

# Florida Studies Weekly

## State History



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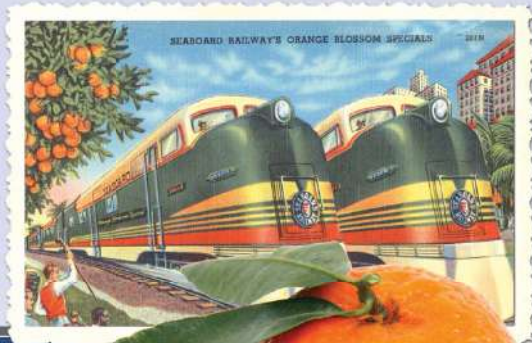
## Florida Industries Span the Entire World!

Have you ever seen the clouds of dust or heard the pounding of hammers as you watched a new home being built in your neighborhood? Have you ever seen a fishing boat come back in with piles of fresh fish for dinner? Maybe you've seen lumber trucks loaded with logs and wooden boards just waiting to be made into homes, offices or doghouses. These are just a few ways we can see Florida's industries in action.

An industry is a group of businesses that buy or sell products or services. Florida has a lot of industries that sell the products we make, grow or find in our state to people all over the world. Many people think Florida is all about oranges and tourist attractions, but that's not the whole story. Citrus crops and tourism are only two of many other industries that make up our economy. One of our state's most important industries is mining phosphate. Almost 25 percent of the world uses phosphate that comes from our mines! Florida's farms also sell food to people all over the world, especially Canada, the Netherlands, the Bahamas, the Dominican Republic and Panama.

This week, we will learn about a few of Florida's industries. People in some of our industries work with others from all over the world to buy and sell the things we need. Some of our industries have been part of our state for as long as people have lived here. Other industries have only been around for a few years. All of them are important to people from Florida, the United States and around the world!

Signs of industry are everywhere around Florida. Did you know citrus crops and tourism make up about half of Florida's economy?



### Connections

## Floundering Fruit



*Pop quiz: What is Florida's finest fruit?*

Did you say the orange? Right. If you said grapefruit, you're also right. You get points for saying tangerines and tangelos, too. Florida is the perfect place to grow citrus, as the Spanish found out when they brought it here in 1493. But citrus is in trouble. That's right, the oranges, the grapefruits, the \$9 billion industry and

more than 75,000 jobs are all in danger because of disease. You see, the trees are getting sick.

Because of the recession and housing crisis affecting all of Florida, many citrus groves have been abandoned. People bought the land thinking they could make lots of money from the fruit or from building on it. Now it seems many won't make money after all. They'll lose money if they try to

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# Hard-Working Florida

## Florida Ports

When it comes right down to it, Florida has a great deal to be proud of. Some of the state's wonders are known only to Floridians. Others have made Florida



Florida's ports welcome ships from around the world. Food, machines, minerals, chemicals, lumber and cars are some of the many things that come in and go out of Florida.



These shrimp boats help catch about 40 percent of Florida's fishing industry.

famous all over the country. But Florida is world famous for at least one thing: Our state's seaports are some of the best around. Modern ship captains sail from around the world to Florida's harbors. What makes them so great? The waters are deep, the railroads and highways are numerous and close, and maybe above all, the weather is almost always great. This means that all kinds of things from around the world wind up in Florida, and all kinds of things from Florida wind up all over the world. Food, machines, minerals, chemicals, lumber and cars come into and go out of Florida's 12 seaports all day, every day. And as long as Florida sticks out into the ocean, its ports will keep on being busy.

## Shrimp Ahoy!

People in Florida have depended on the ocean for food since before anyone can remember. If you look at what archaeologists have discovered about Florida's first humans, you'll find that they ate turtles, clams, oysters and even manatees. Fortunately, nowadays, people don't eat manatee, but when it comes to making a living pulling food out of the ocean, some things never change. Fishing is still big Florida business and pretty much always has been. In the early 1800s, ships carried fish

from Florida to Cuba in big aquariums built into their hulls. Later, fishers kept fish fresh by packing them in ice. Oysters, red snapper, mullet and sea trout were shipped all over the place from Florida. At the turn of the 20th century, fishing was even considered Florida's most important industry. These days, shrimp's the catch of the day, and though Florida fishers catch tons of lobster, crab and snapper as well, shrimping makes up a whopping 40 percent of the state's fishing industry. That's a big deal for a shrimp!

## Oil

Oil drilling is big business. We use oil and gas for cars, boats, lawn mowers and planes. Florida's first oil well was drilled in Sunnyland in Collier County. It was owned by the Humble Oil Company. Humble grew into Exxon, a worldwide corporation. Oil drilling can be dangerous, too. In April 2010, disaster struck in the Gulf of Mexico. The British Petroleum (BP) company's Deepwater Horizon oil rig exploded, killing 11 people and sending millions of gallons of oil into the water. Thousands of turtles, birds and fish were killed or got sick. Oil washed up on Gulf Coast beaches from Louisiana to Florida. The spill caused big losses in the tourism, shrimping and fishing industries of all the Gulf States. The BP oil company agreed to pay billions of dollars to help fix this huge mess. More than 30,000 people helped in the cleanup effort. No one knows what the long-range effects on the ecosystem will be.

## The Citrus Wizard

## Biography

Citrus fruits make up one of Florida's biggest industries. Citrus fruits like oranges, limes, lemons and grapefruit are sold to people all over the world. Our state grows more than 70 percent of the citrus fruits that are sold in the United States.

One of our state's most important growers was a Chinese immigrant named Lue Gim Gong. He came to Florida during the 1880s and began growing oranges. Lue knew a lot about plants and how to help them grow. He even created a brand-new type of orange. This new fruit was very tasty and could survive frosts. The orange was so popular that it was even named after him, but today people call them Valencia oranges.

Lue enjoyed having visitors. He gave away oranges and small orange trees to anyone who came to see him. It should not come as a surprise to learn that Lue earned the nickname "The Citrus Wizard."



## Charlotte, Glades, and Lee Counties

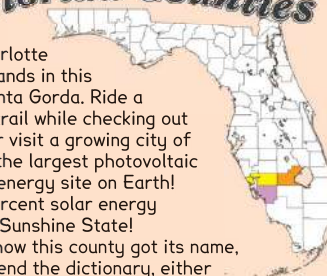
## Florida Counties

### Charlotte County:

Sail through Charlotte Harbor and explore the Gulf Islands in this county, whose county seat is Punta Gorda. Ride a bike on a wilderness adventure trail while checking out hundreds of species of birds. Or visit a growing city of the future, Babcock Ranch. It's the largest photovoltaic (a fancy name for solar power) energy site on Earth! The city hopes to run on 100 percent solar energy someday. Good thing this is the Sunshine State!

**Glades County:** If you're not sure how this county got its name, spend a minute with your old friend the dictionary, either the printed kind or the online kind! Moore Haven is the county seat here. See the Brighton Seminole Indian Reservation and visit the Chalo Nitka (Seminole: big bass) Festival for some rodeo action and alligator wrestling. The Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail is great for hiking.

**Lee County:** Lee County is home to Sanibel and Captiva, two islands with some of the best shell collecting. (Never take a shell with a living creature inside!) Did you know there are over 1,000 species of fish here? You can eat most of them—not in one meal, of course. If city life is more your style, see busy Fort Meyers, the county seat. You can visit a history museum, ice skate or go to the Imaginarium. Just imagine what you can do there!





## Florida Lumber

Is your home made at least partly of wood? Most homes are when it comes right down to it, and so your answer is probably "yes!" That may be why cutting down Florida's trees to make lumber for building has always been big business in our state. Long ago, Florida natives brought trees down with fire and then burned and scraped them into hollow canoes. Later on, explorers discovered that Florida lumber was terrific for building ships. By the mid-1800s, many of the towns in Florida had been built near lumber mills. Today, lumber companies are careful not to cut down too many trees, or cut too often in the same place, and most lumber companies plant several trees for every tree they cut down. It wouldn't do at all to run out of trees! But one thing's for sure—as long as there are things to build out of wood, Florida's lumber industry will keep going strong.

## Famous for Phosphate

If you've ever bought fertilizer to use on your garden, then you've probably had an up-close-and-personal experience with one of Florida's most popular minerals: phosphate. Phosphate is the biggest source for phosphorus, the main ingredient in most fertilizers. Phosphate in Florida was discovered in Marion County about 100 years ago by a man named Albertus Vogt. Since then, it's become a huge industry. Each year, Florida mines millions of tons of concentrated phosphate rock. It all means about \$3 billion a year for Florida's economy. In fact, Florida is responsible for about one-third of the phosphate mined in the entire world.

As the world's population gets bigger, so will the need for food. As the need for food increases, so does the need for effective fertilizers! It looks as if Florida's phosphate industry is just going to get more and more important as time goes on.



Oil is a big business around the world today. Florida started producing oil in the 1940s.



Lumber has always been a big industry in Florida.



Phosphate is one of Florida's most popular minerals and is a huge industry. Florida has 25 percent of the world's phosphate.

## TIMELINE

Disney World opens in Florida, 1970



The Miami Dolphins play an undefeated season, 1972

As many as 125,000 Cuban refugees arrive in Florida, 1980



U.S. forces launch Operation Desert Storm in Iraq and Kuwait, 1991

The Gulf War ends, 1991



## Do you know any hard-working Floridians?

*This Week's Question*

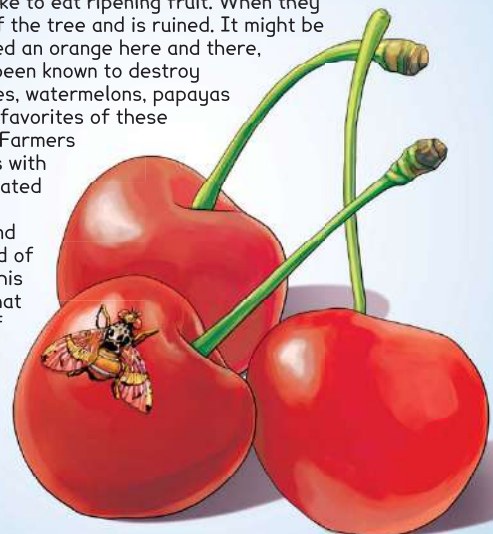
Our state is full of hard workers. People from Florida work with businesses all over the world to buy and sell the things we use every day. Some of these people may work loading and unloading ships, catching fish or shrimp, drilling for oil or mining for phosphate. Even more people work in the stores and businesses that make our state such a great place to live.

Do you know any of these hard-working people? Make a list of the people you know who work hard. Share your list with your classmates. If you see any of those people, remember to thank them for everything they do!

## Mediterranean Fruit Fly

## Florida Wildlife

The fruit fly is just a tiny insect, not much bigger than the head of a pin. Just to look at it, you'd never think it could harm a flea. But look out! This is one little bug who can really do some damage! You see, baby flies (larvae) like to eat ripening fruit. When they do, the fruit falls off the tree and is ruined. It might be OK if flies only ruined an orange here and there, but fruit flies have been known to destroy entire crops. Oranges, watermelons, papayas and cherries are all favorites of these pesky little insects. Farmers are fighting the flies with chemicals, but dedicated people are always looking for better and safer ways to get rid of them. In any case, this is one little insect that is getting a bunch of attention!



Name \_\_\_\_\_

### ACROSS

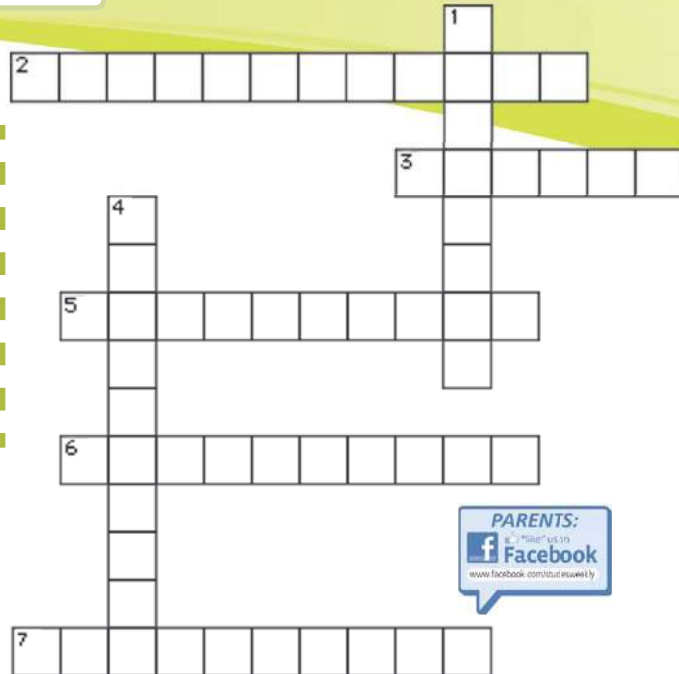
2. not an amateur or a beginner; experienced in one's field  
3. the Exxon Oil Company's original name  
5. county seat of Lee County  
6. main ingredient in most fertilizers  
7. county seat of Charlotte County

### DOWN

1. a group of businesses that buy or sell products or services  
4. county seat of Glades County



As you read this week's lesson, circle or highlight all proper nouns with any color pen or highlighter. This will help you find some of the crossword answers and get ready for this week's test.



## Florida's Sports Industry Overview

Florida sports is a huge industry! Just look at the number of professional (not amateurs or beginners) teams Florida has to choose from. Find your favorite Florida team on the Internet.

Write down all the websites you find on another sheet of paper. Now go and learn more about your favorite Florida team.



It's 30 years into the future, and you're about 40 years old.

Over the years, you have become the richest person in Florida. Before you begin to write, think about how you became the richest person in Florida. Now write to tell how you became the richest person in Florida. Be sure to use proper grammar, spelling and punctuation. Good luck!

*Let's Write*

If you'd like to make any editorial comments about our paper, please write to us at [feedback@studiesweekly.com](mailto:feedback@studiesweekly.com).

## Activity

### Professional Football

Miami Dolphins  
Jacksonville Jaguars  
Tampa Bay Buccaneers

### Professional Baseball

Miami Marlins  
Tampa Bay Rays

### Professional Basketball

Miami Heat  
Orlando Magic

### Professional Hockey

Florida Panthers  
Tampa Bay Lightning

### Baseball Spring Training Sites

Spring training begins in February and ends with the opening of the regular season in April.

City	Team	Stadium
Bradenton	Pittsburgh Pirates	McKechnie Field
Clearwater	Philadelphia Phillies	Bright House Networks Field
Dunedin	Toronto Blue Jays	Florida Auto Exchange Stadium
Sarasota	Baltimore Orioles	Ed Smith Stadium
Fort Myers	Minnesota Twins	Hammond Stadium
Fort Myers	Boston Red Sox	JetBlue Park
Jupiter	St. Louis Cardinals	Roger Dean Stadium
Kissimmee	Houston Astros	Osceola County Stadium
Lakeland	Detroit Tigers	Joker Marchant Stadium
Jupiter	Miami Marlins	Roger Dean Stadium
Kissimmee	Atlanta Braves	ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex
Port St. Lucie	New York Mets	Tradition Field
Port Charlotte	Tampa Bay Rays	Charlotte Sports Park
Tampa	New York Yankees	George M. Steinbrenner Field
Viera	Washington Nationals	Space Coast Stadium

## Floundering Fruit

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

take care of and harvest the citrus. It's cheaper to let it sit and do nothing.

Doing nothing, though, is dangerous. When people don't take care of the citrus trees, they get sick. Tiny insects called psyllids are spreading disease from tree to tree, and diseases like greening and canker make the fruit small, ugly and sour. Eventually, the trees die.

Citrus growers have abandoned more than 100,000 acres of crops across the state. To stop the spread of the disease, some of them are bulldozing their sick trees and burning them, but that's expensive, too.

By the time you read this, things may be getting better. Do some research and find out what's happening now with Florida's finest fruit!

- Other than tourism and agriculture, name two of Florida's industries.
- At the turn of the 20th century, what was considered Florida's most important industry?
- What important product is made from Florida phosphate and is used all over the world?
- What large oil company was once Humble Oil and first discovered oil in Florida?
- What product makes up 40 percent of the state's fishing industry?
- Who first discovered phosphate in Florida?
- What three things make Florida's ports so great?
- Why is the Mediterranean fruit fly considered a pest?

*Think & Review*