Florida's Population

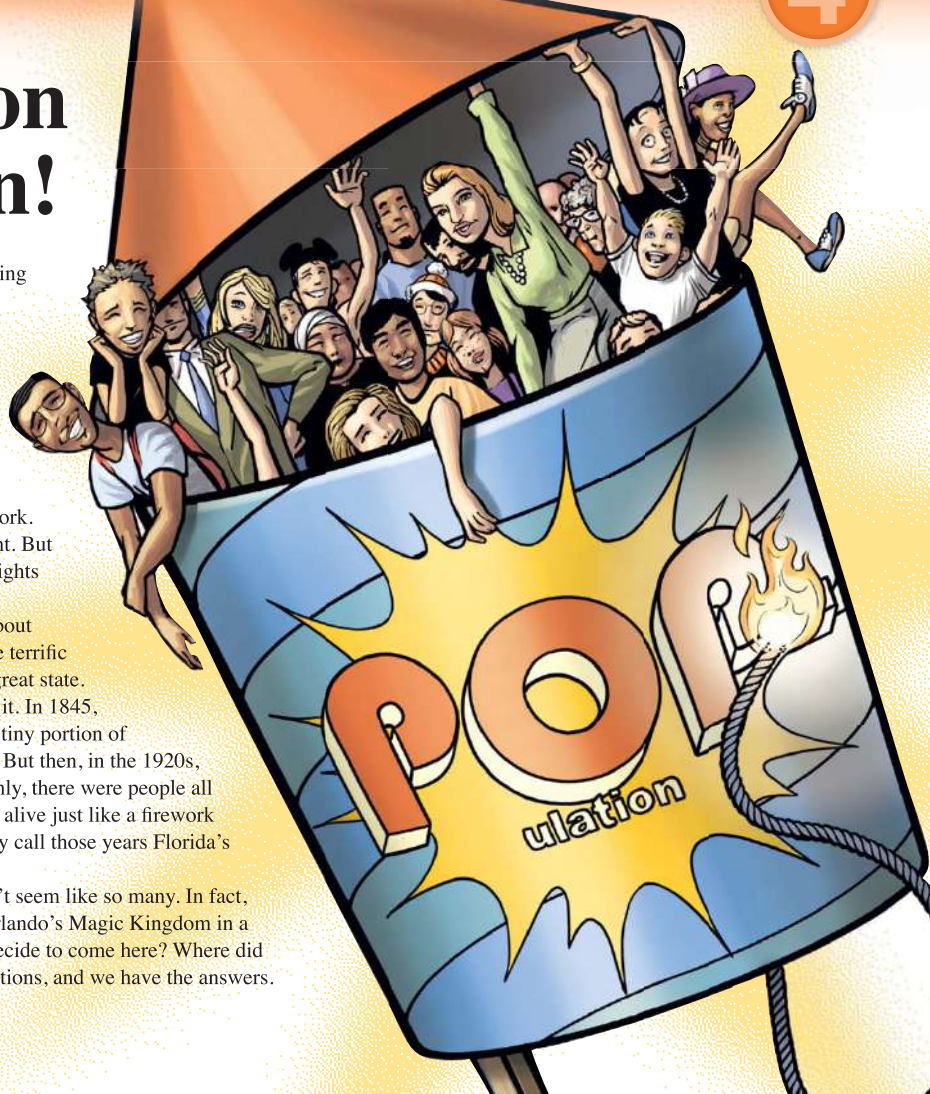Florida Studies Weekly
State History

GRADE 4

# Population Explosion!

Have you ever seen fireworks lighting up the night sky? There aren't many things quite as fun to look at as those! First you might hear the WHUMP of something heavy being launched into the air. Then you might see a light, like a shooting star or a comet, whirring upward. And then comes the best part. With a giant BOOM, you see the bright firework. First it's just a tiny patch of bright light. But then, in a split second, a million tiny lights spread out across the sky!

We here at Studies Weekly think about fireworks whenever we think of all the terrific people who have come to live in our great state. Why fireworks, you ask? Think about it. In 1845, only 70,000 people lived in Florida, a tiny portion of people against a whole bunch of land. But then, in the 1920s, Florida's population exploded. Suddenly, there were people all over the place, making our state come alive just like a firework lighting up the sky. It's no wonder they call those years Florida's population boom.

These days, 70,000 people wouldn't seem like so many. In fact, that's about how many people visit Orlando's Magic Kingdom in a single busy weekend. Why did they decide to come here? Where did they come from? Those are good questions, and we have the answers. Turn the page, and let's get crackin'!

POP ulation

**Connections** *Counting Ocean Creatures—a New Census*

*Knock-knock-knock*
"Hello, would you be kind enough to tell me how many shrimp, tuna, sharks and microbes are living in this ocean? It's for the census. ..."

Every 10 years, the U.S. government does a census, an official count of people living in the country. The 2010 census showed that 3 million people moved to Florida since 2000. This information helps the government make plans for the future and measure the growth of the country. Counting millions of people is easy, however,

compared with the task scientists are undertaking now: a census of ocean life.

Two hundred scientists from 80 different countries are helping. Ten years ago they started counting the larger life in the ocean, and now they

# Florida's Population

## Rails, Roads and Bridges

In the early 1900s, Florida's leaders were looking for ways to get people to come visit our state. One way they did this was to give land to people like Henry Flagler and Henry Plant. Both men used their new land to build hundreds of miles of railroad. They also built hotels and houses for visitors and workers to live in. By the 1920s, the government had built roads that made it possible for people to travel all over the state. One of these roads was the Conners Highway. It was built in 1924 and connected West Palm Beach and Okeechobee City.

Florida's leaders realized they needed to build some bridges over Florida's rivers and waterways.

364  SAVANNAH, FLORIDA AND WESTERN RAILWAY.—Local Trains.

PLANT

FISHER

FLAGLER  GORRIE

Two of Florida's oldest bridges are the old Acosta Bridge and the Seven Mile Bridge. The old Acosta Bridge was built in Jacksonville in 1921. It was the first to be built over the St. Johns River. Construction on the Seven Mile Bridge began around 1908. At the time, the bridge was one of the longest in the world. It connects the city of Marathon to the island of Little Duck Key.

With all of these new rails, roads and bridges in place, Florida became a state where it was easy for people to get around. People saw that Florida was a place with good transportation and cities that were growing fast.
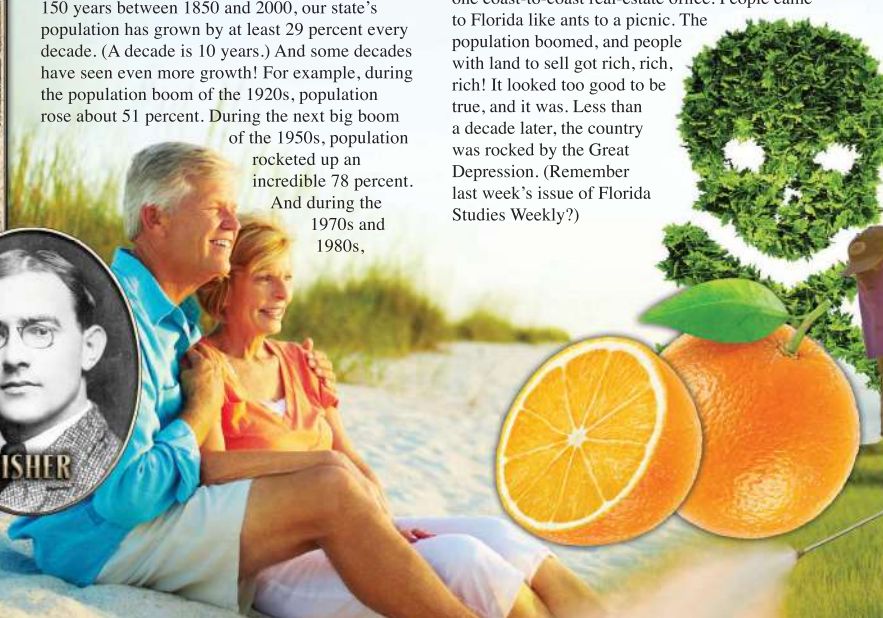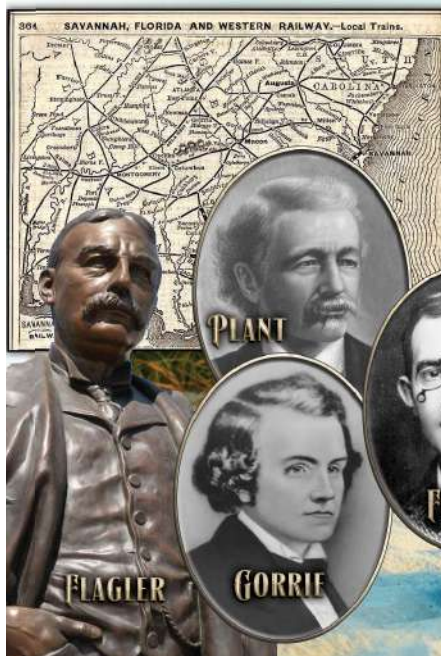
## The Numbers

Just how fast is Florida's population growing? Let's look at a few important numbers. In the 150 years between 1850 and 2000, our state's population has grown by at least 29 percent every decade. (A decade is 10 years.) And some decades have seen even more growth! For example, during the population boom of the 1920s, population rose about 51 percent. During the next big boom of the 1950s, population rocketed up an incredible 78 percent. And during the 1970s and 1980s,

Florida's population grew by a whopping 90 percent. That's a great deal of people. The truth is that, while population all over the nation is constantly rising, Florida's population is always rising even faster!

## Making Florida Hot Real Estate!

In 1919, a man from Miami Beach named Carl Fisher managed somehow to turn a mangrove swamp into a beautiful, sandy seashore. He did it by dredging up sand from the bottom of Biscayne Bay! Fisher got to work creating advertisements made to attract people to the paradise he had created. Stories of great bargains on Florida land spread from coast to coast. By 1925, Florida was one coast-to-coast real-estate office. People came to Florida like ants to a picnic. The population boomed, and people with land to sell got rich, rich, rich! It looked too good to be true, and it was. Less than a decade later, the country was rocked by the Great Depression. (Remember last week's issue of Florida Studies Weekly?)

## What About Winter?

*Florida Facts*

Florida doesn't really have a winter, does it? Well, actually we do, but don't tell anyone else. One of the best-kept secrets of the Sunshine State is that occasionally we can have some amazingly low temperatures in the winter months.

No one in Florida knows this better than the citrus growers. Citrus trees can't stand freezing temperatures without getting hurt, especially if they are exposed to temperatures below 22 degrees F for more than four hours. When that happens, the sap inside the tree freezes and expands, killing the tree. Between the winters of 1983 and 1985, Florida citrus growers lost almost one-fourth of their orange trees.

In 1985, a cold wave nicknamed the "polar express" came through the state. It got down to six degrees in Tallahassee. In Tampa, it was 21 degrees. After that frost, many citrus growers chose another business.

We know what you're thinking: "If it gets that cold, why doesn't it ever snow?" It does—in 1993, some parts of the panhandle got 4 inches of the white stuff!
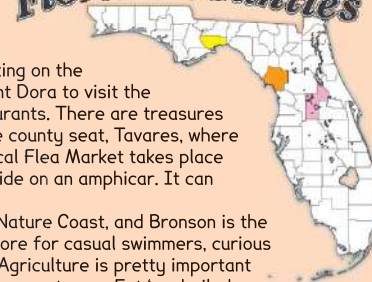
## Lake, Levy and Wakulla Counties

*Florida Counties*

**Lake County:** Here you could spend days boating on the hundreds of lakes. Be sure to stop at Mount Dora to visit the funky antiques shops and waterside restaurants. There are treasures for everybody! Follow the lakeshore to the county seat, Tavares, where the Antique Wooden Boat Show and Nautical Flea Market takes place every spring. While you're there, catch a ride on an amphicar. It can drive right off the road and into the water!

**Levy County:** This county is part of Florida's Nature Coast, and Bronson is the county seat. In Levy, there are springs galore for casual swimmers, curious snorkelers and even serious scuba divers. Agriculture is pretty important here, and you'll be nuts about this county's peanut crop. Eat 'em boiled, baked or even fried. Get your picture taken with this year's Baby Peanut, and don't forget to buy a 20-pound bag for the ride home. Oh, and the peanut butter isn't bad, either. Take a trip out to Cedar Key, where you can visit a wildlife refuge, take a boat ride and see prehistoric Indian artifacts all in one day.

**Wakulla County:** The county seat is Crawfordville, which was named after the town's doctor. Besides visiting St. Mark's Lighthouse and the mysterious deep water at Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park, you can hit a festival just about anytime of the year here. Try the festivals that celebrate stone crabs, mullet, monarch butterflies and even worm gruntin'. Now what on Earth is worm gruntin'? It's a way to get earthworms to come up out of the ground so you can use them as bait.

Wakulla County  Crawfordville

Levy County  Bronson

Tavares
Lake County

## Retirement Paradise

Look around you in Florida, and you'll see plenty of kids your own age. You'll see plenty of people your parents' age, too. But you'll also see plenty of people who are much older, people who are old enough to be grandparents and great-grandparents. In fact, you might see more of them in Florida than just about anywhere else. The weather is so terrific around here that our state is known all around the country as a terrific place to retire! It wasn't always that way. A hundred years ago, only 2 percent of Florida's population was older than age 65. Nowadays, it's more than 17 percent.

## Things Cool Off!

Dr. John Gorrie was an American physician who has been credited as the man who invented air conditioning. His invention helped cool off those who were sick by reducing their fevers and making it easier to breathe. Because of his inventions, many more people from the North came to Florida to live. After all, if you could have great weather in the winter and can keep cool in the summer, why live in the cold up North? Many say that Gorrie's invention of the air conditioner was one of the most significant influences in Florida's increase in population.

## Florida's Economic Recovery After World War II

After World War II was over, great amounts of money came into Florida to rebuild manufacturing plants, agricultural farms and tourism.

Defense contracts helped to revitalize Tampa and the local cigar industry, which had been wiped out during the Great Depression after World War I and the stock market crash. The Tampa Bay area was suddenly booming.
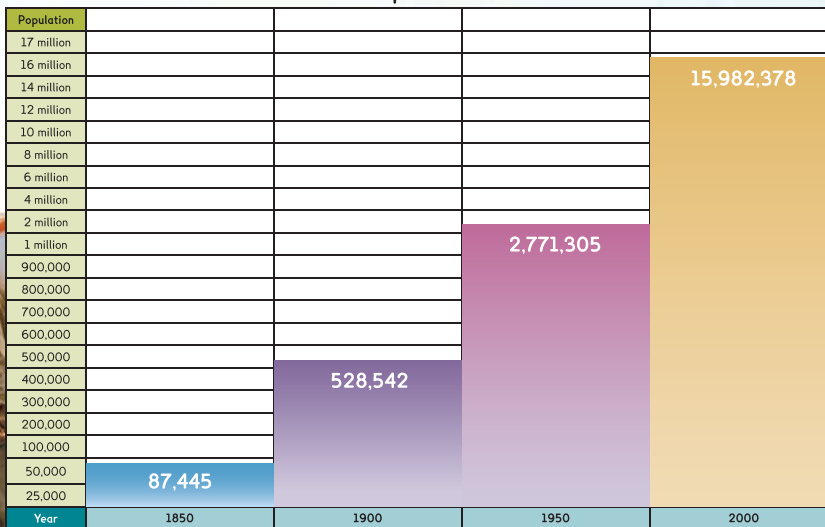
Scientists discovered an insecticide, DDT, in 1945, right after World War II. This almost instantly changed Florida's agricultural industry. It killed the pesky bugs that ate the vegetables and fruits. DDT was banned in the '70s because it poisoned wildlife and posed a threat to humans and the environment.

The cotton industry started making big-time profits. Florida's citrus industry grew, and Florida became the top state in the country in their production of orange juice. Florida's citrus growers patented the process of frozen concentrated orange juice.

Cities such as Pensacola, Jacksonville, Miami and Orlando were given money to rebuild, and they started prospering.

When the population grows, then the cities grow, too. Next week's issue will discuss some of Florida's largest and most interesting cities.
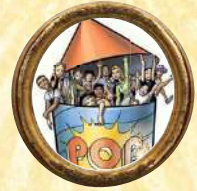
### TIMELINE

Florida has a population boom, **1940-1950**

World War II is fought, **1941-1945**

U.S. drops two atomic bombs on Japan, **1945**

World War II ends, **1945**

The Korean War is fought, **1950-1953**

### Florida's Population Growth

| Population | 1850 | 1900 | 1950 | 2000 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 17 million | | | | |
| 16 million | | | | |
| 14 million | | | | 15,982,378 |
| 12 million | | | | |
| 10 million | | | | |
| 8 million | | | | |
| 6 million | | | | |
| 4 million | | | | |
| 2 million | | | | |
| 1 million | | | 2,771,305 | |
| 900,000 | | | | |
| 800,000 | | | | |
| 700,000 | | | | |
| 600,000 | | | | |
| 500,000 | | | | |
| 400,000 | | 528,542 | | |
| 300,000 | | | | |
| 200,000 | | | | |
| 100,000 | | | | |
| 50,000 | 87,445 | | | |
| 25,000 | | | | |
| Year | 1850 | 1900 | 1950 | 2000 |

This graph shows the population growth of Florida between 1850 and 2000. There is a bar graph on Page 4 where you can fill in the population growth for each decade between 1910 and 2010. How we've grown!

## Why do people move?

Our state's population has grown over the years. A lot of people have chosen to move to our state. There are a lot of reasons why people move from one place to another. One major reason is for a job, or work. When people find work in a new place, they may have to move to go to their new job. People may also choose to move to be closer to friends or family members. Other people may simply want to live in a new place.

Has your family ever moved from one place to another? Have any of your friends or family members had to move? What was the reason for the move?

## Investing

### Financial Literacy

Most people try to save a part of their income, the money they earn. If people invest some of the money they have saved, they can earn even more money for emergencies or to use when they are older.

When someone invests money, they usually buy an asset, like stock in a company. If that company does well, the stock is worth more. The more money someone puts into stocks, the more money can grow. Stocks can be a little risky. If the business fails, the stocks are lost. It is important to research and choose companies that will grow. Over time, many businesses do well, and people who invest can earn a lot of money.

Name _____

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.

**ACROSS**
**2.** During the 1920s, Florida's _____ grew by 51 percent.
**3.** man who turned a mangrove swamp into a beautiful beach: Carl _____
**4.** Construction of the _____ (two words) Bridge started in 1921.
**5.** Florida county full of lakes, shops and waterside restaurants
**6.** another word for 10 years

**DOWN**
**1.** American physician credited with inventing air conditioning
**3.** last name of a man who built hundreds of miles of railroad in Florida
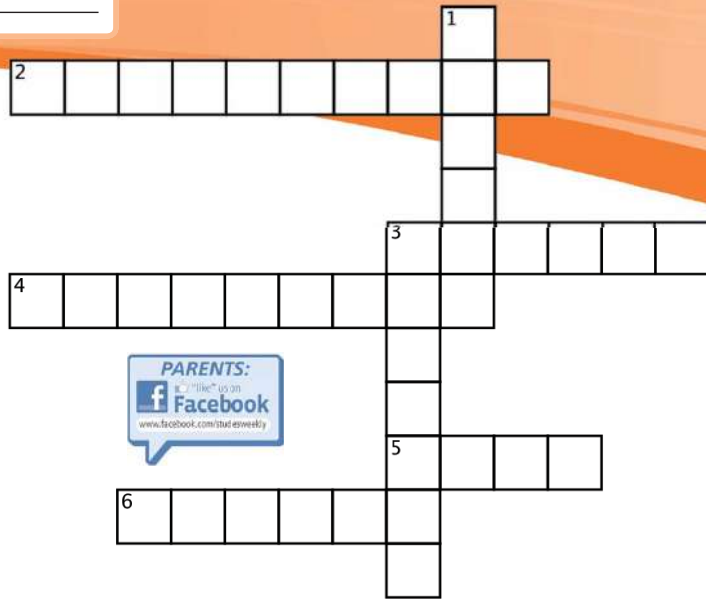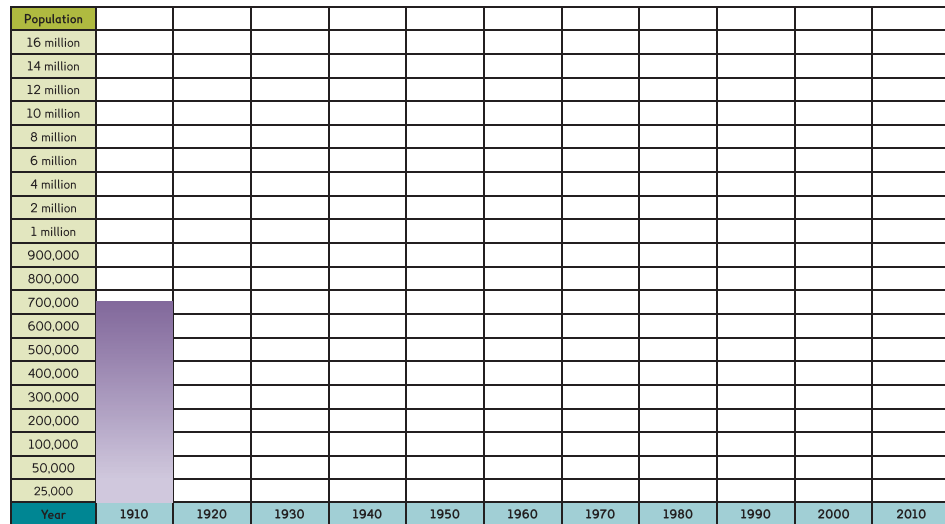
# Chart Florida's Population Growth

On the bar graph below, chart Florida's population growth. Below is a list of Florida's population over the last 100 years. Find the year on the graph and then plot out the correct population for that year on the graph. The first one is done for you. Take the time to see how Florida has grown through the last century.

| Year | Population |
|------|------------|
| 1910 | 752,619 |
| 1920 | 968,470 |
| 1930 | 1,468,211 |
| 1940 | 1,897,414 |
| 1950 | 2,771,305 |
| 1960 | 4,951,580 |
| 1970 | 6,791,418 |
| 1980 | 9,739,992 |
| 1990 | 12,937,926 |
| 2000 | 15,982,378 |
| 2010 | 18,801,310 |

| Population | 1910 | 1920 | 1930 | 1940 | 1950 | 1960 | 1970 | 1980 | 1990 | 2000 | 2010 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 16 million | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 14 million | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12 million | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 million | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8 million | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 million | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 million | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 million | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 million | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 900,000 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 800,000 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 700,000 | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 500,000 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 400,000 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 300,000 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 200,000 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 100,000 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 50,000 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 25,000 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Year | 1910 | 1920 | 1930 | 1940 | 1950 | 1960 | 1970 | 1980 | 1990 | 2000 | 2010 |

Use any color to circle or highlight three relative pronouns (who, whose, whom, which, that, etc.) in this week's magazine. Underline the related noun. (LAFS.4.L.1.1)

## New City
*Let's Write*

Imagine that you create a new city in Florida. You want to attract people to your new city. Before you begin to write, think about how you would attract people to your new city. Now write to explain how you would attract people to your new city.

## Counting Ocean Creatures—a New Census

are trying to estimate the smaller life forms in the ocean. Microbes, zooplankton, larvae and sea worms—nothing is too small to be counted. Some microbes are so tiny they are nearly invisible, but they still get counted. Five hundred thousand roundworms can live in just 3 square feet of ocean floor, but they still get counted.

Estimating the numbers and types of creatures living in the ocean helps us ensure the balance of things on Earth. The ocean is a vital part of the planet's ecosystem and the basis for most food chains. And just when you think the microbes aren't important, think of how many there are: a nonillion. A nonillion is a 1 with 30 zeros behind it. Needless to say, the microbes have us outnumbered!

### Think&Review

**1.** What two forms of transportation helped expand Florida's population by large numbers?
**2.** What did Carl Fisher do to help Florida's population grow in the 1920s?
**3.** How did World War II bring people to Florida?
**4.** How much did the population of Florida change between 1850 and 2000?
**5.** Explain how a winter freeze affects citrus groves.
**6.** Why were there different population explosions in Florida in the 1920s and 1950s?
**7.** Who was Henry Plant?
**8.** Who was Henry Flagler?
**9.** Why is investing money usually a good idea?
**10.** How did Florida get people to develop the land?
**11.** Why did the author compare Florida's population boom to a firecracker?