiti. In 1997, Bernadel retired after serving twenty-two years in the military. He speaks five languages: Creole, English, Portuguese, Spanish, and French. In 2001, he co-founded the Toussaint L'Ouverture High School for the Arts & Social Justice in Delray Beach. Bernadel became the first Haitian American in the U.S. to found a public school. Courtesy Joseph Bernadel.

## The Haitian American Community

In small and large numbers, Haitian immigrants have come to Palm Beach County since before 1980, seeking a better life than on their island. Since 1980 there have been three waves of migration. (1) In 1986, at the end of the Duvalier regime, many settled in Delray Beach, Boca Raton, and Boynton Beach. (2) In 1991, another mass migration took place. (3) After the devastating 2010 earthquake in Haiti, many more natives moved to Florida.

One particular subdivision in Delray Beach called Osceola Park has been the home of Haitian Americans since 1980. Many Haitians have opened businesses in downtown Delray Beach. Many of them come from agricultural backgrounds and have found jobs in the farming areas of Palm Beach County. Delray Beach has the largest Haitian population in the United States. In 2013, it was estimated at 95,000.

Mack Bernard, born in Haiti, graduated from Florida State University and University of Florida College of Law. In 2008 he served as deputy vice-mayor and a city commissioner of Delray Beach. A year later he was elected to the Florida House of Representatives and served as president of the Palm Beach County Caucus of Black Elected Officials. In 2016 he became



### Reading Check:

1. Where did the people of the Yamato Colony come from? What happened to them?
2. Where is the largest Haitian population in the United States?
3. What types of contributions have people of Jewish heritage made in Palm Beach County?

### Map Skill:

1. Using a world map, identify the countries that the different Hispanic groups are coming from.

### Add It Up:

1. What is the difference between the number of Jews in Palm Beach County in 1950 compared to 1980?

### Imagine That:

1. Write a fictional story about the Pioneer Era with either Lillie Pierce Voss or Susan DuBois as one of the main characters.



State Reptile  
**Alligator**



State Marine Mammal  
**Manatee**

1962

The Miccosukee tribe is legally incorporated.

1964

Martin Luther King Jr. leads civil rights demonstration in St. Augustine.

1967

Betty Mae Tiger Jumper of the Seminole tribe becomes one of the nation's first women to lead a Native American tribe.

1968

Joe Lang Kershaw is first African American elected to the Florida Legislature since Reconstruction.

## Palm Beach County Facts

### Population:

2010: 1,320,194

### Estimated Population:

2015: 1,364,402

**Size:** 2,228 sq. mi.

(land 1,997 sq. mi.;  
water 251 sq. mi.)

### County established:

1909; 47th county in  
Florida

### Municipalities: 39

1st: West Palm Beach,  
1894

39th: Westlake, 2016

### Largest Municipalities:

1. West Palm Beach
2. Boca Raton
3. Boynton Beach

### Smallest Municipalities:

Briny Breezes and Cloud  
Lake, both at .06 of a  
square mile

### County Seat:

West Palm Beach

the first African American male and Haitian American elected to the Palm Beach County Commission. Bernard, an attorney, is also active in community organizations, including the Toussaint L'Ouverture High School for Arts & Social Justice and the Color of Hope Foundation. In just over thirty years, Haitians have become an integral part of the county's cultural landscape.

## Palm Beach County's Jewish Heritage

Jews have been settling in Florida since the late eighteenth century. For much of the early years, they lived in north Florida and Key West. When railroads opened up south Florida, they also moved here. The recorded history of Jews in Palm Beach County dates to at least the early 1890s, when Henry Flagler began to develop the area. When West Palm Beach incorporated, businessmen of Jewish descent opened shops in the new town. Their stores sold everything from clothing to hardware.

Jews have made other contributions to the county. In West Palm Beach, the residents elected Joseph Mendel, the city's first Jewish mayor, in 1923. The Jewish community founded its own newspaper in the 1930s. Others have served in various leadership roles, including mayor and city and county commissioner. For many years, Jews have been involved in helping communities in the county. They have donated millions of dollars to support many cultural arts organizations. They also have supported educational institutions and agencies providing help to the less fortunate.

The Jewish population in Palm Beach County remained small from the 1890s until after World War II. In 1940 the county's Jewish residents numbered about a thousand, a very close-knit community. They often came together for social and religious events. Following the war, there was a surge of Jewish migration to south Florida, primarily to Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties. By 1950, the Jewish



Oyster shell columns at the entrance to Lantana, 1920s. HSPBC.

## F. Malcolm Cunningham Sr.

1927-1976

F. Malcolm Cunningham was a graduate of Florida A & M University and Howard University (Washington, DC), where he earned his law degree. In 1953 he opened a law practice in West Palm Beach. Nine years later, Cunningham was the first African American elected to the Riviera Beach City Council; he was reelected twice before retiring from public office. Cunningham was also involved in the civil rights movement, fighting for equal rights for African Americans. He was a founding member of the Virgil Hawkins Florida Chapter of the National Bar Association. The F. Malcolm Cunningham Sr. Bar Association is named for him. His son F. Malcolm Cunningham Jr. followed in his father's footsteps as an attorney.

## Joseph Mendel

Joseph Mendel was born in Albany, New York, on November 17, 1866. His doctor recommended that he live in a better climate for his health, so in 1908 he moved to Florida. In 1923, he was elected to the West Palm Beach City Commission, which eventually appointed him as mayor. With the appointment, Mendel became the first Jewish mayor of West Palm Beach. After his public service, Mendel became involved with banking and real estate.



These little automobiles were driven in races in Palm Beach. They were called "Red Bugs," 1919. HSPBC.

1969

Apollo XI lifts off from  
Cape Canaveral to land  
on the moon.

1970

Gwendolyn Sawyer Cherry is the  
first African American woman  
elected to the Florida House of  
Representatives.

Population of Florida  
6,789,443; Palm Beach  
County 348,993.

1971

Disney World opens.

1980

Mass migration of Cuban refugees  
peaks. Paula Hawkins is Florida's first  
woman elected to serve in the U.S.  
Senate. Population of Florida 9,746,324;  
Palm Beach County 576,758.

population had grown to about 3,000 in Palm Beach County. Thirty years later, it had risen to 89,000, and by 2012, to about 255,000. The combined populations of Palm Beach, Broward, and Miami-Dade counties make southeast Florida the second largest Jewish population in the U.S., totaling over 700,000 people.



Lillie Pierce Voss. HSPBC.

## Pioneering Women of Palm Beach County

Women as well as men helped to shape Palm Beach County. A few of the pioneering women were Lillie Pierce Voss, Susan Sanders DuBois, Eva Williams Mack, Nancy Perez, and Catherine Link Strong.

In 1876, H. D. Pierce's daughter, Lillie, was born at the Orange Grove House of Refuge. She lived in the south end of the county all her life. Her mother taught her to read and write, but she admitted that no one could teach her "figures" (math).

Lillie grew up as a tomboy. As an adult, she wore a pistol on her hip so she could shoot rattlesnakes on her property. One day in the 1920s, the sheriff warned Lillie to stay inside because the Ashley Gang—known for robbing banks and trains—was rumored to be in the area. That didn't scare Lillie Pierce Voss. She grabbed her shotgun and sat in a chair in the middle of the road, determined to protect her property.

Another young woman, Susan Sanders, came to Florida in 1897 at the age of twenty-one. Her first teaching assignment was west of Stuart, where the school was held in an 8-by-10-foot palm-thatched hut. It had a dirt floor and benches along the sides for the students. Sanders was paid \$40 per month, from which she paid \$10 per month for room and board while living with a family of seven and two male boarders. The house had only one room, with a bed in each corner and one in the middle. Sanders shared a bed with the family's daughter. The daughter and mother shared a pair of shoes. The men in the family went barefoot. Most important though, the children received an education.

The School Board eventually transferred Sanders to the school in Jupiter, where she met John DuBois. After they were married, Susan used her salary to buy a cow, a dozen hens, and an old rooster. Her husband built them a three-room house atop the

shell midden that Jonathan Dickinson had visited when he was shipwrecked in the 1690s. The house is still there and is open to the public.

The DuBoises cleared land for a large garden and grew pineapples as a cash crop. They had several children, so they had to add on to the house. Susan said they never went hungry because she always had eggs, fresh vegetables from her garden, and fish.

Eva Williams Mack (1915-1998) was born in Alabama. She earned a nursing degree at Simmons College in Boston, trained in Atlanta, and earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Columbia University. After completing her education, Mack moved to West Palm Beach in 1948 and worked as a public health nurse with Dr. Carl Brumback, Palm Beach County's first public health director.



Eva Williams Mack. HSPBC.

Mack was the first health specialist for the Palm Beach County School Board, and founded the Sickle Cell Disease Foundation of Palm Beach County in 1979. A year earlier, she and Ruby Bullock became the first African American city commissioners of West Palm Beach. Mack was elected, the first African American mayor of West Palm Beach, in 1982 and served two terms of one year each.

Judge Nancy Perez (1953-) was one of eleven children of Puerto Rican migrant farm workers. She was born near Buffalo, New York, because her mother was picking strawberries and cherries there at the time. Nancy started work picking tomatoes in New Jersey at the age of eleven. Then her father decided his children could move beyond migrant farming with education, and relocated the family to the Fort Myers area. The children no longer missed school to pick crops. Most of them graduated from high school, and four earned college degrees.



Nancy Perez. HSPBC.

With an excellent academic record, Nancy received scholarships that put her through Edison Community College and Florida State University, where she received a bachelor's degree in business and accounting in 1975. She went on to law school in part, she said later, to improve the treatment of migrant workers that she had seen first-hand. Perez worked for the Migrant Farm Workers Division of Georgia Legal Services before becoming a supervisor for the Association of Migrant



Mr. and Mrs. Alfonso Fanjul on Worth Avenue. HSPBC.

## The Fanjul Family

One of the largest sugar cane growers in Palm Beach County is the Fanjul family. The island of Cuba used to be a large supplier of sugar to the United States. Then Fidel Castro took control of Cuba and established a Communist government. The United States was against communism and stopped buying sugar from Cuba. The Fanjul family came to the United States when their sugar cane farms were taken over by the Cuban government. They started growing sugar cane on a few thousand acres in the Glades. By 2000, the Fanjuls were growing sugar on thousands of acres. Their company also was growing rice as a rotation crop. The family has about 3,000 employees, owns several sugar mills, and owns companies in the Dominican Republic.

1982

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen is the first Hispanic woman elected to the Florida Legislature.

1987

Bob Martinez becomes the first Hispanic American governor of Florida.

1990

Population of Florida 12,937,926; Palm Beach County 836,365.

1992

Hurricane Andrew causes \$30 billion in damages in south Florida, the most costly hurricane in U.S. history. Carrie P. Meek is the first African American woman elected to the Florida Senate. Janet Reno is the first woman appointed U.S. attorney.

## Palm Beach County Facts

**Coastline:** 45 miles, mostly beaches

**Oldest Structure:**

Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse, 1860

**Major Billion-Dollar Industries:**

**Tourism and Agriculture:** Tourists contribute more than \$1.5 billion to the county per year.

**Agriculture:** \$1.42 billion in sales for 2010-2011

**Acreage dedicated to agriculture:** 461,000 acres

**Largest Employer:**

School District of Palm Beach County, with about 20,000 employees

**Largest Lake:**

Lake Okeechobee, 730 sq. mi. or 467,200 acres

Associations in Tallahassee. After passing the Florida Bar in 1983, Perez worked as an assistant public defender in West Palm Beach. She began serving as a judge in 1991, becoming the first Hispanic American judge in Palm Beach County.

Catherine Strong (1911-1963) was born Catherine Elizabeth Link in New York and moved to Delray Beach with her family about 1920, when her father was a craftsman with Mizner Industries. In 1923, he became general contractor for Del-Ida Park and built the family home there, at N.E. Second Avenue and Dixie Boulevard. When she was sixteen, Catherine played trombone in the Women's Business Band; at eighteen, she married Samuel F. Stanton of West Palm Beach. She returned to Delray Beach and married Milton J. "Jack" Strong in 1939.

Strong was the first woman in Palm Beach County to be called for jury duty, in January 1950. She started as a clerk at Delray Beach City Hall and was elected to the city commission three times, from 1953 to 1957, moving officials to change the title *city councilman* to *city commissioner* to resolve the gender issue. Elected mayor in 1954, she initiated the recruitment of light industry to Delray. As mayor and commissioner, Strong was

consistently a minority voice helping the black community receive fair treatment; in 1956 she successfully fought an attempt to change the city limits aimed at eliminating all black neighborhoods.

Strong was honored with her name in three places: a wing at Bethesda Memorial Hospital, where she had served on the founding board; a community center in Delray Beach; and a fountain at Delray Beach Memorial Gardens.

These pioneering women made a difference in Palm Beach County. They may seem ordinary, but they provided stability to the growing community. Many other women have made, and will continue to make, positive differences in Palm Beach County.

### Modern Economy

Florida's economy changed following World War II. Many types of industries have employed thousands of Florida residents, including tourism, agriculture, construction, real estate, and services. In recent years, the fields of aeronautics, computers, plastics, and medical research have been added to that roster.

Tourism provides more than 600,000 jobs in the state. Each year, popular tourist sites bring nearly fifty million visitors to Florida. Fun places such as Walt Disney World and other Orlando theme parks attract many vacationers. Cities like Miami Beach, St. Augustine, and Tampa also bring crowds. Do not forget the seemingly endless miles of beaches that attract vacationers. Tourists spend billions of

dollars on shopping, entertainment, and outdoor activities.

The U.S. space program run by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) operates at the Kennedy Space Center on Cape Canaveral. NASA has launched satellites and spacecraft, and sent space shuttles into space to do scientific research. The space program provides many jobs and adds nearly a billion dollars each year to the state economy.

The agricultural industry has continued to earn money for Florida. Modern machines make planting, harvesting, and processing farm products quicker and easier. Florida's agricultural products include citrus, cattle, dairy products, poultry, vegetables, and sugar cane. In this state, about one out of every six people works in agriculture.



State Freshwater Fish  
Largemouth Bass



Traffic congestion is an example of the stress placed on resources due to rapidly growing population. Photo: The Palm Beach Post.

**Short Answer:**

1. List some of Florida's modern industries.

**Map Skill:**

1. Using a map of Florida, find Cape Canaveral.

**Think About and Discuss:**

1. How will residents of Palm Beach County and Florida deal with continued growth?

**Reading Check:**

1. Who are the Fanjuls? Where are they from? What kind of business do they operate? What crops do they grow?

2000

Because of ballot irregularities, Palm Beach County plays a pivotal role in U.S. presidential election. Population of Florida 15,982,378; Palm Beach County 1,131,191.

2004

Hurricane Charley strikes Gulf Coast, central and northeast Florida. Within weeks, Hurricanes Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne strike Florida. The last time four hurricanes hit Florida so close together was in 1964.

2005

Hurricane Wilma strikes Palm Beach County.

2010

Population of Florida 18,801,310; Palm Beach County 1,320,134.

## Palm Beach County Today and in the Future

Many cultures work and live in Palm Beach County, providing diversity that makes south Florida an exciting place. Everyone has the opportunity to learn from people of different backgrounds. There are 191 countries worldwide, and 151 of them are represented in the schools of Palm Beach County. These students speak 135 languages.

What does the twenty-first century hold for Palm Beach County and Florida? According to statistics, 21,511 new residents moved into Palm Beach County in 2013-2014. That calculates into 1793 people a month, 413 people a week, or 59 people a day. This growth stresses the county's supply of natural resources—water, land, air, and wildlife—and government services, such as emergency services, health care, roads, government, and waste disposal.

When people move west, it puts stress on farmlands and what is left of the Everglades. Eventually, there will be no land on which to build. Development also ruins the natural habitats that provide homes for the variety of wildlife living in the county. In some cases, new construction erases the historical past of Palm Beach County. A greater demand for water is using up the fresh water supply that is already limited. More automobiles will continue to crowd the busy roads, leading to more construction of roadways and greater amounts of air pollution. Waste disposal becomes a huge concern. What do we do with all our trash? The next generation of voters will need to make educated decisions about these issues. These decisions will make a difference for future residents and visitors to Palm Beach County and Florida.

In the future, how will students view the county's next hundred years of history? What will your role have been to preserve the environment and the history of Palm Beach County?



## Florida Fast Facts

Total Area  
58,560 square miles

Total Land Area  
54,252 square miles

Total Water Area  
4,308 square miles

Length  
North to South  
447 miles  
(St. Mary's River to Key West)

Width  
East to West  
361 miles  
(Atlantic Ocean to Perdido River)

Highest Natural Point in Florida  
345 feet, near Lakewood in northeast Walton County  
Coastline  
1,197 statute miles

Beaches  
663 miles

Longest River  
St. John's, 273 miles

Largest Lake  
Okeechobee,  
730 square miles

Largest County  
Palm Beach,  
2,248 square miles

Smallest County  
Union,  
245 square miles

### Standards:

**SS.4.A.1.2:** Synthesize information related to Florida history through print and electronic media. **SS.4.A.1.In.b:** Use print and electronic media to collect information about Florida history. **SS.4.A.1.Su.b:** Use print and electronic media to identify information about Florida history. **SS.4.A.1.Pa.b:** Use technology to access information about Florida. **LAFS.4.RI.3.9:** Integrate information from two texts on the same topic in order to write or speak about the subject knowledgeably. **LAFS.4.W.3.7:** Conduct short research projects that build knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic.

## The Everglades

The distinctive Everglades is the largest subtropical wetland in North America. Formed between 5,000 and 6,000 years ago, it once covered over eight million acres, or much of south Florida reaching into present-day Palm Beach County. Before humans began draining the wetlands of south Florida, the Everglades was fed by water flowing south from the Kissimmee River into Lake Okeechobee. Water then overflowed the lake's southern shore, creating a sheet of slow-moving water over low-lying land that slopes less than two inches per mile. The sheet of water continued moving southward for about a hundred miles, eventually emptying into Florida Bay, Ten Thousand Islands, and Biscayne Bay.

The Everglades is a combination of sawgrass marshes, cypress swamps, prairies, ponds, sloughs, pinelands, and forest hammocks. It is a balanced yet fragile ecosystem that includes mammals, a variety of birds, fish, reptiles including alligators and crocodiles, insects, microorganisms, and plants. The introduction of invasive species, like the python, is endangering the ecosystem.

In the late 1800s, man began draining the land for agriculture and for living space. Large-scale draining efforts in the following century seriously affected the Everglades and other wetlands, destroying at least 50% of them in south Florida. Because of the drainage, the water flow that is important to the Everglades has been interrupted. Water is now drained from Lake Okeechobee through the Caloosahatchee River and St. Lucia Canal systems, then south to Florida and Biscayne bays through a system of canals and water management areas.

As the once vast wetland shrank, the Everglades National Park was established to save what was left of it. It covers 1.5 million acres (20% of the original Everglades) in southwest Florida. President Harry Truman dedicated the park on December 6, 1947. In Palm Beach County, portions of the original Everglades still exist. Grassy Waters Preserve in West Palm Beach provides drinking water to the city and covers twenty-three square miles. West of Boynton Beach is the Arthur R. Marshall National Wildlife Management Area, which covers 221 square miles. The public can visit both of these parks.

### Questions:

1. Go online and visit the Everglades Foundation, [www.evergladesfounday.org](http://www.evergladesfounday.org). Click on maps and view the video about "Flow Comparison." Compare the pre-drainage water flow to the current water flow.
2. Research the endangered species in the Everglades. Pick one of them and write a one-page paper about the species.
3. Research the invasive species in the Everglades. How have invasive animals and plants affected the Everglades?



Above left: Pioneer George Potter drew this rendition of the mosquito, which plagued the early settlers. Potter, an artist and surveyor, arrived on Lake Worth with his brother Dr. Richard Potter in the early 1880s. As a surveyor, Potter laid out the original forty-eight blocks of West Palm Beach in 1893 for Henry M. Flagler. That same year, he and George Lainhart established Lainhart and Potter Lumber Company. HSPBC.



Above right: Thomas Peppers (185?-1925) was born in Georgia and was one of the earliest African Americans to live on Lake Worth when he came here in the 1880s. He worked for Elisha Dimick as a laborer. Eventually he lived in the area called the "Styx," where he collected rent for landlord James Munyon. By the early 1900s, Thomas ran a wheelchair business from the Hotel Palm Beach. He married Priscilla Robinson (1872-1948) in 1895, and they had four children. HSPBC.

#### Next Generation Sunshine State Standards for Social Studies

- SS.4.A.1.1 Analyze primary and secondary resources to identify significant individuals and events throughout Florida history.
- SS.4.A.1.2 Synthesize information related to Florida history through print and electronic media.
- SS.4.A.2.1 Compare Native American tribes in Florida.
- SS.4.A.3.1 Identify explorers who came to Florida and the motivations for their expeditions.
- SS.4.A.3.2 Describe causes and effects of European colonization on the Native American tribes of Florida.
- SS.4.A.3.3 Identify the significance of St. Augustine as the oldest permanent European settlement in the United States.
- SS.4.A.3.5 Identify the significance of Fort Mose as the first free African community in the United States.
- SS.4.A.3.7 Identify nations (Spain, France, England) that controlled Florida before it became a United States territory.
- SS.4.A.3.8 Explain how the Seminole tribe formed and the purpose for their migration.
- SS.4.A.3.9 Explain how Florida (Adams-Onís Treaty) became a U.S. territory.
- SS.4.A.3.10 Identify the causes and effects of the Seminole Wars.
- SS.4.A.4.2 Describe pioneer life in Florida.
- SS.4.A.5.1 Describe Florida's involvement in the Civil War.
- SS.4.A.5.2 Summarize challenges Floridians faced during Reconstruction.
- SS.4.A.5.SU.b Recognize that during Reconstruction, Florida's freed slaves needed jobs and landowners needed workers.
- SS.4.A.6.2 Summarize contributions that immigrant groups made to Florida.
- SS.4.A.6.3 Describe the contributions of significant individuals to Florida.
- SS.4.A.7.1 Describe the causes and effects of the 1920s Florida land boom and bust.
- SS.4.A.7.2 Summarize challenges that Floridians faced during the Great Depression.
- SS.4.A.7.3 Identify Florida's role in World War II.
- SS.4.A.8.2 Describe how and why immigration impacts Florida today.
- SS.4.A.8.4 Explain how tourism affects Florida's economy and growth.
- SS.4.A.9.1 Utilize timelines to sequence key events in Florida history.
- SS.4.E.1.1 Identify entrepreneurs from various social and ethnic backgrounds who have influenced Florida and local economy.
- SS.4.G.1.1 Identify physical features of Florida.
- SS.4.G.1.3 Explain how weather impacts Florida.
- SS.4.G.1.4 Interpret political and physical maps using map elements.

#### Next Generation Sunshine State Standards for Science & Visual Art

- SC.4.L.17.4 Recognize ways plants and animals, including humans, can impact the environment.
- SC.4.N.2.1 Explain that science focuses solely on the natural world.
- VA.4.S.1.3 Create artworks that integrate ideas from culture or history.

#### Florida State Standards for Language Arts

- LAFS.4.RI.1.1 Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.
- LAFS.4.RI.1.2 Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.
- LAFS.4.RI.1.3 Explain events, procedures, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text, including what happened and why, based on specific information in the text.
- LAFS.4.RI.2.6 Compare and contrast a firsthand and secondhand account of the same event or topic; describe the differences in focus and the information provided.
- LAFS.4.RI.3.7 Interpret information presented visually, orally, or quantitatively (e.g., in charts, graphs, diagrams, time lines, animations, or interactive elements on Web pages) and explain how the information contributes to an understanding of the text in which it appears.
- LAFS.4.RI.3.9 Integrate information from two texts on the same topic in order to write or speak about the subject knowledgeably.
- LAFS.4.W.1.2 Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.
- LAFS.4.W.1.3 Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.
- LAFS.4.W.3.7 Conduct short research projects that build knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic.
- LAFS.4.SL.2.4 Report on a topic or text, tell a story, or recount an experience in an organized manner; using appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details to support main ideas or themes; speak clearly at an understandable pace.

#### Florida State Standards for Mathematics

- MAFS.4.OA.1.2 Multiply or divide to solve word problems involving multiplicative comparison, e.g., by using drawings and equations with a symbol for the unknown number to represent the problem, distinguishing multiplicative comparison from additive comparison.
- MAFS.4.NBT.2.4 Fluently add and subtract multi-digit whole numbers using the standard algorithm.