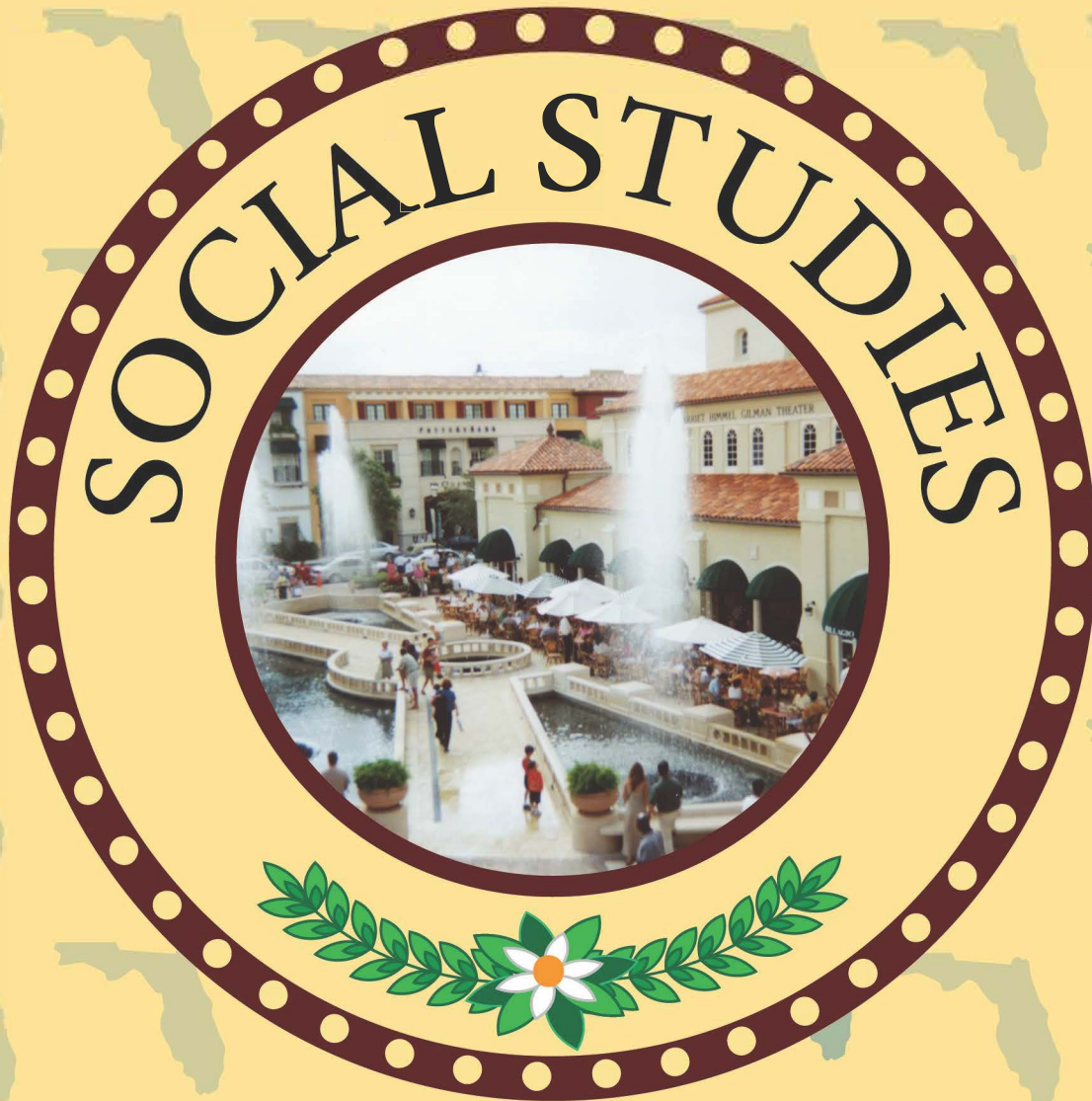


FOURTH GRADE

# THE HISTORY OF FLORIDA LESSONS



## POST-WORLD WAR II TO PRESENT

The Historical Society of Palm Beach County and  
Richard and Pat Johnson Palm Beach County History Museum  
300 N. Dixie Highway, West Palm Beach, FL 33401  
[www.hspbc.org](http://www.hspbc.org) • 561.832.4164

# POST-WORLD WAR II TO PRESENT

## 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 population. Since World War II, Florida has also become home to a large number 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—over 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 who came to the Lake Worth region seeking a better life were African Americans. 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 continue to do so today.

## AFRICAN AMERICANS

By the late nineteenth century, a small population of Black people 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 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 about 1910 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

## 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.

## Historical Timeline

1947

Everglades National Park is established.

1955

Construction begins on Florida's Turnpike.

1957

The Seminole tribe is incorporated.

**STANDARDS:**

**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.



Dr. Warren Hale Collie      *Courtesy of HSPBC*

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, Black 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 Black communities were located near today’s Atlantic Avenue.

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

Black professionals came to West Palm Beach to set up businesses. Some worked as doctors, dentists, and pharmacists. Dr. Thomas LeRoy Jefferson was the city’s first Black medical doctor. Dr. Warren Hale Collie, a veteran of World War I, was one of the first Black 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

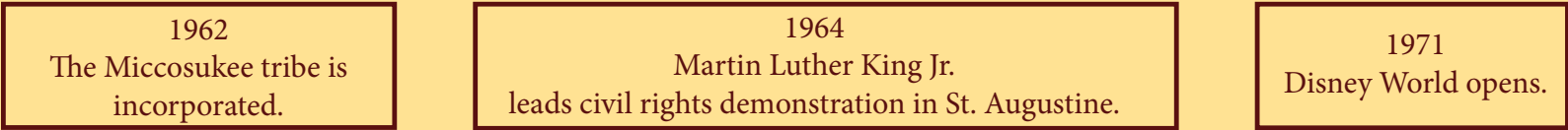
became the first African American to be elected as a county judge without first having been appointed by the governor. Judge Harper is a sixth-generation native of Palm Beach County, a great-great-great-grandson of Millie Gildersleeve. Harper graduated from Morehouse College and University of Florida College of Law. He is 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 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.

**F. MALCOLM CUNNINGHAM SR.**

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 became the second Black lawyer in West Palm Beach. Nine years later, Cunningham was the first African American to be elected to the Riviera Beach City Council; he

**Historical Timeline**







George Morikami

*Courtesy of HSPBC*

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.

### THE YAMATO COLONY

The Yamato Colony was an agricultural settlement of Japanese farmers introduced 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. 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.

### 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.

### THE HAITIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY

In small and large numbers, Haitian immigrants have come to Palm Beach County since before 1980, seeking a better life. 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

## ACTIVITIES!

### READING CHECK:

1. What is Florida's rank in population in the U.S.?
2. Make a list of names and occupations of the Blacks mentioned in this section.
4. Where did the people of the Yamato Colony come from? What happened to them?
5. Where is the largest Haitian population in the United States?
6. What types of contributions have people of Jewish heritage made in Palm Beach County?

### AS YOU READ:

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

## ACTIVITIES!

### MAP SKILL:

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

### MATH PRACTICE:

1. What is the difference between the number of Jews in Palm Beach County in 1950 compared to 2018?

### IMAGINE THAT:

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

more Haitians moved to Florida.

One particular subdivision in Delray Beach called Osceola Park has been the home of Haitian Americans since 1980. 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 the first Black male and Haitian American elected to the Board of Palm Beach County Commissioners. 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.

### JOSEPH BERNADEL

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.

### PALM BEACH COUNTY'S JEWISH HERITAGE

Jews have been settling in Florida since the late eighteenth century.



Joseph Mendel

*Courtesy of HSPBC*

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 back 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 as mayors and city and county commissioners. For many years, Jews have been involved in helping communities in the county. They have donated millions of dollars to support many cultural arts



Joseph Bernadel

*Courtesy of Joseph Bernadel*



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 population had grown to about 3,000 in Palm Beach County. Thirty years later, it had risen to 89,000. In 2018, there were 134,200 Jewish adults and children living in 69,000 households in Palm Beach County.

Jews are involved in every part of life. Their history has added to the cultural diversity of Palm Beach County.

## 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.

## 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



Eva Williams Mack

*Courtesy of HSPBC*

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



Lillie Pierce Voss and Susan Sanders Dubois

*Courtesy of HSPBC*

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 was born in Alabama in 1915. 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.

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 the first African



## ACTIVITIES!

### SHORT ANSWER:

1. List some of Florida's modern industries.

### DISCUSSION:

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?

## DID YOU KNOW?

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

American to be elected mayor of West Palm Beach, in 1982, and served two terms of one year each.

Judge Nancy Perez 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.

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. 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 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 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



The Palm Beach Mall

*Courtesy of HSPBC*

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. She 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 nearly 1.5 million 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 continues 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.

**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. Nearly every country in the world is 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, 15,600 new residents moved to Palm Beach county in 2018. 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?

**THE EVERGLADES**

The distinctive Everglades is the

**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.



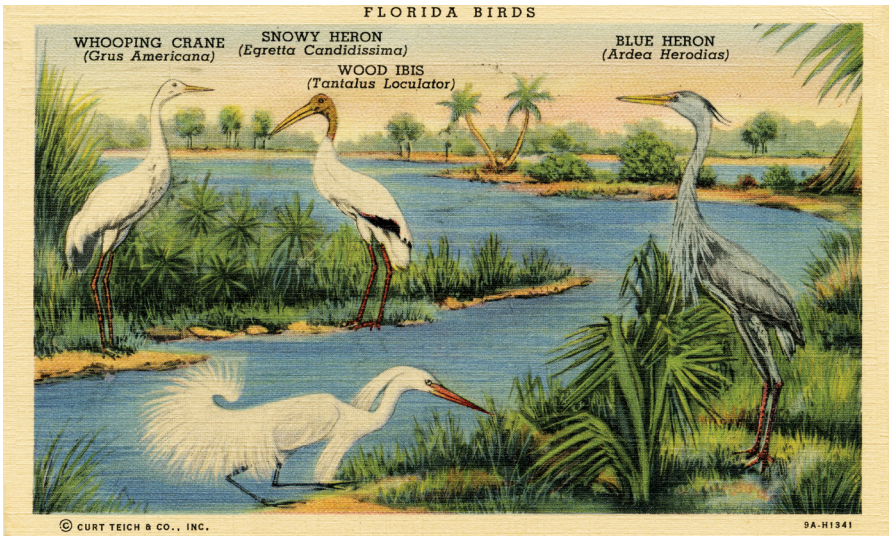
*Courtesy of Pixabay*



ACTIVITIES!

RESEARCH:

- 1. Research the endangered species in the Everglades. Pick one of them and write a one-page paper about the species.
- 2. Research the invasive species in the Everglades. How have invasive animals and plants have affected the Everglades?



Courtesy of HSPBC

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. Lucie Canal

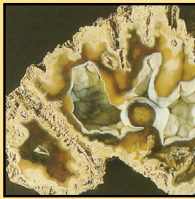
systems, then south to Florida and Biscayne bays through a system of canals and water management areas.

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.

ANSWERS FROM PAGES 6-7



Horse Conch



Agatized Coral



Sabal Palm



Coreopsis



Alligator



Manatee



Largemouth Bass



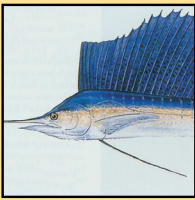
Florida Panther



Zebra Longwing



Mockingbird



Sailfish



Orange Juice



Orange Blossom



Porpoise

## 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.

## ACTIVITIES!

### VOCABULARY:

Define the following using a dictionary:

1. Biomass
2. Ethanol
3. Horticulture
4. Hydroponics
5. Organic
6. Bagasse

Lake Worth, unload the boxes onto wagons, and haul them 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 were able to get a shipment of tomatoes to market in good condition and made \$480 an acre. This was a small fortune at the time. 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 Florida's east coast to Miami. Farmers were able to get more perishable vegetables like tomatoes and bell peppers to market before they rotted. The railroad also allowed for greater

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 in a year as the dairy.

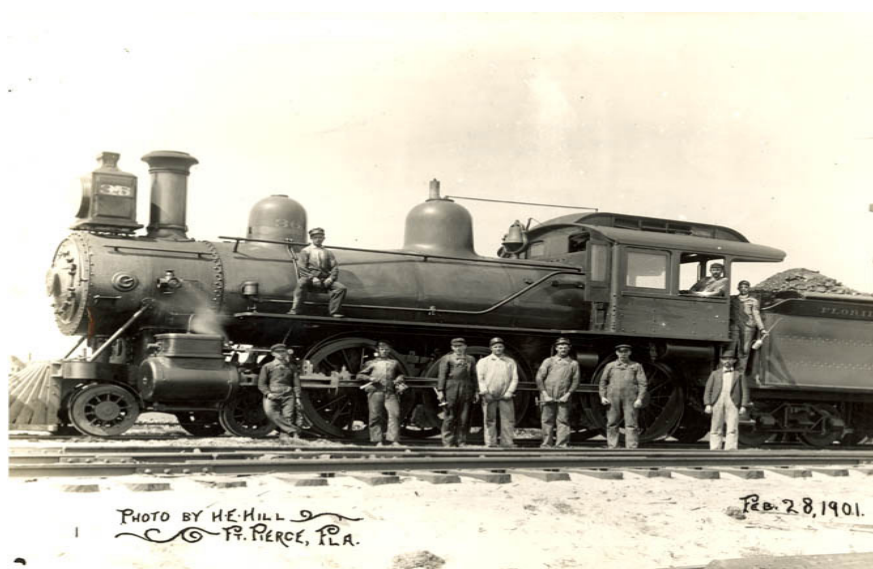
Some pioneers experimented with different fruits to create new varieties. In the mid-1880s Elbridge Gale, a retired professor of horticulture came to the Lake Worth area. He homesteaded 160 acres in the area south of 45th Street in West Palm Beach. He planted several mango trees. From these mangoes, 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 5,000 citrus trees on fifty-five acres. 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. Nearly 500 farm workers 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. 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 Chinese vegetables, which are shipped from their



Courtesy of HSPBC

Henry Flagler's East Coast Railroad





George Morikami

*Courtesy of HSPBC*

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 569,000 acres of citrus groves and more than 74 million citrus trees. Palm Beach County once had thousands of acres of 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.

## 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 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 the rich muck soil was

## ACTIVITIES!

### READING CHECK:

1. How many crops are grown in Palm Beach County?
2. Who founded the Yamato Colony? What was the purpose of the colony? What fruit did they first focus on growing?
3. Which business was first in the Glades, fishing or farming?

### RESEARCH:

1. Radish is related to what plant?
  - a. Rice
  - b. Celery
  - c. Mustard
  - d. Cucumber
2. Lettuce is a member of what family?
  - a. Radish
  - b. Sunflower
  - c. Grass
  - d. None of the above

### SHORT ANSWER:

1. List three fruits that are citrus.
2. What breed of cow is a cross between a Hereford and a Brahman?

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 introduced 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.

By World War II, most of the Yamato colonists returned to Japan because they had saved enough money. 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



Unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) gathers images of crops.

Courtesy of Pixabay

an interest in everything that grows. Kimberly Erickson returned to the farm in 2007 to handle marketing and planning.

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.

## 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 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 throughout the year. They sell their crops from Miami-Dade County to Orlando.

Some people have said that agriculture in the Glades will end because it depends on muck soil. The muck has subsided over the years from drainage and cultivation of the land, 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.

## PRECISION FARMING

*Precision farming* is a way of managing a farm using targeted information and technology that improves crop performance and the quality of the environment. Crops, fields, and animal populations are closely monitored and controlled using different types of technology including Global Positioning Systems (GPS), robotic drones, agricultural machinery, and sensors. This approach increases crop yields, reduces cost, and optimizes efficiency.

## THE FUTURE OF FARMING

There are many issues farmers face in the future. These include how to produce enough food for a growing population, how to produce food on farms that are profitable, how to protect the environment and natural resources, and how to farm and avoid upsetting 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 contaminants into waterways and wetlands.

Farmers must decide what they will do in the future. They face muck subsiding 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. 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 they face.



## TIME POSTS

1830s

Seminoles plant 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 pineapples, pumpkins, potatoes, coconuts, peas, beans, radishes, lettuce, tomatoes, and avocados.

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 freezes (1894, 1895, 1896, 1899) damage or destroy 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. Palm Beach County is formed in 1909.

1910s

Farmers start arriving in the Glades and begin clearing land and planting crops. Three-year drought (1917-1919) strikes the Lake Okeechobee area, lowering water levels.

1920s

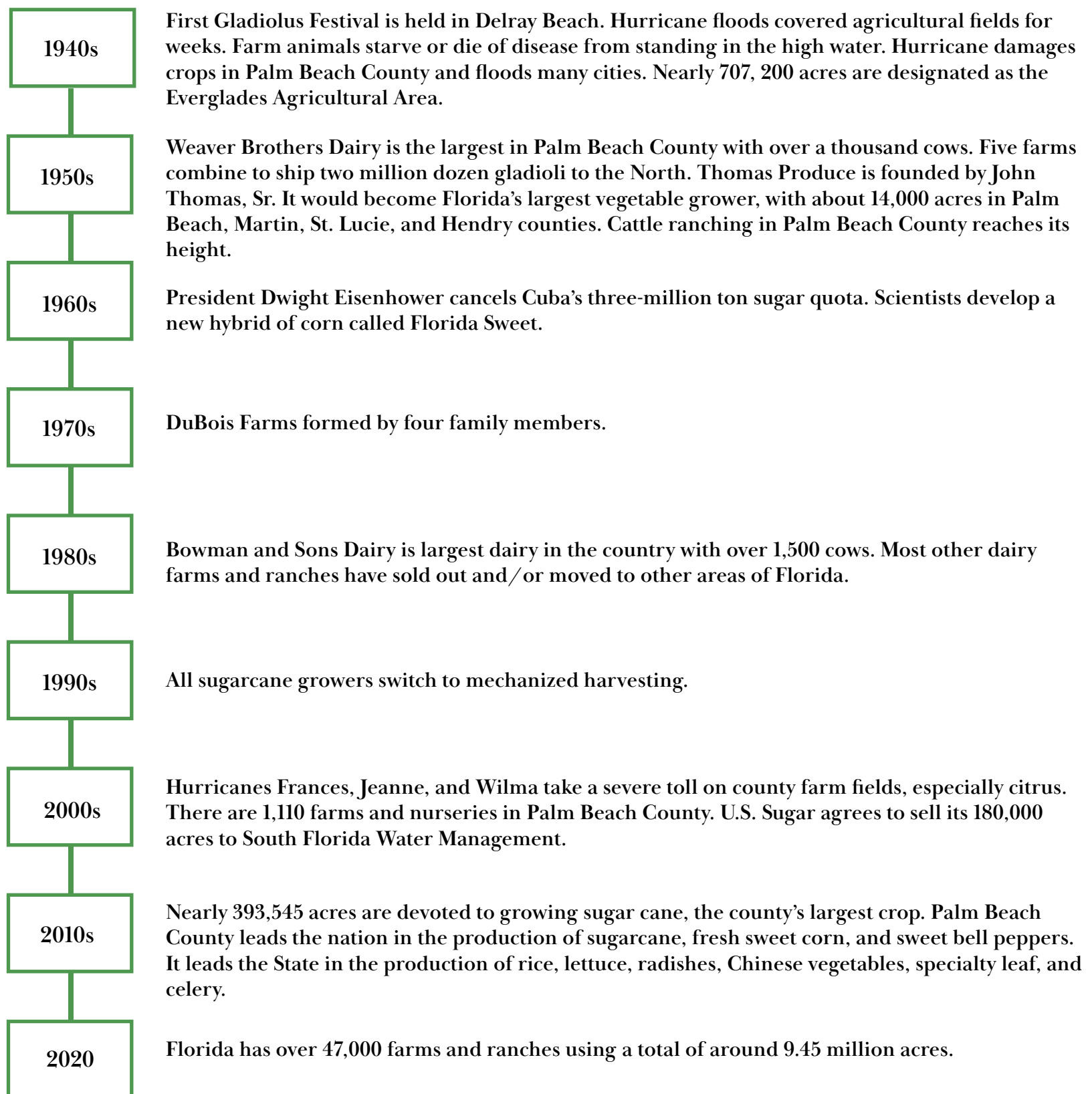
USDA opens sugarcane breeding station at Canal Point. First sugar mill opens in Canal Point. Pineapple growers total 101 in Palm Beach County, cultivating 925 acres. Florida East Coast Railroad extends line from Okeechobee City to Canal Point and Belle Glade. Farmers can ship crops from depots in the Glades.

1930s

Construction of Herbert Hoover Dike around Lake Okeechobee begins. Farmers start growing celery.

1940s

United States enters World War II. A camp is set up in Belle Glade for 200 German POWs working in a canning factory. Palm Beach County farmers are awarded the Army "A" Award for agricultural achievement. In the winter season of 1942-1943, \$22 million worth of vegetables are grown.





## POST-WORLD WAR II TO PRESENT WORKSHEET 1

**Instructions:** Read "Post-World War II To Present" and answer the questions below in a separate document. When you are finished, submit your answers to your teacher.

Name:

1. Choose three influential figures from the text and describe the contributions they made to Palm Beach County.
2. In your words, explain why having a diverse population is important.
3. Why are the Everglades an important natural resource?

## **POST-WORLD WAR II TO PRESENT**

### **ACTIVITIES FROM PAGE 3 OF**

### ***THE HISTORY OF FLORIDA***

**Instructions:** Read "Post-World War II To Present" and answer the questions below in a separate document. When you are finished, submit your answers to your teacher.

#### **READING CHECK:**

1. What is Florida's rank in population in the U.S.?
2. Make a list of names and occupations of the Blacks mentioned in this section.
3. Where did the people of the Yamato Colony come from? What happened to them?
4. Where is the largest Haitian population in the United States?
5. What types of contributions have people of Jewish heritage made in Palm Beach County?

#### **AS YOU READ:**

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



## **POST-WORLD WAR II TO PRESENT ACTIVITIES FROM PAGES 4 AND 5 OF *THE HISTORY OF FLORIDA***

**Instructions:** Read "Post-World War II To Present" and answer the questions below on a separate document. When you are finished, submit your answers to your teacher.

### **MAP SKILL:**

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

### **MATH PRACTICE:**

1. What is the difference between the number of Jews in Palm Beach County in 1950 and 2018?

### **IMAGINE THAT:**

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

### **SHORT ANSWER (PAGE 5):**

1. List some of Florida's modern industries.

### **DISCUSSION:**

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?

## POST-WORLD WAR II TO PRESENT QUIZ

**Instructions:** Read "Post-World War II To Present" and answer the questions below in a separate document. When you are finished, submit your answers to your teacher.

Name:

1. The second Land Boom in Florida ranges from about:  
A) 1920 to 1930  
B) 1930 to present  
C) 1950 to present  
D) 1960 to 1990
2. A population explosion occurred in Florida when:  
A) the population decreased between 1920 and 1930  
B) the population increased between 1940 and 1980  
C) the population doubled between 1950 and 1960  
D) the population tripled between 1950 and 1960
3. As more people come to Florida, the population becomes more diverse. Floridians now include people from all over the United States and the world. Which of the following words is most like the word *diverse*  
A) varied  
B) similar  
C) populated  
D) comparable
4. The Apollo 11 launched from Cape Canaveral in:  
A) 1896  
B) 1969  
C) 1970  
D) 1987



# POST-WORLD WAR II TO PRESENT

## ART ACTIVITY

### MATERIALS:

- 8x10 copy paper, pencils, erasers, markers, crayons, and color pencils.
- Example of advertisement (page 12)

### INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Have you seen any advertisements for the major industries in Florida? If so, which ones?
2. Have you thought of becoming a graphic designer? Web designer? Do you have a favorite Florida advertisement?
3. Design an ad for one of Florida's industries using your art supplies.
4. Before you begin, research the industry that you are making the advertisement for. The ad should have accurate information and pictures or sayings regarding the subject matter being advertised.
5. Give a presentation using your ad in video format, submit to your teacher, and be prepared to answer questions regarding the particular industry you selected.



*Courtesy of Roger Wilkerson*

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