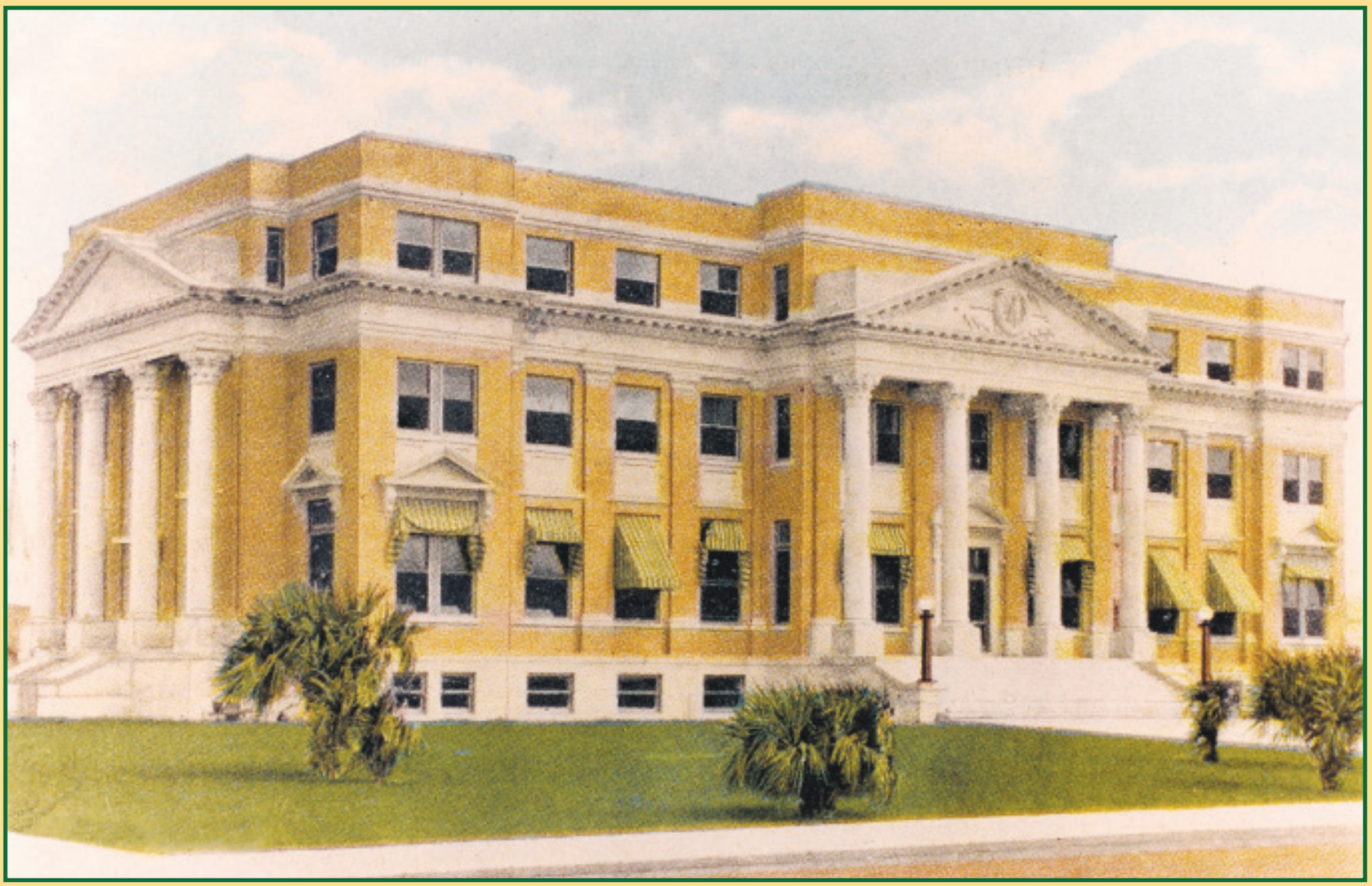
PALM BEACH COUNTY

CIVICS & HISTORY

TEACHERS GUIDE



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On the cover: The 1916 Palm Beach County Courthouse, at 300 North Dixie Highway, in downtown West Palm Beach. It is now the home of the Richard and Pat Johnson Palm Beach County History Museum.

Civics

Civics is the study of the rights and duties of citizens. The concept of citizenship comes from ancient Greece and Rome, where only adult males with property had the right to vote and to be part of the political process. In the United States, your gender or wealth does not prohibit you from participating as a citizen.

We the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice,
insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common Defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves
and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Article. I.

Section. 1. All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House
of Representatives.

Section. 2. The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and the Electors
in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

No Person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained to the Age of twenty five Years, and been seven Years a Citizen of the United States,
and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen.

Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective
Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of Years, and excluding Indians
not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons. The actual Enumeration shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States,
and within every subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they shall by Law direct. The Number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every
thirty Thousand, but each State shall have at least one Representative; and until such Enumeration shall be made, the State of New Hampshire shall be
entitled to chuse three, Massachusetts eight, Rhode Island and Providence Plantations one, Connecticut five, New York six, New Jersey four, Pennsylvania
eight, Delaware one, Maryland six, Virginia ten, North Carolina five, South Carolina five, and Georgia three.

When vacancies happen in the Representation from any State, the Executive Authority thereof shall issue Writs of Election to fill such Vacancies.

The House of Representatives shall chuse their Speaker and other Officers; and shall have the sole Power of Impeachment.

Section. 3. The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, chosen by the Legislature thereof, for six Years; and each
Senator shall have one Vote.

Immediately after they shall be assembled in Consequence of the first Election, they shall be divided as equally as may be into three Classes. The Seats
of the Senators of the first Class shall be vacated at the Expiration of the second Year, of the second Class at the Expiration of the fourth Year, and of the third
Class at the Expiration of the sixth Year, so that one third may be chosen every second Year; and if Vacancies happen by Resignation, or otherwise, during the
Recess of the Legislature of any State, the Executive thereof may make temporary Appointments until the next Meeting of the Legislature, which shall then fill
such Vacancies.

No Person shall be a Senator who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty Years, and been nine Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall
not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State for which he shall be chosen.

The Vice President of the United States shall be President of the Senate, but shall have no Vote, unless they be equally divided.

The Senate shall chuse their other Officers, and also a President pro tempore, in the Absence of the Vice President, or when he shall exercise the Office of
President of the United States.

The Senate shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments. When sitting for that Purpose, they shall be on Oath or Affirmation. When the President
of the United States is tried, the Chief Justice shall preside: And no Person shall be convicted without the Concurrence of two thirds of the Members present.

Judgment in Cases of Impeachment shall not extend further than to removal from Office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any Office of Honor,
Trust or Profit under the United States: but the Party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and subject to Indictment, Trial, Judgment and Punishment,
according to Law.

Section. 4. The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature
thereof; but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations, except as to the Places of chusing Senators.

The Congress shall assemble at least once in every Year, and such Meeting shall be on the first Monday in December, unless they shall by Law
appoint a different Day.

Section. 5. Each House shall be the Judge of the Elections, Returns and Qualifications of its own Members, and a Majority of each shall constitute a
Quorum to do Business; but a smaller Number may adjourn from day to day, and may be authorized to compel the Attendance of absent Members, in
such Manner, and under such Penalties as each House may provide.

Each House may determine the Rules of its Proceedings, punish its Members for disorderly Behaviour, and, with the Concurrence of two thirds, expel a
Member.

Each House shall keep a Journal of its Proceedings, and from time to time publish the same, excepting such Parts as may in their Judgment require
Secrecy; and the Yeas and Nays of the Members of either House on any question shall, at the Desire of one fifth of those Present, be entered on the Journal.

Neither House, during the Session of Congress, shall, without the Consent of the other, adjourn for more than three days, nor to any other Place
than that in which the two Houses shall be sitting.

Section. 6. The Senators and Representatives shall receive a Compensation for their Services, to be ascertained by Law, and paid out of the Treasury of
the United States. They shall in all Cases, except Treason, Felony and Breach of the Peace, be privileged from Arrest during their Attendance at the
Session of their respective Houses, and in going to and returning from the same; and for any Speech or Debate in either House, they shall not be questioned in
any other Place.

No Senator or Representative shall, during the Time for which he was elected, be appointed to any civil Office under the Authority of the United States,
which shall have been created, or the Emoluments whereof shall have been encreased during such time; and no Person holding any Office under the United
States, shall be a Member of either House during his Continuance in Office.

Section. 7. All Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or concur with Amendments as on other Bills.

Every Bill which shall have passed the House of Representatives and the Senate, shall, before it become a Law, be presented to the President of the

Constitution of the United States, page 1. Courtesy National Archives and Records Administration.

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Check:

Why was the U.S. Constitution written?

Short Answer:

Why is it important to have freedom of the press?

Before You Read:

Discuss the meaning of the word "independence."

Analyze It:

Analyze the relationship between natural rights and the role of government.

Reading Check:

A. Identify the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation.

B. What new, stronger document replaced the Articles of Confederation?

Think About It:

Why was the Bill of Rights necessary?

Do You Know?

A. What document contains the Bill of Rights?

B. What are the freedoms protected by the First Amendment?

Government

The Federal Government (Benchmark: SS.7.CG.1.2)

Following the American Revolution, the leaders of the new nation came together to establish a national government. The first document set forth by the delegates was the Articles of Confederation, under which the central government was too weak, which caused many problems. Congress had no power to tax, to regulate trade, or to enforce its laws. The federal government lacked a national court system (judicial branch) or central leadership (executive branch), and changes to the articles required unanimous consent of the thirteen states. The delegates met and designed a new form of government for the United States, the Constitution.

The Constitution, which achieved ratification in October 1788, established our form of government as a republic. To protect the rights of citizens, amendments were added to the Constitution as the Bill of Rights. The Bill of Rights includes the first ten amendments, giving rights to the people and states, thus putting limits on the power of government. Some of these rights include freedom of religion, speech, press, and the right to assemble and petition. Since adoption of the Bill of Rights, many more amendments have been added. Because of this, some have said that the Constitution is a "living document."

Celebrate Freedom Week

In the 2002 session of the Florida Legislature, a bill was passed (HB885/233.0659, F.S.) to ensure that students in the public school system developed a deep understanding of the guiding principles and the impact of the Declaration of Independence. Below is an excerpt from the Declaration of Independence (July 4, 1776).

Natural Rights and the Role of Government (Benchmark: S.7.CG.3.13)

1. People are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; 2. Governments are instituted among men to secure these rights; 3. Governments derive their powers from the consent of the governed; and 4. Whenever any form of government is destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to institute a new government.

BILL OF RIGHTS (Benchmark: SS.7.CG.2.3)

Amendment I — Guarantees freedom of religion, speech, and the press, the right to assemble peacefully, and the right to petition the government.

Amendment II — Guarantees the right to possess firearms in a state militia.

Amendment III — Prohibits government from requiring people to house soldiers during peacetime.

Amendment IV — Protects people from unreasonable searches and seizures.

Amendment V — Guarantees that no one may be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of the law.

Amendment VI — Guarantees the right to a trial by jury in criminal cases.

Amendment VII — Guarantees the right to a trial by jury in most civil cases.

Amendment VIII — Prohibits excessive bail, fines, and punishments.

Amendment IX — Declares that rights not stated in the Constitution belong to the people.

Amendment X — Declares that powers not given to the national government belong to the states or to the people.

Scenarios:

Court Case	Rights Protected by Bill of Rights Being Challenged	Scenario
Cox v. Louisiana	Peaceable Assembly	The First Amendment protects peaceable demonstrations even when they may cause violence.
Mapp v. Ohio	Unreasonable search and seizure	Evidence obtained through a search in violation of the Fourth Amendment cannot be admitted in a state criminal proceeding.

Bill of Rights Activity

Read the two scenarios below and decide which amendment of the Bill of Rights is being violated. In the space provided, fill in which right was violated and which amendment protects that right. (The following are based on scenarios by Hollie Simmons, Teacher at Lutheran High School of Orange County.)

Scenario 1

George, a restaurant manager with 20 employees, is arrested for stealing a set of pots and pans and selling them at a flea market. When George is arrested, the officers read him his rights and he tells them that he wants a lawyer, but they ignore him. When he is arraigned, he tells the judge he would like a lawyer. The judge tells George that if he can manage a restaurant with twenty employees, he can defend himself.

Right violated_____

Amendment that protects the right_____

Scenario 2

Federal agents confront Mark Smith, an amateur gardener and owner of a small pest control business, at his home and place of business. One agent explains that they are here to seize his storage shed full of chemicals because a federal law allows them to confiscate chemicals that could be used to manufacture homemade bombs to carry out terrorist attacks in the U.S. Mark is allowed by law to have the chemicals because of his pest control business. The agents do not have any evidence that he is involved with terrorist activities.

Right violated_____

Amendment that protects the right_____

Answer:

Where can a description of U.S. citizens' civil liberties be found?

a. Declaration of Independence.
b. Preamble to the Constitution.
c. Pledge of Allegiance.
d. Bill of Rights.

You Make the Call:

Choose two of the amendments in the Bill of Rights that you feel are most important. Write a paragraph explaining your choice.

Talk About It:

Why is a system of checks and balances necessary?

Research:

Find out the names of the people who hold these offices in Florida: governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, and secretary of education.

Activity:

Find out who the state representative(s) and senator(s) are from your district. Write a letter to them about an issue that concerns you, or ask questions concerning governmental issues.

Reading Check:

What are the three branches of government? What are their responsibilities?

Government is a system by which a state or community is governed.

Branches of the Federal Government (Benchmark: SS.7.CG.3.3)

The Founding Fathers feared the tyranny they had experienced under British rule. Therefore, they created a federal government consisting of three branches: the executive branch, legislative branch, and judicial branch. This form of government created a system of checks and balances so that one branch does not become more powerful than the other two.

The executive branch is responsible for enforcing the laws of the United States. This branch consists of the president, vice president, and a Cabinet of the heads of the various departments of government. The legislative branch is responsible for lawmaking and consists of the House of Representatives and the Senate, which together form Congress.

The judicial branch is the court system, made up of the U.S. Supreme Court and more than 1,000 other federal courts. This court hears and decides arguments about the meanings of laws, how they are applied, and whether they violate the Constitution.

Florida Government (Benchmark: SS.7.CG.3.12)

The State of Florida has a constitution much like the U.S. Constitution. The purpose of a constitution is to provide the framework for government, limit government authority, and protect the rights of the people. Though each state has its own constitution, the U.S. Constitution is the supreme law of the land. Florida's first constitution was written in 1838, when Florida was a U.S. territory, during the process of becoming a state. Since then, it has been changed many times. Every twenty years, meetings are held to review the Florida Constitution and decide whether to change it. If there are recommendations, these are submitted to the people of Florida to vote on. The Florida Constitution was changed in 1865, 1868 (when Florida was re-admitted to the Union), 1885, 1968, and 1998. In 1998 the executive branch was reorganized.

Tallahassee is the capital of Florida. Just like local governments, the state government is responsible for providing many services, such as education, law enforcement, conservation of natural resources, public works, health departments, and other public services. Florida's government mirrors the federal government; the state, too, has executive, legislative, and judicial branches.

Content Focus Terms:

Jury Duty
County Court
Circuit Court
District Court of Appeal
Supreme Court
Checks and Balances
Executive Branch
Legislative Branch
Judicial Branch
Articles of Confederation

As You Read:

Compare Florida's court system to that of the federal government.

Figure it Out:

Which court would hear the following cases?

- Divorce
- An appeal involving the death penalty
- Grand theft
- An appeal case involving unfair business practices

Talk About It:

What kinds of taxes do you pay? Your family members?

Test Your Knowledge:

Does Florida have a state income tax?

Compare the United State Constitution and Florida's Constitution. How are they similar and how are they different?

Visit http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/Index.cfm?Mode=Constitution&Submenu=3&Tab=statutes for Florida's Constitution and visit http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/constitution.html for the U.S. Constitution.

Florida's Executive Branch (Benchmark: SS.7.CG.3.8)

The state executive branch consists of a governor, lieutenant governor, and three elected Cabinet members. The governor is the chief executive of the state and, along with the lieutenant governor, is elected by the public for a four-year term. Before 2003, the governor's Cabinet included six members elected by the public. A change to the state Constitution reduced the number of Cabinet members to three: They are the attorney general, chief financial officer, and the commissioner of agriculture. These members are elected for a four-year term.

The Lieutenant Governor

The office of the lieutenant governor was created in 1865, abolished, and then re-established in 1968. The lieutenant governor assists the governor in the performance of his responsibilities, carries out specific duties directed by the governor, and is a member of the Cabinet. He or she assumes the governor's position if it becomes vacant due to the death or impeachment of the governor.

Florida's Legislative Branch (Benchmark: SS.7.CG.3.7)

The state House of Representatives and the Senate make up Florida's Legislature. Like the federal government does for the nation, these two governmental bodies create the laws for the state. The men and women who serve as representatives and senators must live in the areas they represent, called districts. Apportionment (number of members) of both houses of the state Legislature must be based on population. This means that the more people who live in your district, the more representatives and senators you are allowed. The residents of those districts elect their state government officials. Representatives are elected for two-year terms; senators serve a four-year term. One-half of the senators are elected every two years. Elections for representatives occur in even-numbered years. Every year, the legislature meets to decide issues affecting the state. The legislature is also responsible for state job appointments, raising or reducing state taxes, and controlling the state budget.

The Judicial Branch (Benchmark: SS.7.CG.3.9)

The Florida Supreme Court

The judicial branch is the state's court system. The powers and jurisdiction of the state and federal courts are derived from their respective constitutions. The Florida Supreme Court is the highest court in the state. Seven justices are appointed by the governor to serve on the Supreme Court bench. A chief justice is selected by a majority of the other justices. Every two years, the position is rotated. The chief justice serves as chief administrator of the judicial system. Of the justices, five are needed to constitute a quorum, and four must be in agreement to render a decision.

The Supreme Court hears all appeals, including judgments from trial courts that have imposed the death penalty, and decisions of district courts of appeal declaring a state statute or provisions of the state Constitution invalid. The court may also review any decision of the district courts of appeal. The Supreme Court is also responsible for granting permission for attorneys to practice and for the discipline of attorneys who violate standards of conduct. In addition to the Supreme Court, three other levels of courts constitute the judicial branch: the courts of appeal, with five districts; twenty circuit courts; and sixty-seven county courts.

District Courts of Appeal

These courts review most decisions by the lower trial courts. A panel of three judges makes up a district court of appeal. Appellate-court judges are appointed in the same manner as Supreme Court justices. In a district court of appeal, two judges must agree on a decision. Florida is divided into five appellate-court districts: Tallahassee, Lakeland, Daytona Beach, West Palm Beach, and Miami.

The district courts of appeal have jurisdiction over appeals from trial courts and over some rulings by county courts that are of great public importance. This court also can review actions taken by state agencies. The state constitution gives the appellate courts the authority to issue writs. The court's decision is the final judgment for litigated cases appealed to this court, although those not satisfied may appeal to the state or federal Supreme Court.

Circuit Courts

The circuit courts have the most general jurisdiction in the state. There are twenty circuit courts in Florida. Each is presided over by a circuit judge. Voters of the jurisdictional area of the circuit court elect a circuit judge every six years. Circuit courts have jurisdiction over appeals from county courts. They also hear all felony cases, civil cases involving more than $15,000, and other cases not handled by county courts.

County Courts

The state's sixty-seven counties have their own county courts, in accordance with Florida's constitution. Depending on the size of the county, there are one or more judges. County judges are elected by county residents and serve a term of four years. County courts have jurisdiction over small civil cases under $15,000, some misdemeanor cases, and violations of all county and municipal ordinances. County courts also rule in divorce cases.

Roles of Juries

Juries are an important element in the American legal system. Members of juries are randomly selected from the residents under the court's jurisdiction. They are summoned and sworn to hear and decide the facts of a trial. Jurors listen to the evidence presented, decide what facts the evidence has established, and then, forms a decision of guilt or innocence of a defendant in a criminal trial, or liable or not liable in civil cases.

When a case is tried before a jury, the judge determines what evidence the jury hears and then instructs the jury on the legal rules that they must follow in weighing the facts. If the jury returns a guilty or liable decision, the judge imposes the sentence on the defendant.

Courtesy Historical Society of Palm Beach County

Judge C.E. Chillingworth, the youngest judge to be appointed in Palm Beach County. He and his wife were murdered in 1955 on orders from Municipal Judge Joe Peel, whom Chillingworth was investigating for criminal activities. Peel was later arrested, charged with ordering the murders, and found guilty. The two men he hired were also arrested and found guilty of murder.

Paying for Government

How is Florida's government financially supported? It is supported through the collection of state taxes and fees. People pay taxes, which are used to pay for the state government and services. This might be in the form of a sales tax that is added to the price of items purchased. Certain items like gasoline and cigarettes have additional taxes. Tax money is used for such things as constructing and maintaining state buildings, state roads, and state educational facilities; and to pay state employees. Besides taxes, special fees are collected. These include fees for driver's licenses and license plates, hunting and fishing licenses, and certification of some professions.

County and Municipal Governments (Benchmark: SS.7.CG.3.13)

Florida has sixty-seven county governments and 408 municipal governments. These local governments help the state government run Florida more efficiently. Each county has a county seat, where the center of county government is located. For instance, the county seat for Palm Beach County is West Palm Beach. Many counties operate under a charter, which is similar to a constitution. Under a charter system, county ordinances take precedence over municipal ordinances. However, in counties without a charter, municipal ordinances take precedence.

County governments provide such services as law enforcement, fire rescue, elections, schools, libraries, utilities, waste management, maintenance of roads and bridges, growth management, and other important services. Within the county government are a legislative branch, an administrative branch and, a judicial branch; and constitutionally elected officials, such as the sheriff, tax collector, and clerk of the circuit court.

Palm Beach County Government

County governments are similar to federal and state governments. There are three branches of county government: a legislative branch, an administrative branch, and a judicial branch.

The legislative body of Palm Beach County is the seven-member Board of County Commissioners, one member for each of its seven districts. The voters elect one commissioner from each district to serve a four-year term. One board member is selected by the board every two years to serve as chairman of the commissioners. The county commission adopts local laws and establishes policies and programs designed to protect residents of the county. In addition, commissioners guide the growth and development of the county. Some of the areas the board is concerned with are fire protection, recreational facilities, cultural programs, housing, community redevelopment, and construction and maintenance of roads and bridges.

Reading Check:

How many counties are there in Florida?

After You Read:

Compare and contrast the federal and state government structures to that of Palm Beach County.

Define and Make Inferences:

What is "home rule," and why is it important?

The county commission appoints the county administrator, who is part of the administrative branch. This person is given the responsibility to carry out the policies of the commission. The county administrator oversees about thirty departments that provide services to county residents. Other county officers elected by the voters are the clerk of the circuit court, property appraiser, sheriff, supervisor of elections, public defender, state attorney, and tax collector. They are elected every four years.

The judicial branch consists of the county court system. Depending on the size of the county, there are one or more judges. County judges are elected by county residents and serve a term of four years. County courts have jurisdiction over small civil cases, misdemeanor cases not heard by the circuit court, and violations of county and municipal ordinances. The county courts also rule in divorce cases.

Municipal Governments

Within each county are municipalities —a city, town, or village— that has a local government. It is up to the citizens who found a new municipality to decide what to name it. Of the 408 municipalities within Florida, Palm Beach County has the most municipalities in the state with thirty-nine. City governments serve the citizens who live there and provide a variety of services, including law enforcement, fire-rescue, and utilities, such as water, sewage, and electricity. City officials pass local laws, decide on procedures for taxation, and operate public services. The state government recognizes that cities have rights, such as self-government. Home rule is the most important of these rights; cities can pass their own laws and ordinances, as long as they do not conflict with state or federal laws. Home rule was recognized in the state constitution in 1968, but it was not ratified until the 1970s.

There are three forms of municipal government: commission-mayor, commission-manager, and commission forms of government. Cities may have a combination of any of these forms of government.

Council/Commission-Mayor Form of Government

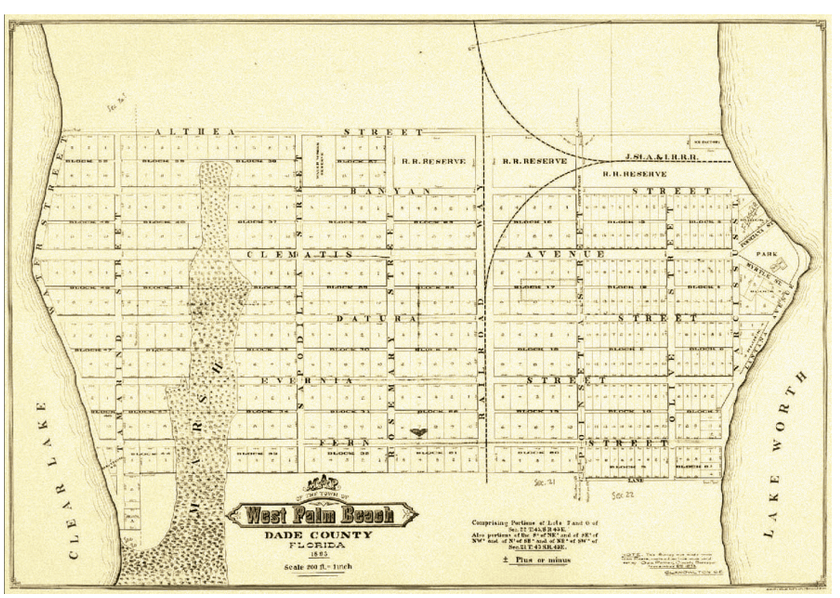
A city with a council-mayor form of government has a mayor and a city council or commission that are elected by the public. The mayor and the city council work together to run the city. There are two sub-forms of the council-mayor government: strong-mayor/council and weak-mayor/council. The strong-mayor/council type has a mayor who directs the governing of the city. In the weak-mayor/council type, the council assumes the stronger leading role. A mayor appoints the heads of various city departments, such as the chief of police, and holds veto power over council legislation. A good example of a strong-mayor/council form of government is the City of West Palm Beach. It has a mayor and a five-person city commission.

Council/Commission-Manager Form of Government

A council-manager or commission-manager form of government has an elected council and a mayor who is either publicly elected or appointed by the city council. To oversee the administrative operations of the city, the council hires a city manager. The City of Riviera Beach has this form of government. The mayor and members of the city council are elected, and the council appoints a city manager as the chief administrative officer. The city manager appoints directors of the various city departments. This is the most common form of local government.

Commission Form of Government

A commission form of government is a group of elected officials who share executive and legislative responsibilities for the municipality. Each commissioner heads a city department. In some cases, one commissioner might be the mayor and act as the chairman of the commission. The commission type of government is the rarest of the three forms of local governments.



Courtesy Historical Society of Palm Beach County

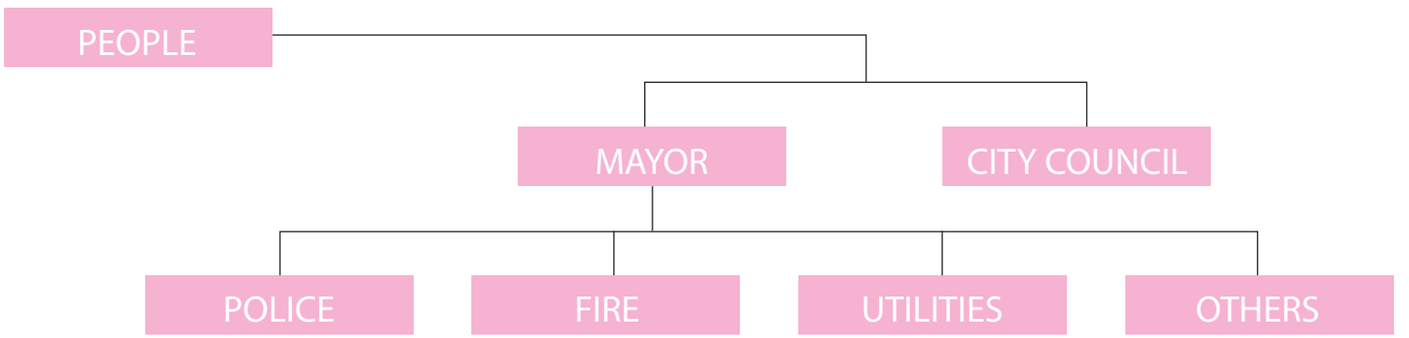
Map of West Palm Beach as it was laid out in 1893.

A municipality is a city, town, or district with a local government.

TYPES OF MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

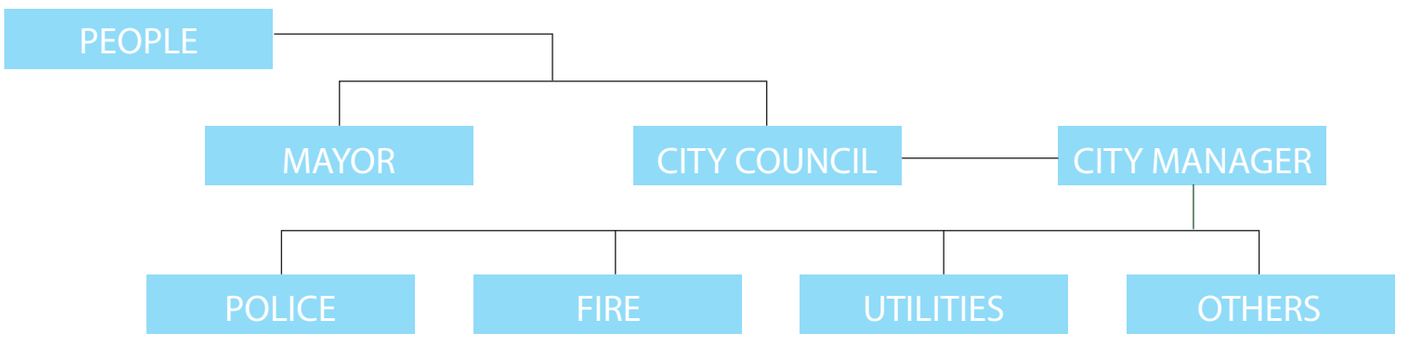
Council/Commission-Mayor

The people elect the mayor and the city council. The mayor in turns appoints the heads of the municipal departments.



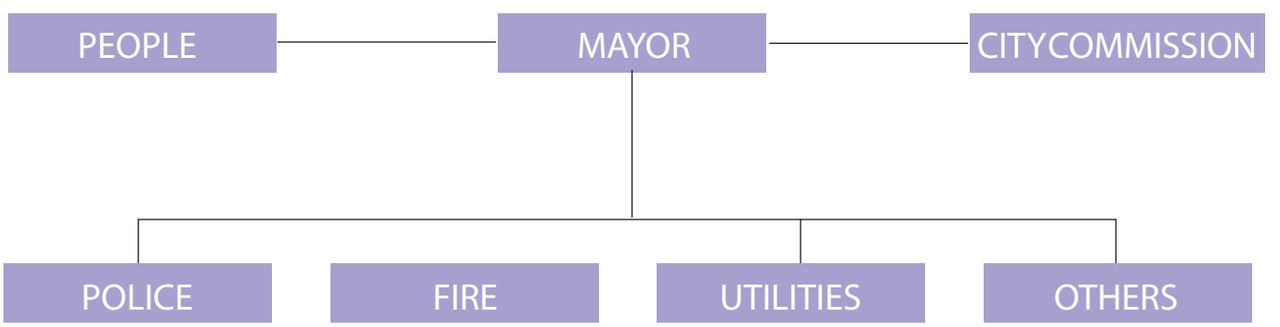
Council/Commission-Manager

The people elect the city council. The mayor is either elected by the people or appointed by the city council. The city council hires the city manager, who oversees the heads of the municipal departments.



Commission

The people elect a municipal commission, which then appoints a mayor. Each commissioner heads one of the municipal departments.



Activity:

Go to http://discover.pbcgov.org/Pages/Municipalities.aspx Visit each city's page. Find out which type of government is the most common type in Palm Beach County.

Forming an Opinion:

Evaluate what type of municipal government is the best form. Why?

Special Districts and Consolidation Government

There are two additional forms of local governments: the special district, and a consolidation of city and county governments. The first form provides specific needs and is separate from the county government. The other eliminates duplication of some services, thereby centralizing the government.

Special Districts

Special districts provide a specialized service to a specific geographical area. Each district has a governing board that makes policies governing the special district. Costs for these districts are paid for by those who benefit from the service. Special districts can include port authorities, hospitals, and water management. Some of the special districts in Palm Beach County are the South Florida Water Management District, the Palm Beach County Housing Authority, and the School District of Palm Beach County. An elected board governs the school district and oversees daily operations. Since a school district is a special district, it receives funding from property taxes and the state.

Consolidation of Local Governments

A consolidation form of government is where two local governments, usually a city and a county, combine functions and services, avoiding duplication. Although Section 3 of Article VII of the state constitution allows consolidation, the voters of the area concerned must agree to the consolidation of governments. An excellent example of a consolidated government, which has been working well since 1968, is Jacksonville-Duval County.

Lantana's First Female Mayors

In July 1921, the new town commission of Lantana appointed Ellen M. Anderson as mayor when Mr. J.H. Vance declined the position. Anderson served as mayor until November 1921, when regular elections were held. In that election, Mary S. Paddock was elected as the town's second mayor. These women were the first female mayors in Palm Beach County.

Clarence Anthony (Born 1959-)

In 1984, the City of South Bay elected twenty-four-year-old African American Clarence Anthony mayor, a position he held until 2008. Anthony holds a graduate degree in public administration, and South Bay's library has been named for him. He also serves as president of the National Conference of Mayors, a position usually held by a mayor of a large city. Anthony's parents were migrant workers who moved up and down the east coast of the United States picking vegetables.

Nancy Graham, Mayor, City of West Palm Beach 1991-1999

The voters of West Palm Beach elected Nancy Graham mayor in 1991. She was the city's first mayor to be elected by the public in about seventy years. Graham's election to the city's highest office occurred after a change to the charter, to allow a strong-mayor government. During her tenure, she focused on the redevelopment of downtown with projects that brought the arts and entertainment back to downtown, supporting development of CityPlace, and revitalizing the historic commercial district of Clematis Street. Some of Graham's other accomplishments were the construction of a new community center in Pleasant City and helping more than 100 low-income families find funding to buy houses.

What Is Citizenship? (Benchmark: SS.7.CG.2.1)

The Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees citizenship at birth to almost all who are born in the U.S. and its territories. A U.S. citizen is a native-born or a naturalized person who owes allegiance to the U.S. and is entitled to its protection. Those born outside the U.S. to parents who are U.S. citizens are also recognized as citizens. U.S. citizenship is conferred on foreign citizens through a process called naturalization. Citizens of foreign countries who move to the U.S. are sometimes called "aliens.". They enjoy the same freedoms and rights of U.S. citizens except they do not have the right to vote.

Civics is the study of the roles, obligations, and duties of citizenship (SS.7.C.2.2)

Citizens of the United States enjoy many rights but also have responsibilities. The U.S. Constitution protects the rights of the people. Citizens have the obligation to obey laws, pay taxes, defend the nation, and serve on juries. Their responsibilities —encouraged but not required by law— include voting, attending civic meetings, petitioning government, running for office, and respecting the rights of others.

Charles Moore McCurdy Jr.

An old Chinese proverb says, "Give a man a fish and he'll eat for a day. Teach a man to fish and he'll eat for a lifetime!"

This philosophy was a belief of a true trailblazer of public education, Charles Moore McCurdy Jr. He was born in Titusville, Florida, and rose from poverty during the Depression to become a well-educated and determined man. He always wanted what was best for his family, students, and his community.

McCurdy served in the United States Army. He also earned an associate of arts degree from Florida Normal Institute and bachelor 's and master's degrees from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical College (now Florida A&M University).

McCurdy was a teacher in north Florida from 1940 to 1948. When he moved to Belle Glade in 1949, he became principal of the first school (four rooms) for black children in Belle Glade, on what was known as the "Loading Ramp" on 5th Street between avenue c and d. McCurdy became the first principal at Lake Shore Elementary in 1950. In 1955, he became the first and only principal of Lake Shore Junior/Senior High School, where for 15 years, he counseled students about the importance of education.

When social change began to affect Palm Beach County, the Lake Shore and Belle Glade schools were integrated. Some schools had problems adjusting to the change, but McCurdy's belief in non-violence set an example for the community. His expertise as an administrator, teacher, and leader set him apart.

When the two high schools in Belle Glade were combined and renamed Glades Central High School, McCurdy thought he would become the principal of the new school. He was very disappointed when he learned that he had been demoted to principal of the junior high school. McCurdy, feeling he was being treated unfairly, challenged the Palm Beach County school system in court. In 1974, McCurdy won the lawsuit and was named principal of Glades Central High School. A victory celebration was cut short by his death in August of 1975. Charles McCurdy believed that failure was not an option and that knowledge was the key to success. He is well remembered by the many people whose lives he touched.

Lawrence Shuler

Lawrence Shuler was born in Falco, Alabama, in 1876. He moved to Kelsey City (now Lake Park), Florida, as an adult. He came to Belle Glade from Kelsey City in September 1928, after a hurricane in the Glades left the town totally devastated. Only two buildings in Belle Glade survived the hurricane; the entire town had to be rebuilt. Mr. Shuler was a builder by trade, and he managed a lumber mill business in Kelsey City.

Mr. Shuler bought land and brought wood from Kelsey City to use to build apartments and houses in Belle Glade. His buildings were architecturally sound and could be recognized by their bi-level elevations. His buildings offered inside bath facilities to black residents for the first time in Belle Glade.

His wife Ada stayed behind with their only child Arlene in Kelsey City. In 1937, they joined Lawrence Shuler in Belle Glade. The Shuler family lived in a stylish residence that sat high above the ground on pilings covered by lush shrubbery and with metal shutters on all windows.

Most people remember Mr. Shuler as the richest man in "Colored Town" (called such because at that time sections of town were not integrated). He had many businesses, including a farm, a night club, a loan business, a store, apartment buildings, and a baseball team. He is also remembered because he helped the City of Belle Glade build its first bridge. He reportedly gave the city $10,000 for the bridge. He also provided wood from his saw mill for the construction project.

It is believed that it was because Mr. Shuler was black that his name was not written on the bridge with a marker, as is the usual practice. His name was written underneath the bridge. Members of Mr. W.C. Taylor's Boy Scout Troop would walk to the bridge to see Mr. Shuler's name. Residents of "Colored Town" called the bridge "The Shuler Bridge."

On December 15, 2003, the Belle Glade Commission, at its regular meeting, voted unanimously to re-name the bridge across the Hillsboro Canal at West 5th Street, The Lawrence Shuler Bridge.

Lawrence Shuler died January 20, 1950 in Belle Glade.

From Bridge Builder: A Story of Lawrence Shuler ©1994.

Evaluate:

Evaluate the obligations and responsibilities of citizens as they relate to active participation in society and government.

FormanOpinion,Talk About It and Write:

1. What do you think is the most important responsibility of a citizen? Explain your point of view.

2. Is there a rule at your school that you would like to change? Explain the rule and why you feel it needs to be changed.

Real-Life Experience:

Write about a time that you experienced, witnessed, or read about an act of discrimination. Be sure to include the event, the people involved and the outcome.

African American Protest Movements in Palm Beach County

By Patricia Mavo

In American society, protest movements are a way for citizens to challenge laws or societal practices that create inequality or that appear to give unfair advantages to one group over another. The right to protest is protected under the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. The First Amendment guarantees citizens the right to religious freedom, the right to speak out freely against the government, the right to assemble peaceably, and the right to petition the government to change laws. This amendment was designed to protect civil liberties. African Americans have used the freedoms protected by the First Amendment to call attention to injustices at the local, state, and national levels. In Palm Beach County, many African American citizens have spoken out and even led protests to challenge instances of racial discrimination.

During the 1941 school year, African American teachers in Palm Beach County organized a union because white teachers in the school district were to receive a pay raise, but not African American teachers. C. Spencer Pompey, an African American teacher, enlisted the help of NAACP lawyer and future Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. Marshall filed a class-action lawsuit, the first of its kind. The lawsuit was successful, and all teachers received a raise. Like the example above, an organized group is important when challenging racial discrimination. In 1925, African American businessmen in West Palm Beach organized the Vanguard Club to challenge voting laws and residential zoning practices that discriminated against African Americans. They also fought to change hiring practices that discriminated against African Americans. The Vanguard Club was not always successful, but its members gained important political and leadership skills through their activities.

Protest movements might involve the organized participation of many people, or just the hard work of a few strong leaders. One such leader was civil rights activist Louise Elizabeth Buie. As president of the Palm Beach County branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People during the 1950s and 1960s, and as a community activist, Buie wanted to desegregate Palm Beach County schools, beaches, restaurants, and hospitals. She challenged restrictions that prevented African Americans from becoming police officers and firefighters in West Palm Beach and Riviera Beach. In March 1965, she organized a rally in downtown West Palm Beach to support Martin Luther King Jr.'s march from Selma, Alabama, to the State Capitol building in Montgomery. In 1968, working with the NAACP, Buie led a campaign to end the use of "white-only" textbooks that failed to include the history and contributions of African Americans.

Palm Beach County's first African American attorney, William M. Holland Sr., also dedicated most of his adult life to protecting the civil rights of African Americans in his community. He was a leader in the fight to desegregate Palm Beach County schools. He also filed federal lawsuits to ensure that black children in Palm Beach County, including his own, received the same level of education and supplies as white children. Using the legal system to challenge racial discrimination, as Holland did, has been an effective strategy employed by activists. The persistent and successful efforts of leaders such as Buie and Holland helped to promote the civil rights of African Americans in Palm Beach County. Their examples also demonstrate the positive changes that protest movements can produce.

While other parts of the nation were experiencing sometimes violent and large-scale protest movements during the Civil Rights Movement, Palm Beach County, in contrast, was relatively quiet. A number of serious disturbances, however, did occur. Attempts to desegregate schools in the county resulted in skirmishes with police, boycotts, and the discovery of explosive devices. On "whites-only" beaches, clashes occurred between whites and blacks. In 1955, Leroy Baine and the Delray Civic League sued the City of Delray Beach in an effort to open up the beaches to black residents. When their lawsuit failed, Baine organized a group of swimmers to occupy the beach. White swimmers confronted 60 black swimmers, and the chief of police ordered the beach cleared before any violence occurred. Eventually, the beaches were integrated due to the efforts of civil rights activists.

What were some of the factors that motivated these Palm Beach County citizens and other African Americans nationwide to protest? As discussed earlier, the U.S. Constitution provides all citizens with certain rights. Racial discrimination and segregation contradicted the principles of the Constitution and limited the ability of African Americans to participate in politics or in the economy. There was also a desire to create a better life for the next generation of African Americans. Generally, protest movements have common goals: achieving full political, economic, and civil participation. They also create self-confidence and a sense of cultural identity, and they provide valuable experience in civic and legal matters. In fact, African Americans have along history of civic participation, social activism, and a rich cultural history.

William M. Holland

William Meredith "Bill" Holland Sr. was born in Live Oak, Florida. His quest for a higher education led him to Florida A&M University, where he earned a bachelor of arts degree. During World War II, Holland served in both European and Asiatic Theaters of War. He applied to the University of Florida Law School but was denied entrance because of his race. He challenged the system and was given free tuition at a university of his choice. Holland chose Boston University Law School, where he received his Juris Doctorate.

While at Boston University, Holland became acquainted with Martin Luther King Jr. The Honorable Thurgood Marshall also served as his mentor, charting his strategic plans for civil rights that would become his life's work. Holland was asked to join Marshall and the NAACP Legal Defense League, where they worked to fight racial injustice.

Holland made many contributions to the civil rights movement in Palm Beach County and was responsible for the landmark case to integrate Palm Beach County schools. Holland also helped to integrate transportation, municipal golf courses and other municipal facilities, swimming pools, playgrounds, libraries, and cemeteries.

In 1951, Holland became the first African American attorney in Palm Beach County, and its first African American municipal judge from 1972 to 1977. In 1996, he became the first black in Palm Beach County to have a public building named in his honor, the Fulton Holland Educational Service Center, which is the administrative site for the School District of Palm Beach County. As a fitting tribute, Holland was chosen to be an Olympic torchbearer the same year. Of the many awards Holland received, he was most proud of the Harriet S. Glassner Freedom Award for lifelong devotion to civil liberties.

Palm Beach County — A Century of Growth

West Palm Beach 1900

Courtesy Historical Society of Palm Beach County

West Palm Beach 2002

Courtesy Historical Society of Palm Beach County

Talk About It:

Why is it important to study history?

Reading Check:

What factors have influenced change?

Short Answer:

List three ways you communicate with people. Briefly explain which is your favorite, and why.

Introduction - Palm Beach County History

History is the study of change over time. Many things influence change, such as geography, weather, natural resources, and people. The story of how those changes affected humans and the area around them creates a foundation for understanding Palm Beach County today. Changes affecting humankind were recorded in a variety of ways. When humans began to communicate through language, they started telling stories of past events. These stories continue through folk tales, family reminiscences, art (from cave drawings to computer graphics), and music, including songs and dances.

When communication moved to the next step, writing, the stories lasted longer and could outlast the individual. No longer was it necessary to rely on one person's or group's memory, nor was it as easy to have the stories changed through exaggerations. This is not to say that written history is always correct. After all, history is written through the point of view of the person writing it and reflects the times he or she lives in. History should be regarded with that in mind. The facts might be correct, but the person interpreting them probably reflects the opinions and attitudes of the era.

How, you might wonder, do we know about what occurred before people could pass along the oral stories or write them down? Many sciences contribute to the knowledge relating to pre-history. Through archaeology, we learn about previous cultures by interpreting the relics they left behind in villages, trash heaps, and grave sites. Geology helps explain the changes that the earth's surface has experienced because of natural disasters and climactic changes to the landscape.

To understand Palm Beach County's past and its present, one must learn about the geography, people, places, and events that have shaped it. By learning more about the "days of yore," you will see connections between the past and the present. You will be able to form your own conclusions about those links and to make predictions about the future. The story of Palm Beach County begins with the land.

Florida's Geographic Location (Benchmark: SS.7.G.2.3)

Florida is the southeastern-most state in the United States. It is a peninsula, because it is surrounded by water on three sides. To the east is the Atlantic Ocean, to the west is the Gulf of Mexico, and to the south is the Straits of Florida, the channel of water between the Florida Keys and Cuba. The states that border Florida to the north are Alabama and Georgia.

Florida has a distinctive shape that 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 capital. At the tip of southern 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 and 400 million years ago, north Florida was separated from swampy south Florida by a body of water called the "Florida Trench." The activity of volcanoes some 200 million years ago filled in the trench, leaving only a shallow sea. Then sand and shells of dead marine animals fossilized to form an area of flat land, or limestone plateau. This flat area is slightly raised above the neighboring land and finally rose upward, forming a marshy plain at sea level.

During an ice age, about one hundred million years ago, the water level of the ocean dropped due to water captured in glaciers. For thousands of years, Florida was actually twice its present size. 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; today, it is called the "continental shelf." This shelf slopes gently into the ocean. Where it ends, the water becomes very deep. Over time, the constant rising and falling of the water levels helped form the three land regions that currently exist in Florida: the Atlantic Coastal Plain, the Florida Highlands, and the Gulf Coastal Plain.

Today, Florida has several types of landscapes: lowlands, highlands, and wetlands. The lowlands are flat and are less than fifty feet above sea level. These areas are found at the Atlantic Coastal Plain and the Gulf Coastal Plain. Flat grasslands, called "savannas", cover much of this land. Barrier islands are also common in coastal areas. These islands are low, narrow strips of land near the coast that protect the mainland from stormy seas.

The different regions of Florida are cut by many waterways. Bays, inlets, lakes, rivers, and canals create an intricate water system in the state. Canals are man-made; their purpose is to make travel easier and to move water from one place to another. The

An 1874 map showing south Florida, when Palm Beach County was part of Dade County. Courtesy Historical Society of Palm Beach County.

Florida's Geographic Location, continued from previous page

Intracoastal Waterway is one example; it passes along the east coast of Florida and stretches from Maine to Texas. This waterway separates the mainland of Florida from the various barrier islands.

The Everglades, an area of wetlands in south Florida, is home to many plant and animal species. This land is made up of sawgrass, prairies, mangrove swamps, and hammocks. The Everglades is low and flat, and only eight feet above sea level at its highest point. Before significant man-made changes were made to the south Florida landscape, the Everglades covered the northernmost reaches of Lake Okeechobee. Many animals make their homes in this unique territory, including many types of birds, mammals, alligators, and crocodiles. Unfortunately, humans have drained large sections of the Everglades; doing so has disturbed these animals' ecosystem. Today, there is a movement to restore the Everglades to its former pristine condition.

Climate

Florida has a mild climate, so no drastic temperature changes occur throughout the year. The southern tip of Florida is near the equator, which explains its warm temperatures. However, areas farther north, such as the Panhandle, do experience colder temperatures. In fact, the record low temperature for the state is -2 degrees Fahrenheit, recorded in Tallahassee on February 13, 1899. Overall, Florida's mild climate is good for growing crops and allows for participation in warm-weather activities all year long.

In addition to its mild temperatures, Florida is known for its wetness. Precipitation averages more in Florida than in most other states. The rainy season begins in May and ends in October. Thunderstorms, tornadoes, tropical storms, and hurricanes characterize this season. Florida residents pay close attention to the meteorologist's forecasts during these threatening months, and they often prepare ahead of time, in case a major storm heads their way.

For the most part, Florida's climate attracts many people. Some simply enjoy visiting. Others live here during the winter months, then return north for spring and summer. These people are sometimes called "snowbirds" by year-round residents.

Palm Beach County Geography

The county is one of sixty-seven counties in Florida, and is on the southeast coast of the state. Southeast Florida includes Martin, Palm Beach, Broward, and Miami-Dade counties and covers approximately 10,818 square miles (both land and water area). Palm Beach County is bordered by Martin County on the north, Broward County on the south, and the Atlantic Ocean on the east. The western boundary of the county is created by Hendry County and Lake Okeechobee. Large areas of Palm Beach County include wildlife management areas, such as the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, which is part of the north end of the Everglades and covers 221 square miles, or 147,368 acres.

Broward and Miami-Dade counties are more urbanized than Palm Beach County, because large parts of the central and western areas of Palm Beach County are nature preserves and agricultural areas. Urban development has been confined largely to the eastern areas of the county, along the coast, and spreading west about 20-25 miles inland. In addition, there are communities along the east shore of Lake Okeechobee.

Barrier islands with fence protection for dunes.

Palm Beach County is one of the largest counties east of the Mississippi River, covering approximately 2,248 square miles (land and water area). The county is larger than each of the states of Rhode Island (1,214 sq. mi.) and Delaware (1,982 sq. mi.). According to the 2010 Census, 1,320,134 people live in the county. Palm Beach County is one of the fastest growing counties in Florida. About 55% of its residents live within its thirty-nine municipalities. The remaining 45% live in unincorporated areas of the county. The largest city is West Palm Beach, with a population over 102,455 (2015 estimate). The northernmost community is Tequesta, the southernmost is Boca Raton, and the westernmost is South Bay.

Barrier Islands and Waterways

Along the coast is a series of barrier islands that help protect the mainland from pounding waves and storms. The barrier islands all have established communities on them. During hurricanes, the human population on these islands is evacuated to the mainland.

A channel called the "Intracoastal Waterway" runs between the mainland and these islands. This channel runs the length of Florida north to Maine. The once land-locked Lake Worth is now part of this waterway.

The Loxahatchee River, in Jupiter, is about eight miles long and flows through Jupiter Inlet. Four of the largest lakes in Palm Beach County are Lake Okeechobee, 467,200 acres; Lake Mangonia, 540 acres; Clear Lake, 401 acres; and Lake Osborne, 356 acres. There are numerous other lakes, both man-made and natural, and streams in the county. Four major canals from Lake Okeechobee to the Atlantic Ocean cut through the county: the Miami Canal, North New River Canal, Hillsboro Canal, and West Palm Beach Canal.

Four inlets enter the Intracoastal Waterway through the barrier islands: Jupiter Inlet, Lake Worth Inlet, Boynton Beach Inlet, and Boca Raton Inlet.

Activity:

Choose one of the land forms mentioned in this section, draw a picture of it, and write a brief description of it.

Reading Check:

1. Why does Florida have a mild climate?

2. Palm Beach County is larger than which two U.S. states?

Map Skills:

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

TestyourKnowledge:

1. Do you live east or west of Interstate 95?

2. When people go to the beach on the east coast of Florida, what ocean are they swimming in?

Activity:

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

Making Inferences:

Briefly explain why Florida is hit with more hurricanes and tropical storms than non-coastal states.

Short Answer:

Why are some people asked to evacuate their homes when a hurricane is about to hit?

Reading Check:

What were some contributing factors that led to the 1920s Florida Land Bust?

Courtesy Historical Society of Palm Beach County

Aftermath of the 1928 hurricane in West Palm Beach.

HURRICANES (Benchmark: SC.7.E.6.6)

Weather is a concern for residents and visitors, especially during the hurricane season, which runs from June 1 through November 30 each year. A hurricane is a large storm, rotating in a counter-clockwise motion. The storms that create hurricanes form over the warm waters of the Atlantic Ocean as they head west from Africa. These disturbances, or tropical waves, gain strength as they move westward toward the Caribbean Sea. As a tropical wave encounters a low-pressure area, it begins to spin, turning into a tropical depression. Tropical depressions have wind speeds of less than forty miles per hour at the surface. When the winds reach forty miles per hour or more, the depression becomes a tropical storm.

When the winds reach seventy-four miles per hour, the storm becomes a hurricane, with an eye at its center, an area of calm winds and low pressure. The eye is surrounded by a cloud called an "eye wall" which contains thunderstorms, high winds, and rain. "Tropical cyclone" is the generic name for a hurricane. When these storms occur in the Pacific Ocean, they are called "typhoons." In the Indian Ocean and the South Pacific, they are referred to as "cyclones." All tropical storms and hurricanes are assigned names.

Although several hurricanes have struck since the 1940s, none has caused as much loss of life and property damage as did the 1928 hurricane. In 1992, however, Hurricane Andrew caused more than $30 billion in damages in south Florida. Consequently, building regulations have become more stringent all over the state. Builders are required to use the latest in safety design. Evacuation routes have been established for those living along the coast. Through science and computers, meteorologists keep the public well informed if a hurricane is approaching Florida. This allows people to prepare.

In August and September 2004, Florida was struck by four hurricanes. Hurricane Charley hit the southwest coast and cut a path to the northeast Florida coast; then Hurricane Frances struck Palm Beach, Martin, and St. Lucie counties and headed northwest through Florida; next, Hurricane Ivan devastated the Panhandle area of Florida; finally, Hurricane Jeanne hit the same areas as Hurricane Frances. These hurricanes caused billions of dollars in damages. The last time Florida had been hit by three hurricanes within weeks of each other was in 1964.

How Hurricanes Affected The Land Boom and Bust

Hurricanes affected the growth of Florida. In the early 1920s, there was a period of prosperity here. People thought they could get rich buying land in the state. However, after the 1926 hurricane destroyed property in south Florida, people were afraid to purchase land. Consequently, land developers and investors lost their money as land sales dropped. Many of the millionaires created by the land boom went broke. This hurricane was followed two years later by an even worse one.

On September 16, 1928, a Category 4 hurricane struck Palm Beach County. It came ashore with winds of 130 to 150 miles per hour, and dropped more than eighteen inches of rain in less than twenty-four hours. It damaged or destroyed almost everything in its path. The strong winds and heavy rainfall caused Lake Okeechobee to overflow and to flood Belle Glade, Pahokee, and South Bay. Flooding and high winds killed more than 3,000 people in the Glades. However, the survivors overcame the disaster and rebuilt their cities and towns. Because of this disaster, the Hoover Dike was built around Lake Okeechobee to prevent another tragedy.

Economic hardship and several natural disasters that struck south Florida led the state into a depression. In October 1929, Palm Beach County was still recovering from the 1928 hurricane when the New York Stock Market crashed, causing the nation to enter the Great Depression, a time of economic hardship. Throughout the county, banks closed, and people lost their hard-earned money and jobs as businesses failed. There would not be a great recovery for the nation until World War II.

Lake Okeechobee and the Dike

Lake Okeechobee, whose name comes from a Seminole word meaning "big water," forms part of the western border of Palm Beach County. When the Spanish arrived in Florida, the lake had been known as "Mayaimi". The Europeans called it such names as Espiritu Santo Laguna, Lake Mayaca, Lake Macaco, and Lake Sarrope.

Okeechobee is the second largest freshwater lake in the continental United States. It averages forty-five miles across, its diameter. It covers more than 730 square miles and is ten to fourteen feet deep. Water that flows from the southern shore of the lake once provided fresh water to the Everglades, flowing south to Florida Bay and southwest to the Gulf of Mexico. In the 1920s, however, people changed the natural flow of the water.

The hurricanes of 1926 and 1928 caused terrible flooding in south Florida. To prevent future flooding, President Herbert Hoover approved a plan for an earthen dike to be built around Lake Okeechobee, which took thirty-eight years to build. Early construction on the dike provided work to many people who had lost their jobs because of the Great Depression. Today, Lake Okeechobee is completely surrounded by 151 miles of dike. It protects the county's rich farmlands from flooding.

Though the Hoover Dike has helped to protect the area from floods, it has created environmental problems. The dike stopped the normal flow of water that helped supply nutrients to the muck soil, and water to the Everglades. Farmers had to begin using fertilizers to replace the missing nutrients, but water runoff from the fertilized fields flowed into the Everglades. This was a problem because fertilizers harm the plants and animals that grow and live there.

These and other environmental problems have brought about changes. The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) is a project to restore the Everglades and Lake Okeechobee to something resembling its natural state. This includes making stormwater safe, saving the wetlands and teaching others how to take care of their environment. Restoration of the lake and the Everglades will allow for even more tourism and recreation. In the future, this project will benefit nature and people.

As You Read:

Note the benefits and the problems associated with the Lake Okeechobee dike.

Short Answer:

List and explain the positive and negative consequences of having a dike that surrounds Lake Okeechobee.

Fast Facts

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 and south	447 miles (St. Mary's River to Key West)
Width east and west	361 miles (Atlantic Ocean to Perdido River)
Highest natural point	345 feet, near Lakewood in northeast Walton County
Coastline	1,197 statute miles
Beaches	663 miles
Longest river	St. Johns, 273 miles
Largest lake	Lake Okeechobee, 730 square miles
Largest county	Palm Beach, 2,248 square miles
Smallest county	Union, 245 square miles

PALM BEACH COUNTY FACTS

Population 2010: 1,320,134
Population 2015 (Estimated): 1,364,402
Size (area): 2,248 square miles (land area: 1,997 square miles; surface water: 251 square miles) or 1,438,720 acres
Linear miles: 45 miles north-south; 53 miles east-west
County established 1909—47th county in Florida
Municipalities: 39; 1st: West Palm Beach (1894); 39th: Westlake (2016)
Largest municipalities (by population):
West Palm Beach, Boca Raton, Boynton Beach
Smallest municipalities (by area): Briny Breezes (4/10 of a square mile)
County Seat: West Palm Beach
Coastline: 47 miles (mostly beaches)
Oldest structure: Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse (opened 1860)
Major industries:
Agriculture — Accounted for $1.42 billion in sales for 2010-2011
Tourism — Contributes more than $1.5 billion in tax revenue each year
Land dedicated to agriculture: 461,000 acres
Largest employer: School District of Palm Beach County (approximately 20,000 employees)
Largest lake: Lake Okeechobee —largest in Florida and second-largest lake in the U.S.; 730 square miles, or 467,200 acres
Median value single-family home:
1980: $5,300; 1990: $98,400; 2010: $225,450; 2013: $265,000; 2015: $279,000
Average temperature: 75° F (annual), 82° F (summer), 66° F (winter)
Average rainfall: 62 inches

PalmBeachCountyEvolution

Prior to 1909, when Palm Beach County was established, it was part of these other counties at various times:

- St. Johns County, established July 21, 1821.
- Monroe County, established July 3, 1823.
- Mosquito County, established December 29, 1824.
- St. Lucie County, established March 14, 1844.
- Brevard County, established January 6, 1855, when St. Lucie County's name was changed to Brevard. (Note: St. Lucie was revived when a new county was formed in 1905.)
- Dade County, established February 4, 1836. It covered 6,000 square miles, from the Hillsboro River (Deerfield/ Boca Raton area) south to the upper Keys and the south shore of Lake Okeechobee. By 1866, Palm Beach County was part of Dade County, which had expanded north to the St. Lucie Inlet.
- Palm Beach County, established April 30, 1909. At the time of formation, it included part of present-day Broward County (est. 1915) and Martin County (est. 1925). The current boundaries of Palm Beach County took final shape in 1925 when Martin County was formed.

Reading Check:

Make a chart or other visual representation that identifies the name and location of the various Native American groups.

Activity:

Draw a picture depicting the clothes, shelter, weapons, and/or food of Native Americans. Include a brief description of the picture.

Talk About It:

What do you think life was like for Jonathan Dickinson and the English travelers during their journey to St. Augustine?

As you Read:

What effect did European exploration have on the Native Americans?

Native Americans in Palm Beach County

Florida's unique history began long before it earned its Spanish-based name. By the end of the last ice age, or about 12,000 years ago, the first people were already living in the area we know as Florida. They were hunter-gatherers and moved from place to place, following the large animals, or mega-fauna of the day, such as mammoths, mastodons, bears, bison, and giant sloths. These nomads also searched for edible plants and sources of fresh water.

Several different groups of Native Americans lived in the area of Palm Beach County. Along the shores of Lake Okeechobee, two small tribes, the Guacata and the Mayaimi, lived. Those tribes might have been under the political domination of the more powerful Calusa of the southwest coast of Florida. Other groups of early Native Americans inhabited the region around Jupiter Inlet and along the coastal area south to Lake Worth.

The Spanish called the native Floridians who once lived in northern Palm Beach County "Jobe" and Jeaga. Their names might have been taken from the name of the tribe's cacique, or chief. The name has been spelled in various forms: Hobe, Yobe, Jove, Jobe, Xega, Jega, and Jeaga. Their neighbors to the north (Martin County to Cape Canaveral) were the Ais. The Tequesta people lived in the area between Fort Lauderdale and Miami, and also possibly in southern Palm Beach County.

The Jeaga were hunter-gatherers, relying mainly on marine resources like turtles, snakes, alligators, fish, sharks, and shellfish. Their diet also consisted of fowl, deer, and other land mammals. The Jeaga often ate plants, such as mastic, cocoa plum, cabbage palm, saw palmetto, seagrape, hog plum, acorns, and red-mangrove sprouts. Palmetto berries were one of their favorite foods. They caught fish by striking them with a staff or by spearing them, then cooked and served it on palmetto leaves. During special ceremonies, the men would drink a liquid called "cassina", also known as the "black drink." It was a tea made from the roasted leaves of the yaupon holly plant. The leaves were boiled, and the drink was served in a conch shell.

According to early European descriptions, the Native Americans were scantily dressed. Men wore loincloths of woven straw or deerskin that were fastened in back with a kind of silk grass that gave the appearance of a horse's tail. They wore their hair rolled in a knot at the back of the head, held in place with bone pins. They armed themselves with knives, bows and arrows, and clubs. The women wore skirts made of grass, or what is now known as "Spanish moss", found hanging from trees.

Early natives built houses using small wooden poles that they stuck into the ground, bent, and then tied to form an arched frame. They covered the frame with palmetto thatch. Inside were platforms along the walls about one foot high, covered with hides.

Archaeological evidence of the existence of ancient Floridians can be found throughout Palm Beach County. The best known remnant of an Indian mound in the county is in DuBois Park at Jupiter Inlet (see photo). The shell mound, or midden, is a trash heap of shells and other refuse discarded by the inhabitants. The Jeaga, who had contact with both the Spanish and English, inhabited this site. In the late seventeenth century, they held a group of English shipwreck survivors captive in the village on the mound for five days.

Jonathan Dickinson

In 1696 the English ship Reformation wrecked just north of present-day Jupiter. The Jeaga captured the English travelers and salvaged all material they could find from the ship. The stranded English journeyed 230 miles to reach safety at St. Augustine once the Jeaga allowed them to leave. During their travel north along the east coast of Florida, the English encountered many different Native Americans. One passenger, Jonathan Dickinson, later wrote a book describing the land and the various natives they encountered, including the Jeaga.

Courtesy Historical Society of Palm Beach County

The DuBois house on top of the Jeaga shell mound in DuBois Park, Jupiter.

Dickinson wrote in his journal that his captors lived on top of a large shell mound that overlooked an inlet (Jupiter Inlet). Today, a portion of the mound is still there, across from Jupiter Lighthouse. In 1898 the DuBois family constructed a house on top of the mound. Most of the mound was destroyed, however, when the shells were removed and crushed for use as paving materials for roads. Both the house and the mound are open to the public.

Native Americans in Palm Beach County

Contact with Europeans proved deadly to the native population of Florida. Many Native Americans died from smallpox and measles. Some were hunted down, kidnapped, and sold as slaves. Thousands of others were killed during constant warfare with other tribes, the Spanish, and British. Over the years, incoming Native Americans from the Creek tribes in Alabama and Georgia – who would later be known as "Seminoles" – moved onto the lands of the original Florida tribes.

Runaway slaves seeking freedom also entered and hid in many parts of Florida. Looking for a safe place to live, they often joined the Seminoles. Sometimes, the ex-slaves lived among the Seminoles, but in their own villages with their own leaders. Other former slaves, however, ended up as slaves to the Seminoles. Though they lived in black villages, they had to supply their Seminole masters with a portion of the produce they grew on their farms. Blacks who lived with Seminoles learned to speak their language, dressed like Seminoles, and learned their customs. The runaway slaves and free blacks became known as Black Seminoles. Many of them became advisors to chiefs and war leaders, and fought alongside the Seminoles during the Seminole wars.

Courtesy Historical Society of Palm Beach County

Abraham was a prominent Black Seminole Leader.

The Seminole Wars

Two dominant groups of natives emerged: the Seminoles and the Miccosukees. Their languages are what divides them. The Miccosukees' language descended from the Lower Creek tribes, while the Seminoles' language descended from the Upper Creeks. Some believe the name "Seminole" came from the Creek word ishti semoli meaning "wild men"; or from the Spanish word cimarrones meaning "runaways."

The Seminoles fought three wars with the United States. The first war (1817-1818) was primarily over runaway slaves who had sought refuge in Spanish Territory with the Seminoles. Spain granted freedom to many blacks who came to Florida. It was this freedom that caused many slaves to flee Southern plantations. In 1818, Florida still belonged to Spain. The following year, in 1819, the Adams-Onis Treaty was signed, giving Florida to the United States for $5 million. The Second Seminole War (1835-1842) was the most famous and costly of all Indian wars in terms of lives lost and money spent. It was fought over land, the removal of all Native Americans to Indian Territory (Oklahoma) west of the Mississippi River, and slavery. In 1842, when Colonel William Jenkins Worth declared the war over, most Seminoles were either dead or had been captured and sent west to Indian Territory. The couple of hundred survivors retreated to the Everglades in south Florida.

The Third Seminole War (1855-1858) started because a U.S. Army surveying team destroyed Chief Billy Bowlegs' banana trees in his garden deep in the Big Cypress Swamp, and refused to pay him for the damage caused by the soldiers. In 1858, Billy Bowlegs and his band of Seminoles surrendered and moved to Indian Territory. The remainder of the Seminoles refused to surrender and withdrew deeper into the southern Everglades.

Today's Seminoles and Miccosukees of Florida are descendants of those who refused to surrender or sign a treaty. After many years of living in the swamps, they became part of Florida's modern economy by farming, and operating hotels, casinos, and other tourist attractions. Many of the Seminoles and Miccosukees still live on reservations. The Seminole Tribe of Florida, recognized by the U.S. Government in 1957, has six reservations in south Florida. The Miccosukees, who were recognized in 1962 as a separate tribe, have three reservations. Each tribe has its own form of government and flag.

Major General William Jenkins Worth 1794-1849

In 1841, Colonel William Jenkins Worth took command of U.S. troops fighting the Second Seminole War (1835-1842). The ware ended because he declared it was over. Worth continued to serve in the military during the Mexican War (1846-1848) and in 1847, he led troops ashore during the amphibious landing at Vera Cruz. He was in Mexico City when the Mexicans surrendered. Worth was promoted to major general and given command of the Department of Texas. He died in San Antonio from cholera in 1849. Lake Worth, and the cities of Lake Worth, Florida, and Fort Worth, Texas, are named in his honor.

Reading Check:

1. Why did runaway slaves come to Florida?

2. What two tribes emerged as the dominant groups?

Summing it up:

Briefly describe the Seminole Wars. Be sure to include who fought, why they fought, and the outcome.

Extended Response:

Write an essay that supports one of the following statements:

"The U.S. government had the right to remove the Seminoles from their land."

-or-

"The U.S. Government did not have the right to remove the Seminoles from their land."

Reading Check:

1. Why was the lighthouse built in Jupiter?

2. Why did the Confederate and Union armies want control of the lighting mechanism?

Activity:

Make a scale drawing or model of the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse.

Second Seminole War in Palm Beach County

A few years after the Second Seminole War began, the war 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. There they encountered a large group of Seminoles in today's Loxahatchee Battlefield Park, west of Florida's Turnpike in Jupiter. During the fight, the Seminoles forced Powell's small force to retreat, killing several men. Powell's men also killed a few Seminoles, including one Black Seminole. Soon after, on January 24, 1838, U.S. forces led by Major General Thomas Jesup fought the Seminoles near the same location. Before the Seminoles withdrew from the fight, they wounded and killed many soldiers.

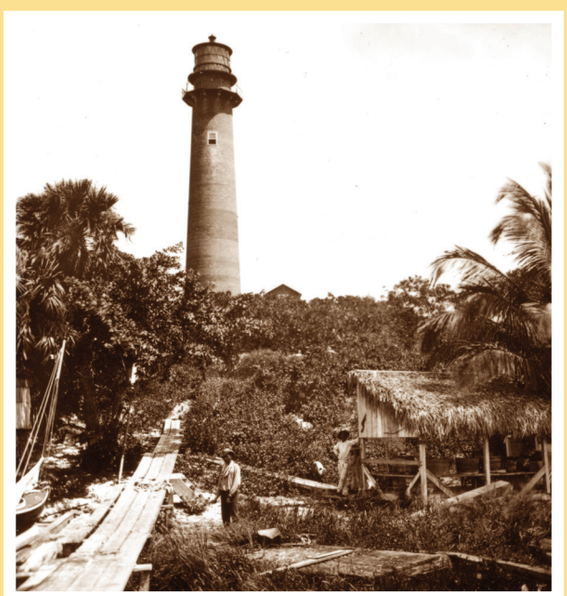
After this battle, the soldiers moved a few miles east and built Fort Jupiter on what is now known as Pennock Point, about three miles from the mouth of Jupiter Inlet. Fort Jupiter closed in 1842, reopened in the 1850s during the Third Seminole War, and closed for good when that war ended.

Jesup tried to end the war by recommending that the remaining Seminoles move into south Florida and stay there, but the government refused his suggestion. He was ordered to capture all the Seminoles who had gathered at the fort to await the government's response. Of the 678 Seminoles captured, 165 were Black Seminoles.

During the Second Seminole War, several forts were established on the east coast of Florida to supply the military. In March 1838, Major William Lauderdale led a group of volunteers and regular soldiers south to the New River. They hacked a supply trail out of the jungle to reach their destination. When they arrived at the New River, they constructed a fort, which Jesup named Fort Lauderdale. The trail, which ran between the coastal swamps and the Everglades, became known as "Military Trail." Today, the road runs through Palm Beach County into Broward County.

Courtesy Historical Society of Palm Beach County

Two Seminoles at the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse about 1880.



Courtesy Historical Society of Palm Beach County

The Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse after renovation, 1879. The man on the right dressed in all white is the keeper James Armour.

Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse

Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse is the oldest building in Palm Beach County. It stands at the entrance of Jupiter Inlet, where the Loxahatchee River, Indian River, and Atlantic Ocean meet. "Loxahatchee" is a Seminole word meaning "turtle river." In 1849 Colonel Robert E. Lee led a group along Florida's coastline, selecting possible sites for military posts. This survey may have been used to select the site for Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse. In 1853, the United States Congress approved funds to build a lighthouse at Jupiter to be a navigational aid for ships and help to prevent shipwrecks. Lieutenant George G. Meade, later a Union general at the Battle of Gettysburg, designed the lighthouse. It was built on top of a 48-foot-high shell mound and towers 156 feet above the surrounding land. The tower is 108 feet high and has a circular staircase with 105 steps to the top. It is eight bricks thick, or thirty-one inches, at the base and tapers to three bricks thick, or eighteen inches, at the top. Approaching ships can see its beam of light from as far away as twenty-four miles at sea.

Construction of the lighthouse was stopped for a time because of the danger of attack during the Third Seminole War. The lighthouse was completed and put into operation on July 10, 1860. Joseph Papy was its first full-time lighthouse keeper. After the lighthouse began operating, the keepers of the lighthouse were the first whites to continuously inhabit Palm Beach County.

Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse continued

It is still a navigational aid to sailors and is open to visitors.

Just six months after the lighthouse began operating, Florida seceded from the United States and joined the Confederate States of America. Assistant lighthouse keeper Augustus Oswald Lang, a German horticulturist immigrant, his friend James Paine, and others removed the lighting mechanism from the lighthouse to help Confederate blockade-runners. They also darkened the Cape Florida Lighthouse at Key Biscayne. Jupiter Inlet was one of many locations along Florida's coast used for smuggling activities during the Civil War.

Afterward, Lang settled on the island that would become known as Palm Beach, the first non-native resident on the shores of Lake Worth. On a ridge, he built a palmetto-thatch hut and planted a large garden. When Lang found out that the Civil War had ended, he moved north to the Fort Pierce area, where he lived until he was murdered in 1873.

After the Civil War, James Armour served as assistant lighthouse keeper. During the conflict, he had been a volunteer pilot for the Union Navy, serving aboard the USS Sagamore. He was given the task of finding the lighting mechanism that Lang had removed. Armour found the equipment along the banks of Lake Worth Creek, and Jupiter Lighthouse was relighted in 1866. Two years later, Armour was appointed keeper of the lighthouse, a position he held for forty years.

When Armour brought his wife, Almeda, to Jupiter in 1867, she was believed to be the only white woman within 100 miles. The following year, they had a baby, Katherine Dickerson Armour, the first white child born in what would become Palm Beach County.

The Pioneers

Between 1873 and 1893, settlers came to the Lake Worth area to establish new homes. They had the opportunity to own land and to escape the harsh, cold winters up north. For some, their doctors had recommended they move far south, to warmer climates, because of illnesses. Many did live long lives. Others came here to build a better life for their families. This is not to say that it was an easy venture, though, for they had to overcome a variety of hardships.

New arrivals found a swampy jungle, with no paths, roads, or means of transportation. To protect themselves from storms, they lived on the lake side of the island rather than on the ocean side. They cut a path from Lake Worth to the Atlantic Ocean for access to the beach. They survived on what they could catch, grow, or hunt, and what they found on the beaches from shipwrecks. Sometimes, barrels of foodstuffs were found in the wrecks or on the beaches to add to their food supplies.

Courtesy Historical Society of Palm Beach County

Pioneer Hannibal D. Pierce's house on Hypoluxo Island.

What the pioneers could not use, they took north to Titusville and sold or traded for cash or other necessities. But they found many household items to improve their lives, from sewing machines to musical instruments. Most importantly, they took what they could find from shipwrecks to build their homes, such as salvaged ship timbers and canvas sails. The typical pioneer house was made from items gathered along the beach and palmetto thatching, because these were the handiest building materials. Sometimes, lumber was shipped from Jacksonville and used to build houses.

Pioneers had to endure pesky insects, including mosquitoes, sand fleas, and horseflies. Some settlers kept smoking fires, or smudge pots, burning all day and night to keep away the insects. The settlers wore long, loose clothing and sometimes wrapped newspaper around their arms. Some of them cut palm fronds to swat away insects. They also kept palm-leaf brooms or brushes near the door to brush the mosquitoes and other insects off of their clothing before entering the house.

Early settlers found the area full of wild animals, such as bears, deer, raccoons, and opossums. They depended on these animals for food.

Courtesy Historical Society of Palm Beach County

Shark fishing at Jupiter Inlet.

Birds, fish, alligators, turtles, and their eggs added variety to their diet. Most of the settlers were farmers and grew various crops, like onions, eggplants, tomatoes, cabbages, green peppers, and turnips, to eat or sell. Some made regular trips by boat to the market in Titusville to sell the vegetables grown in the Lake Worth area. By selling their crops, the pioneers earned money to buy items they could not produce themselves.

Reading Check:

1. Why did people choose to settle in the Lake Worth area?

2. How did the water play an important role in their lives?

Activity:

Write a story about a pioneer girl or boy living in Lake Worth in the late 1800s. Make sure to include details from the passage titled "The Pioneers."

Reading Check:

How did Palm Beach get its name?

Map Skills:

Trace the route that a letter sent from Lake Worth to Miami had to travel before reaching its destination.

Pioneer Life

Jenny: Palm Beach County's First Mule

In the 1870s, the Dimick family brought Jenny the Mule down from Jacksonville by schooner with a load of lumber. When the schooner arrived at the Lake Worth Inlet, a storm developed and made it impossible to enter. Jenny was finally pushed overboard so she could swim ashore. She was later bitten by a large rattlesnake but lived six years in Palm Beach County the only mule in the area at the time.

What Did the Settlers Do for Soap?

When we run out of soap, we go to a nearby store. The early settlers of Lake Worth could not do that because the nearest store was in Titusville. So what did they do when they ran out of soap? They made their own. They collected hardwood ash from campfires and placed it in a barrel with a hole in the bottom. They poured water into the barrel with the ash. When the water drained into a pail, the result was lye. The lye water then went into an iron kettle along with fat. Most of the time, they used alligator fat. The lye and fat were boiled over an open flame, creating soap.

The Wreck of the *Providencia* (Benchmark: SS.7.E.2.4)

In 1878 a small Spanish ship, the Providencia, wrecked on the shores of Palm Beach with its cargo of 20,000 coconuts, logwood, and hides. Hiram F. Hammon and William Lainhart claimed the cargo and sold the coconuts to their fellow pioneers for 2.5 cents each. They planted the coconuts in groves, intending to develop a cash crop, but it never evolved into a profitable business.

The Postal Service and the Barefoot Mailman

When the early pioneers left their homes in the North, they continued to communicate with their families and friends whom they had left behind. Yet it was not easy to send a letter anywhere. They could not just e-mail or drop a letter at a post office. At first, settlers depended on the honesty of passing ship crews to take and deliver their mail. They also asked beach walkers to carry and deliver mail along the Florida coast. However, this method was not dependable.

Delivering a letter from Lake Worth to Miami took several weeks. First, it had to travel to Jacksonville. Then the letter was shipped to Havana, Cuba, or Key West, and finally it was sent to Miami. Can you see why it took several weeks? To solve this problem, the U.S. Postal Service set up a special route that required men to walk 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. He received a salary of $600 a year to make his weekly trips.

Courtesy Historical Society of Palm Beach County

The barefoot mailmen walked the beaches from Palm Beach to Miami delivering the mail from 1885-1893.

These adventurous mail carriers traveled a route that was 136 miles round trip and took three days each way. It was fifty-six miles by boat and eighty miles on foot. The mailmen walked an average of 7,000 miles a year.

Most of the time, the mailman departed Lake Worth on Monday. He arrived in Miami on Wednesday. The following day, he began his trip back north and arrived 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. In some places, the mailmen had to cross water. On Lake Worth, at Hillsboro Inlet, New River, and Biscayne Bay, the mail carriers used a boat to travel over the water.

There are many tales about the barefoot mailmen. One story reported that they often charged a small amount of

money to take passengers with them. One passenger was upset over the long, hot walk because there was limited poor food and fresh water. In revenge, he first sent some coconuts through the mail. Then he sent a package of rocks. When he attempted to mail a small tree, the mailman finally complained to his employer in Washington, D.C. As a result, a weight limit was placed on all deliveries.

One of the mailmen, 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 south side of Hillsboro Inlet. Seeing no other way to cross, he left his mailbag and clothes in a tree and swam to retrieve the boat. After Hamilton entered the water, something happened and he disappeared. Later, a search party found his mailbag and clothes, but Hamilton was never found. No one knows whether Hamilton simply drowned or if sharks or alligators in the inlet attacked him.

From 1885 to 1893, at least twenty brave men walked the beaches to deliver the mail. In January 1893, when a road opened between Lantana and Miami, the barefoot mailmen were no longer needed because the mail went by the stagecoach line.

By today's standards, the barefoot mailman system on Lake Worth was primitive and dangerous, but it worked for the pioneers. The postal service has come a long way since the 1880s.

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 part of 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 much of the land that is now downtown Lake Worth was once their property.

Reading Check:

How many miles did the average mailman walk per year?

Research:

Using a map or atlas, begin at Lake Worth and trace, going in any direction, the distance that the average barefoot mailman traveled each year. Make a list of some of the places.

TestyourKnowledge:

How do the people of a community provide financial support to public schools?

Research Challenge:

For the colleges listed below, find out the following information: location, nickname, type of mascot, and mascot's name.

- Florida State University
- University of Florida
- University of Miami
- Florida Atlantic University
- Florida International University

Activity:

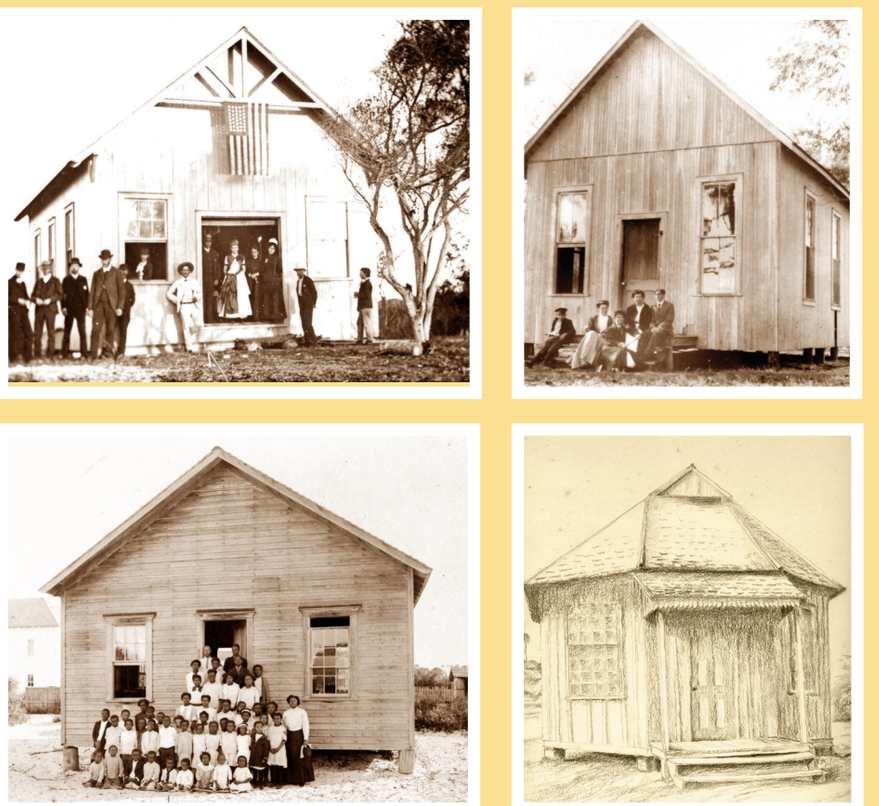
Make a chart to display this information.

Palm Beach County's First Schools

By 1886, the community around Lake Worth had grown large enough that the citizens wanted a school for their children. Settlers donated land, raised money for lumber, and volunteered their labor to build the first school. The first school year of 1886 was only three months long, and sixteen-year-old Hattie Gale taught all ages. The original school building has been saved and moved to Phipps Ocean Park on South Ocean Boulevard in Palm Beach, where the Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach uses it for school field trips. This school was for white children only.

In the 1890s, a school for African American children opened at the A.M.E. church in the Styx in Palm Beach. In 1894 another school opened in West Palm Beach, at Tabernacle Baptist Church. Two years later, a small schoolhouse was built at Tamarind Avenue and Datura Street for African American children.

Today all children attend school together, allowing them to interact with others from different ethnic and racial backgrounds. By 2013 Palm Beach County was one of the largest school districts in the state, with over 185 schools and 176,724 students. About 5,000 new students enter Palm Beach County schools each year. In addition, for those who wish to earn a college degree, numerous universities, colleges, and vocational schools are located throughout the county.



Courtesy Historical Society of Palm Beach County

The first schoolhouse in Dade County (top left, 1886) was in Palm Beach. The first schoolhouse in West Palm Beach for black children (bottom left, 1896) was at Tamarind and Datura avenues. Lantana's first schoolhouse is at top right. Bottom right is a line drawing of the first schoolhouse in Jupiter.

Reading Check:

What benefits did the railroad provide to Palm Beach County?

Making Inferences:

Why do you think Henry Flagler named his first hotel the Ponce de Leon?

The Orange Grove House of Refuge

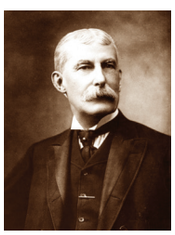
So many shipwrecks occurred along the east coast of Florida in the late 1800s that the government built five houses to serve as shelter for shipwreck survivors. The Orange Grove House of Refuge No. 3 was built in 1876 on a beach north of present-day Atlantic Avenue in Delray Beach. It got its name from a grove of wild oranges growing nearby. The first keeper, Hannibal Dillingham Pierce, earned $400 a year. A year later, Stephen Andrews took over and served as keeper until the House of refuge closed in 1896. A marker now identifies the spot where the building once stood. Of the five houses built, the Stuart House of Refuge, in Martin County, is the only one still standing; is open to the public.

Courtesy Historical Society of Palm Beach County

The Orange Grove House of Refuge, 1876-1927.

Henry Morrison Flagler (Benchmark: SS.7.E.2.4)

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



Henry Morrison Flagler

After Flagler married Ida Alice Shrouds in 1883, they visited St. Augustine, where he became inspired to improve hotel accommodations and the transportation system.

In 1885 Flagler returned to St. Augustine and built the grand Ponce de León Hotel. Flagler knew that improving transportation would bring more visitors to his new hotel. He bought the Jacksonville, St. Augustine and Halifax Railroad, which became the beginning of his Florida East Coast Railway that eventually connected the entire east coast of Florida.

In the early 1890s, Flagler visited south Florida and became enchanted by its beauty. After his visit, he decided to buy land on Palm Beach and construct a winter resort for wealthy northern visitors. He opened the Hotel Royal Poinciana (1894)overlooking Lake Worth, and the Palm Beach Inn (1896), later renamed The Breakers, on the oceanfront.

Flagler designed what would become the City of West Palm Beach (est. 1894) on the west side of Lake Worth, to be the commercial and residential area to support his resort. By then, Flagler's railroad had reached the new town, bringing wealthy visitors and new residents to the area. By 1896, Flagler had extended the Florida East Coast Railway south to Miami, and in 1912 it reached Key West. The railroad was instrumental in bringing more people and merchandise to south Florida.

Courtesy Historical Society of Palm Beach County

Henry Flagler's home, Whitehall, in Palm Beach.

Strange but true ...

Women going to the beach had to obey the beach rules of the era, such as "No bare legs." From the 1890s to the 1920s, a male beach censor made sure women wore only black or opaque colored hose with their swimsuits.

The Breakers

Flagler's second hotel, The Breakers, originally called the Palm Beach Inn, was the first Palm Beach hotel to be built on the ocean. In June 1903, The Breakers burned down because of a "new-fangled curling iron." It is said that while The Breakers burned, the person in charge of raising and lowering the bridge (bridge tender) stopped the firemen and demanded five cents' toll from each man. While the firemen searched their pockets for the money, they watched The Breakers burn. It was then rebuilt, reopening the following year. In March 1925, The Breakers again went up in flames, this time because of construction. The new Breakers was built of cut stone, steel, and concrete in less than a year so that it could reopen, in time for the 1926 winter season.

Courtesy Historical Society of Palm Beach County

The Breakers Hotel in the 1920s-1930s.

Alligator Joe (1873-1915)

By Debi Murray, Historical Society of Palm Beach County

Early visitors to Palm Beach had many activities to choose from to keep themselves busy while enjoying Florida's mild winters. The local newspaper reported the available activities on a daily basis. Visitors could golf, go fishing, and swam in a pool or the surf. They could also go sailing to take in the sights of Munyon's Island and the inlet. People could visit a number of commercial tourist attractions. Among the most popular was Alligator Joe's alligator farm, where 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 cycle path." Anyone desiring to walk or take a wheelchair ride could break up the 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 no longer among the living. They 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. In addition to alligators, Joe 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

Courtney Historical Society of Palm Beach County

Alligator Joe with one of his manatees.

Florida law. Nevertheless, with the blessing of federal and local government officials, Joe captured another manatee for display at the Panama Exposition in San Francisco. In March or April of 1915, Alligator Joe filled an unspecified number of train cars with "live alligators, manatees, and game fish of the sea" for exhibition at the Panama Exposition.

Unfortunately for Joe, his alligator wrestling did not prove to be a good way to keep in shape. On May 30, 1915, Warren Frazee died in San Francisco of double pleural pneumonia complicated by tonsillitis, fatty degeneration of the heart, and diabetes. Frazee was cremated three days later. What happened to the animals on display is unknown.

Activity:

Make a timeline, with illustrations, chronicling Warren Frazee's life.

Short Answer:

Write a paragraph persuading a tourist coming to Palm Beach in 1903 to visit Alligator Joe's alligator farm.

Test Your Knowledge:

What are the differences between an alligator and a crocodile?

As you read:

1. Why did Edward Bradley first come to Florida?

2. What lasting contributions did Bradley make to Palm Beach County?

Short Answer:

Explain the dilemma that Edward Bradley noticed and how he solved this dilemma?

Edward Riley Bradley (1859-1946) (Benchmark: SS.7.E.2.4)

By Debi Murray, Historical Society of Palm Beach County

Edward R. Bradley first visited Florida in the hope that mild winter weather would improve his health. What he found was great winter weather and a market for his talent – running successful gambling establishments. When Bradley came to Palm Beach, he found that visitors had plenty to do to amuse themselves during the day, including swimming, golfing, and shooting. But the evenings were another story. Other than watching the early sunsets and eating fine food, there was little nightlife. To solve this problem, Bradley opened the Beach Club. The Beach Club was a private dinner club that offered pool or ocean swimming, a casino for gambling, and exclusive membership.

Disappointed in the club's first season, Bradley agreed to the request that women be allowed to participate in the gambling games. This wise move proved successful to the Beach Club. Though gambling was illegal in Florida, the entire time that the Beach Club operated in Palm Beach, law enforcement officials never closed the institution. Bradley's private guards ensured that police would never have to be called because of a disturbance at the club.

Much of the money Bradley made, he gave away. Through his generous donations, he helped individuals in immediate need and contributed heavily to institutions that continue to thrive in the Palm Beaches. St. Ann Catholic Church, St. Mary's Medical Center, and Good Samaritan Medical Center in West Palm Beach, and St. Edward's Catholic Church in Palm Beach all benefitted from his philanthropy.

The residents of the Town of Palm Beach still enjoy Edward Bradley's generosity. In his will, he ordered the club demolished but gave the land and his personal residence next to the club to the Town of Palm Beach. His only condition was that the land be maintained as a park. Thousands of people pass by Bradley Park daily as they travel to and from Palm Beach on the Flagler Bridge.

Reading Check:

What was a contributing factor that led to the land bust in Florida in the late 1920s?

As You Read:

Why are Mizner's architectural designs considered ground breaking?

Land Boom and Bust (Benchmark: SS. 7.E.1.3, SS.7.E.2.2)

A second and more frenzied land boom took place in the 1920s. By then, the population in Florida had increased to 968,470 people. Just five years later, the population had grown to 1,263,540. What had caused such a rapid increase?

The Roaring Twenties was a time when a person's wealth and success were measured by what he or she owned. At the same time, because the economy was prospering, credit was easy to acquire. People who wanted to make money by selling land came to Florida. These land speculators bought land at cheap prices and sold it for huge profits.

During the boom, some people bought and sold land in Florida without ever setting foot in the state. They hired young, ambitious men to stand in the hot sun to show the land to prospective buyers and to accept a binder on the sale. A binder was a non-refundable down payment that required the remainder of the money to be paid within thirty days. With land prices rapidly rising, many of the buyers planned to sell at a profit before the final payments were due.

Unfortunately, there were problems. Housing costs soared, so people wrote home telling of high rents, and newspapers in the North advised readers to stay away from Florida. The demand for building materials overwhelmed the railway systems. Once land prices stopped going up, many speculators couldn't sell. There were suddenly thousands of acres of overpriced land without any buyers. Many landowners lost everything.

The boom stopped almost as suddenly as it had started. A series of natural disasters (freezes and the 1926 and 1928 hurricanes) sent Florida into an economic tailspin. All across the nation in October 1929, the value of stocks began to fall. Many of the stockholders tried to sell their shares in order to not lose money. Sadly, the value of stocks had dropped so low that the stock market crashed. This began the period called the "Great Depression."

Courtesy Historical Society of Palm Beach County

Land buyers in West Palm Beach. The building on the right was the first bank building in the Palm Beach area. It was the Dade County State Bank and opened in the 1890s.

Courtesy Historical Society of Palm Beach County

People gather at Farmers Bank, trying to withdraw their money because the bank was failing at the beginning of the Depression.

Addison Cairns Mizner (1872-1933) (Benchmark: SS.7.E.2.4)

By Debi Murray, Historical Society of Palm Beach County

Spanish exploration and settlement in Florida began more than 500 years ago. During this time, the New World was introduced to cattle, horses, and oranges. In the early 1900s, Addison Cairns Mizner introduced a combination of Spanish and Mediterranean architecture to Palm Beach, creating a style that changed the island forever. His design style soon spread across Southern Florida to give the state its exotic and distinctive architectural flavor.

When Paris Singer invited the ailing Mizner to Palm Beach in January 1918, the architect gladly accepted. Singer asked him to suggest a few changes for his Palm Beach cottage. Mizner promptly created a sketch of the house with Oriental details and bright colors. Singer liked the drawing so much that he hired workers to make the changes.

Singer thought Palm Beach was the perfect place to build a convalescent club for shell-shocked officers of the Great War (World War I). He asked Mizner to design the buildings. The war, however, ended before the club could be completed. Singer decided to transform the unfinished structure into a private club. Mizner's groundbreaking architectural designs used the land and climate, especially the prevailing trade winds, to take advantage of Palm Beach's subtropical environment.

Mizner began to accept commissions to design and build homes in Palm Beach. He also decorated the public rooms and laid out the landscaping. He started Mizner Industries, where artisans produced furniture, ceramics, stonework, and wrought iron to create the desired result: a house and furnishings with a rich, centuries-old flavor. His industry gave hundreds of people jobs.

Courtesy Historical Society of Palm Beach County

Architect Addison Mizner and his pets.

Even at the beginning of the twenty-first century, many of Mizner's houses continue to add value and distinction to the Town of Palm Beach.

James Jerome "Cracker" Johnson (1877-1946)

In the African American community, the term "cracker" usually denoted a black male born of a black mother and a white father. The male often reflected the inherited physiological traits of the father, such as blue eyes, straight hair, a sharp nose, and a color that would allow him to be considered white. Usually, "cracker" is attached to a family name, as in "Cracker" Johnson, who lived before and during the Harlem Renaissance in Palm Beach County.

Johnson was born in Savannah, Georgia, in 1877. At age sixteen, he became a cabin boy on a freighter. This job provided the opportunity for him to travel and see other cities. He then worked as a constable before moving to Florida, where he established a "moonshine" (illegal liquor) business in 1899. Johnson also developed gambling and pawn broker businesses and used the money to buy real estate all over Florida.

He built a red brick jail in 1921, which housed blacks only, at the corner of Second Street and Rosemary Avenue. Until then, when blacks were arrested, they had been jailed outside the city because of segregation. Johnson also provided money for the strained city budget to purchase tools and equipment for criminals to use while incarcerated. He later loaned the city $50,000 to balance the budget. Johnson owned and operated the Florida Bar on Rosemary Avenue, where employees were required to dress in cut-away dinner jackets, tuxedo trousers, winged-collar dress shirts with studs as buttons, cuff links, and bow ties.

Johnson married Ella Johnson in Quincy, Florida, and they had two daughters, Marguerite and Edye. Ella, who was educated and owned quite a bit of property, had a white father and a black mother.

Johnson had a tremendous influence, not only in the county but throughout the state, as a result of gambling and bootlegging. Though his education was limited--he could not read or write--he amassed a fortune during the late 'teens and 1920s and developed projects that brought in even more money than his illegal businesses.

"Flapper Days" was the name of the era in which Johnson created his financial empire in spite of the stock market crash in 1929 and the economic depression that followed. The Depression had no effect on his earnings, and he employed many of the jobless. According to tax records, Johnson's earnings in 1926 were $687,000; in 1927, $792,000; and in 1928, $971,000.

His church, the Boy and Girl Scouts, his lawyers, those seeking a college education, and anyone who was in need knew him as a philanthropist. Johnson and his wife traveled extensively and often took friends with them from New York, Detroit, Chicago, Palm Beach, and Los Angeles, and to Cuba to attend the Jack Johnson fight. His home had an automatic sprinkler system and special awnings that served as shutters, and he had palm trees installed to house the parrot caged in those trees.

Cracker Johnson was shot and killed on July 2, 1946, allegedly by a man hired by a white mob that wanted to break his financial hold on Palm Beach County. Johnson's house still stands today in West Palm Beach.

Florida's First Junior College

In 1933, the first junior college in Florida was established in West Palm Beach, called Palm Beach Junior College. It had a staff of seven former high school teachers who taught without pay. In 1988 the name was changed to Palm Beach Community College, and in 2010, to Palm Beach State College. Today it has branch campuses throughout the county

As you Read:

Using a graphic organizer, list and explain the various ways the people and places of Palm Beach County contributed to the war effort.

World War II

The Great Depression was a difficult period. Businesses closed, and people lost jobs. Others were lucky enough to find jobs but at low wages. Not until the 1930s did conditions begin to improve, through the efforts of government programs that put people to work.

In 1932 during the Depression, a new U.S. president was elected, who presented a New Deal to Americans. President Franklin D. Roosevelt promised to lower the unemployment rate and boost the economy. Two programs that helped Florida were the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the Works Progress Administration (WPA).Throughout the 1930s, these programs helped Florida regain some economic stability.

When war broke out in Europe in 1939, the United States began supplying materials to Great Britain, France, and Russia. This provided additional jobs as industries expanded to meet the needs of war. The war directly affected Florida and Palm Beach County in addition to the nation as a whole.

The United States entered World War II after the Japanese bombed the U.S. Navy base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on December 7, 1941. West Palm Beach's Morrison Field became the departure point for men and war materials for the war in Africa and Europe. Later in the war, soldiers and supplies flew from here toward the Pacific Ocean, where the United States was fighting Japan. After the war, Morrison Field became a civilian airport once again. In 1948, it was renamed Palm Beach International Airport.

While many Floridians were off fighting in the war, the remaining residents were supporting the war effort. Women filled many jobs on farms and in factories, left vacant by men who had joined the military.

The Civil Air Patrol was an organization of non-military pilots and support personnel. They flew their own planes along the Florida coast, looking for German submarines, called "U-boats." From 1942 to 1943, German U-boats sank U.S. and Allied cargo ships off the east coast of Florida, including the waters off Palm Beach County. The Civil Air Patrol was important in finding German U-boats and in conducting the search for, and rescue of, survivors of the attacks.

Other military facilities were established in the county. The Army Air Corps operated the only military airborne radar school at the Boca Raton Army Air Field. The Breakers hotel in Palm Beach became Ream General Hospital. The Coast Guard operated a SPARs (Women's Reserves) training school at the Biltmore Hotel in Palm Beach and a radio tower at Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse. A temporary prisoner-of-war (POW) camp was set up near Belle Glade for German prisoners. From March to September 1945, 250 German POWs worked in a bean-canning factory and helped engineers build the Herbert Hoover Dike at Lake Okeechobee. After the war, these facilities returned to civilian control. Except for the POW camp in Belle Glade and the radio tower, the other facilities are still in operation as civilian airports, hotels, and condominiums.

Courtesy Historical Society of Palm Beach County

Burning ship after U-boat attack, 1942.

As you Read:

Make a list, timeline, or map of the important places, dates, and figures that highlight Palm Beach County's growth.

Reading Check:

What types of benefits and problems are associated with urban growth?

Extended Response:

Write a persuasive essay using one of the following statements:

"Urbanization is bad for Palm Beach County and must be controlled."

-or-

"Urbanization is good for Palm Beach County and should not be restricted."

Urban Expansion and the Last 50 Years

Across the nation, cities experience an increase in urban development as their populations rise. Urban development is the expansion into rural areas such as deserts, forests, swamps, and uninhabited areas. As populations grow, there is a greater need for more land to build more housing and businesses. This causes cities to expand into new areas or to redevelop their inner cities to meet the demand of expansion.

In the late nineteenth century, relatively few people were living in Palm Beach County. While there were small communities, West Palm Beach (est. 1894) was the only incorporated city in the region. Miami would not incorporate for another two years, and Fort Lauderdale not until 1911. Most areas of the county were rural, not urban. In 1893, when West Palm Beach was laid out, it covered only forty-eight blocks. More than a century later, it now covers more than fifty-two square miles. In 1900 the population of the city was 564, compared to over 80,000 in 2000. According to the 1910 census, the population of the county was 5,577. Of that, 1,743 resided in West Palm Beach.

Palm Beach County's population has grown considerably since the land boom of the 1920s. Much of this growth is due to the mild year-round climate and available affordable land. From the 1950s to the 1980s, major industries such as IBM, Pratt-Whitney, and RCA also attracted many people looking for jobs. Currently, tourism, agriculture and education are the leading employers.

Over the last fifty years, a larger population has led to urbanization, or urban sprawl. This means that most people moving to the area settle in already crowded areas. To compensate for the increase in new residents – and the resulting demand for housing and businesses – developments are built on the fringes of the ever-increasing municipal limits and in unincorporated areas of the county.

Courtesy Historical Society of Palm Beach County

Urban expansion during the late 20th century.

To illustrate this growth: Between 1894 and 1941, eighteen cities were incorporated. One of those, Golfview, went out of existence in 1998 when the community was bought to expand Palm Beach International Airport. From 1947 to 1996, twenty-one new cities, towns, and villages were established, most of them during two decades. The 1920s (the height of the land boom) saw ten new municipalities; the 1950s saw sixteen new ones. University Park (est. 1959) was annexed and absorbed by the City of Boca Raton. The last municipality to incorporate was Loxahatchee Groves, in 2006. Currently, thirty-eight municipalities are in Palm Beach County – the most in any county in the Sunshine State. Continued growth has resulted in a push westward, to the edges of the conservation and agricultural areas. As a result, many small and large municipalities are looking to redevelop their inner areas.

Urbanization in the 21st Century

During the last two decades, there has been a renewed interest in the downtown areas of cities along the Intracoastal Waterway. Downtown areas that combine residential, shopping, restaurants, and entertainment venues have become highly popular. Boca Raton has Mizner Park; Jupiter has Abacoa; and West Palm Beach has CityPlace, a multi-use residential/commercial area, as well as the traditional shopping area of Clematis Street. Lake Worth and Delray Beach continue to revitalize their downtown areas. Riviera Beach, too, is planning a revitalization program for its downtown section along the Intracoastal Waterway.

As the population continues to grow in the twenty-first century, more unincorporated areas might vote to establish themselves as incorporated municipalities. As the population becomes more diverse, local governments and services will reflect the changes.

There are, and will continue to be, challenges to face with urban expansion. For instance, a larger population creates the need for more food, which places pressure on available farmland. In the past, draining water from the Everglades provided more farmland. However, efforts are underway to restore the land to its once-pristine condition. There has also been erosion of the muck in the agricultural area. This will present problems for future generations. Additionally, as the land is drained of vital nutrients to grow food, there is a greater chance that it will be sold to developers for new projects.

Future generations will have to solve the problems of the ongoing westward migration, which is encroaching on the agricultural areas and what is left of the northern fringes of the Everglades. Eventually, there will be no more land to build on and no natural habitat for wildlife. A greater demand for fresh water will deplete the already limited supply. Greater numbers of automobiles on the already crowded roads will mean more road construction and air pollution. New, innovative ways will have to be explored to solve the growing traffic problems.

Automobiles and pollution.

Emergency services (police and fire) and healthcare systems will need to expand to serve the greater populations. Local governments will need to develop and use sound fiscal policies, ordinances, and laws. The next generation of voters will have to make educated decisions about these issues. They will also have to manage the environment so that problems such as waste disposal will not become unsolvable.

The early pioneers of Palm Beach County endured mosquitoes, alligators, sharks, panthers, hurricanes, and a host of other challenges. They learned to adapt to their environment. The challenges facing the next generation will be very different, but just as problematic as those that the pioneers faced.

Transportation

Palm Beach County's transportation system has improved from the old footpaths, wagon trails, and sailboats to modern-day air transport and automobiles. The old trails are today's sidewalks, concrete and asphalt roadways. Shipping has changed from sail and steam to fuel-powered commercial and pleasure craft. The railway system has changed from steam to diesel power. The local rail system transports commuters between West Palm Beach and Miami, and buses transport people all over the county. Automobiles, once thought of as a luxury for the wealthy, are now owned by most people and are the most common form of transportation. In fact, many families own more than one car.

Water Transport

Prior to the arrival of Flagler's Florida East Coast Railroad, transportation was simple: It was either by foot or by boat, whether private or commercial. The boats were rather small and made trips to and from north Florida to transport people, supplies, mail, and vegetables. Many of the settlers owned small sailboats, called "sharpies" – flat-bottomed boats with one or two and with triangular sails; or they had rowboats to get around Lake Worth. Paddle-wheel steamships were a common sight on the Loxahatchee and Indian rivers.

From about the 1880s, ferries operated between Palm Beach and West Palm Beach. The only bridge then available was the railroad bridge built by Flagler for the trains to drop off and pick up tourists at the Royal Poinciana Hotel. Ferries operated even after bridges were built, even though it cost five cents to cross the lake.

Over the years, pleasure boats have become common on Lake Worth and the ocean. They are better built, have more powerful engines, and are more comfortable than those boats of the nineteenth century.

Railroads

The Jupiter and Lake Worth Railroad (also known as the "Celestial Railroad") was the area's first railway. When it opened in 1889, it ran 7.5 miles from Jupiter to Juno (a town now gone, not today's Juno Beach), with two stops at Mars and Venus. The railway was built to transport fruit, vegetables, and passengers. Passengers were charged ten cents a mile, or seventy-five cents one way. When wild animals were spotted from the train, the engineer would stop and let passengers off to shoot the animal, if they gave some of the meat to the engineer. The railway went out of business when it could not compete with Flagler's Florida East Coast Railroad.

Henry Flagler first visited Palm Beach in the early 1890s and saw the potential the area offered for development. He bought land on both sides of Lake Worth to begin his building ventures: a resort for the east side and a commercial and residential center for the west side of the lake.

Flagler built a large hotel, the Royal Poinciana, to cater to the wealthy. It opened in Palm Beach in 1894. Soon after, the Florida East Coast Railroad reached West Palm Beach. The next year, railroad passengers disembarked from the train right beside the Royal Poinciana, because Flagler had built a railroad link across Lake Worth to Palm Beach. When Flagler brought his railroad to the lake area and beyond, residents, businessmen, and visitors were excited at the prospect of a faster, more efficient form of travel. The railroad is a transport system that does not have to rely on the wind or water to propel travelers to their destination.

A steamer on the Loxahatchee River, 1880s.

Courtesy Historical Society of Palm Beach County

The Celestial Railroad was 7.5 miles long and ran between Jupiter and Juno from 1889 to 1895.

A few years later, Flagler extended the railroad to Miami. In 1912 it reached Key West, connecting the Keys to the mainland. This part of the railroad became known as the Oversea Railroad. In 1935 it was destroyed by a powerful hurricane that killed hundreds of people. Instead of rebuilding the railroad, the rail bed was used to build a road for automobiles that, once again, connected the Keys to the mainland.

In the 1920s, a second railroad came to Palm Beach County. The Seaboard Air Line Railway was a short, cross-state railroad from Coleman to West Palm Beach. This line cut through central Florida and continued from just north of Lake Okeechobee to West Palm Beach. The Seaboard Air Line train station is still in use. Tri-Rail and Amtrak use the station as a passenger terminal. The CSX Railroad now owns the Seaboard Air Line track.

As you Read:

1. Make a "Then and Now" chart to track the history of transportation in Palm Beach County.

2. On a map, trace the path of the various railways described here.

Reading Check:

1. Why were stage lines, trails, and roadways needed?
2. What was the original name of Palm Beach International Airport?
3. Who was it named after, and why?
4. What were the different uses for the airport over the years?

Trails and Roadways

During the Second Seminole War, Major William Lauderdale led a group of volunteers and regular soldiers south to the New River. They had to hack a supply trail out of the jungle to get there. When they arrived at the New River, they established Fort Lauderdale. This trail, which ran between the coastal swamps and the Everglades, became known as Military Trail, which runs through Palm Beach County into Broward County. This might have been the first roadway in the county. Military Trail is now a major six-lane, north-south roadway.

Before the Celestial Railroad was built, early pioneer businessmen cut a wagon trail between Jupiter and the north end of Lake Worth. They operated a stage line between Juno and Jupiter to transport people and goods to the boat dock at the head of the lake. In the 1890s, another stage line was opened between Lantana and Lemon City (Miami), which provided a cheaper method to transport the mail.

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, road builders began covering sand and dirt roads with crushed shells, a longer-lasting surface. Road construction crews obtained shells by plowing through ancient Native American mounds. People who owned the land under the mounds earned money from selling the shells from the mounds. By the 1920s, roads were being built of asphalt and concrete.

In July 1924, William J. Conners celebrated the opening of his Conners Highway with a party in Okeechobee. This toll road linked the western farms to the Atlantic coast and the railroad. Until then, Everglades farmers had used barges on canals to take their produce to the railheads. The new road allowed farmers to transport their produce from the farm directly to the railroad, thus eliminating the need to use the canal and barge system. This road is now known as Southern Boulevard, or State Roads 80 and 98.

After World War II, the need for better roadways was very clear. With the increase in population came the need for more consumer goods. A better road system was needed to move people and goods to south Florida. In 1957 Florida's Turnpike opened; it runs through central Florida from Wildwood to Miami. Interstate 95 was constructed over ten years, from 1966 to 1976, through Palm Beach County. The highway is about 1,800 miles long and runs from Miami to Houlton, Maine, at the Canadian border. Since then, both the turnpike and I-95 have gone through many changes to handle the ever-increasing number of automobiles on the roads.

Courtesy Historical Society of Palm Beach County

Grace Morrison.

Aviation

The history of aviation in Palm Beach County began in 1911, when promoter and landowner George Currie brought Canadian J.A. McCurdy, a test pilot for Curtiss Aircraft, to West Palm Beach as a promotional gimmick for land sales. For about a month, McCurdy gave flying exhibitions in the area. This was Palm Beach County residents' first exposure to air flight.

By the end of World War I (1914-1918), seaplanes were landing at water bases on Lake Worth because no land-based airports existed in the county. There were seaplane bases in Palm Beach, West Palm Beach, Lake Worth, and Lantana. The aviation company Trans Oceanic offered flying lessons, passenger flights, and sightseeing tours.

Courtesy Historical Society of Palm Beach County

The construction of Okeechobee Road, early 20th century.

Courtesy Historical Society of Palm Beach County

Morrison Field, about the mid-1940s.

Eventually, in the 1930s, interest grew in constructing a commercial airport in Palm Beach County. In 1936 Morrison Field, now Palm Beach International Airport, was named in honor of Grace Morrison, secretary to Palm Beach architect Maurice Fatio. She became interested in flying and took lessons at a small airstrip near Belvedere Road. In 1932 Morrison earned her pilot's license after she performed her solo flight, becoming the first woman to fly in Palm Beach County. Morrison loved to fly and wanted others to share her passion. She began petitioning the government for an airport to be built in West Palm Beach. Her hard work succeeded in 1936, when the airport opened between Belvedere Road and Southern Boulevard. Sadly, Morrison did not attend the opening; she had died in a car accident three months before.

During World War II, Morrison Field was converted to a military air base. The Army Air Corps used it to transport supplies and personnel to the European and African theaters of war. For a short time in 1942, the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) was located at Morrison Field. The CAP conducted anti-submarine patrols along the shipping lanes between West Palm Beach and Melbourne. When military activities increased at Morrison Field, the CAP was forced to relocate to the smaller Lantana Airport.

After World War II, the air base reverted to county control. In 1948 county commissioners changed the name to Palm Beach International Airport (PBIA) to capitalize on the growing tourist industry and to attract long-term businesses to the area. When the United States became involved in the Korean War, a part of PBIA was used by the military. Since the 1960s, it has gone through many renovations to better serve the growing number of travelers to the county and to ensure that it meets the standards of the 21st century. Currently, nearly six million travelers pass through PBIA each year.

Courtesy Historical Society of Palm Beach County

TheBigFish,aconvertedH-16decoratedasafish,atWestPalmBeach,1920.Thisflyingboatwaswellknownfrom New York to Florida in the 1920s. It was docked at the American Trans Oceanic Co. air base, north of the Flagler Bridge.

Today's Transportation

Business and tourism cannot grow without a good network of roads, railways, and airports. To make travel to and from the county easier, transportation systems are continually improved. In the early twentieth century, most roads in the area were sandy trails or shell roads. Up until 1948, Florida was a free-range state, meaning that ranchers did not have to fence in their livestock. Consequently, collisions occurred between cars and cattle. Once the open-range policy ended, it became safer to drive on Florida's roadways.

The major roadways of the county continue to be Interstate 95, the Florida Turnpike, U.S. 1, U.S. 441, and scenic State Road A1A. The turnpike and I-95 are both undergoing expansion because of the growing number of travelers on the roads. In addition, the county's mass-transit system includes about 130 buses operated by Palm Tran. The bus system runs seven days a week and has thirty-four established bus routes with 3,600 bus stops county-wide. Currently, about 26,000 daily commuters use the bus system.

Tri-Rail, which began service in the 1990s, is a commuter train that runs seventy-two miles through Palm Beach, Broward, and Miami-Dade counties. It stops at 18 stations and handles about 10,000 daily riders. Three decades from now, it is expected that there will be about 75,000 daily transit riders using Tri-Rail and Palm Tran. As more people come to Palm Beach County, new, innovative ways will have to be explored to solve the growing traffic problems that residents and visitors will continue to face.

Agriculture

Before 1910, agriculture in Palm Beach County was mostly confined to the eastern part of the county. It took many years before the wetlands of the Glades area would, or could, be drained for farming. At first, small boats transported vegetables to the North. However, this was an ineffective method to transport perishable fruits and vegetables. Much of the produce often had to be discarded because it rotted before reaching northern markets. When Flagler brought the railroad to south Florida, it provided a faster, cheaper, more reliable means of transporting produce to the North.

Pioneer farmers had to carve out fields from the jungle that lined both sides of Lake Worth. Farmers grew tomatoes, mangos, citrus, beans, coconuts, and other vegetables and fruits. At one time, pineapple fields covered hundreds of acres. The pineapple industry failed in the early 1900s because a blight (disease) destroyed crops and because of competition from Cuban pineapple plantations.

Some exotic fruits, such as mangos, were successfully grown here. The Mulgoba mango was first introduced to Palm Beach County by horticulturist Reverend Elbridge Gale. Gale was a professor of horticulture at Kansas State Agricultural College from the 1860s to the 1880s, and he moved here about 1884. By the 1890s, he had many Mulgoba mango trees growing in West Palm Beach.

Before agriculture could move inland, the swamps had to be drained so that farmers could use the land for crops. After the swamps had been drained, the agricultural center shifted to western Palm Beach County. Because south Florida's climate allowed for several growing seasons a year, the county became the winter vegetable garden of the nation. This shift to the western part of the county allowed for larger, more productive farms. This farming industry employs thousands of people each year.

The varied size of these farms allows for a variety of crops,

Reading Check:

1. Why is efficient transportation necessary for Palm Beach County?
2. What services do Tri-Rail and Palm Tran provide?
3. What factors helped the local agriculture industry?
4. What type of agricultural products are grown in Belle Glade?
5. Why is there a depletion of usable farmland, and what can be done to counteract the problem?

Recalling Details:

Name five roadways that are mentioned in this passage.

Talk About It:

What are the consequences for the people of Palm Beach County as usable farmland is depleted?

Activity:

Make a three-column chart labeled, "Food I like to eat", "Food I do not like to eat," and "Food I have never tried." Fill in the sections using the foods mentioned in the "Agriculture" passage.

Then and Now:

Compare/contrast tourism and recreation in Palm Beach County back in the late 1800s and early 1900s, and today.

Reading Check:

What effect does tourism have on our economy?

including potatoes, cucumbers, beans, tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, sugar cane, carrots, celery, cabbages, bananas, citrus, and papayas. Still other businesses grew flowers, such as gladiolas. Nurseries were founded to provide ornamental plants for the new housing and for shipment to northern markets. Expansion of the railroad system and better roads provided quick deliveries to the North.

A larger population created the need to grow more food. Draining water from the Everglades provided more usable farmland. The City of Belle Glade's motto is "Her Soil Is Her Fortune." This refers to the rich, black dirt sometimes called "black gold." The soil found here is known as "muck" – a dark, richly organic soil that is excellent for growing vegetables. In the 1920s, the muck was about nine feet deep. Today, it is about six feet deep. Over eighty years, three feet of muck has been lost. Erosion causes the loss of muck; the production of sod might also be a factor. About 11,000 acres in the Glades are devoted to sod production. When sod is cut, some muck goes with it. If depletion of this soil continues, a serious loss of valuable agricultural land will occur.

By 2014 Palm Beach County's agricultural area led the state and U.S. counties east of the Mississippi River in sugar cane and sweet corn production. It is the top producer for the state for bell peppers, cucumbers, radishes, rice, lettuce, celery, herbs, eggplant, and is third in the state for nursery production. For 2014-2015, the county had $1.41 billion worth of agricultural sales.

The United States stopped buying sugar from Cuba after the Communist government of Fidel Castro took control of the island, so Florida growers planted more sugar cane. The Cuban revolution also brought experienced Hispanic sugar cane growers to the county. Alfonso Fanjul, a prominent local Cuban American, started with a few thousand acres of sugar cane in the Glades. By 2000, the Fanjuls owned thousands of acres and had 3,000 employees. Palm Beach County sugar cane growers supply enough sugar for 65 million people a year—that's enough sugar for the population of the United Kingdom. For 2014-2015, 460,445 acres in Palm Beach County were dedicated to sugar cane fields, vegetable crops, cattle, nurseries, timber farms, fruit groves, and sod.

Since the early 1990s, there has been a slow decline in the amount of usable farmland. Over 76,000 acres have been lost since 1992. This is because of the loss of nutrients in the soil, erosion, and westward urban expansion. If farmland is continually eroded, Palm Beach County will have no agricultural land left, years from now. High-tech agricultural methods such as hydroponic farming will have to be developed or expanded by the next generation to make up for the loss of farmland.

Making Syrup – Pioneer Style

In 1879 the pioneers decided to try their hand at making syrup from sugar cane. They began by constructing a crude mill. They created rollers from logs found on the beach. A mule provided the power to turn the rollers. The liquid from the cane was boiled in a huge iron kettle. Once the syrup was ready, the pioneers gathered around and tried their first batch of homemade sugar cane syrup. The syrup tasted disgusting to them; it was salty, not sweet. The settlers found that the soil where the sugar cane was grown contained salt from the sea spray that spread over the area from winds.

The salty soil made the sugar taste of salt. Thus, the pioneers' attempt at making syrup came to a salty end.

Courtesy Historical Society of Palm Beach County

A primitive sugar mill in the western part of Palm Beach County, about 1916.

Tourism and Recreation

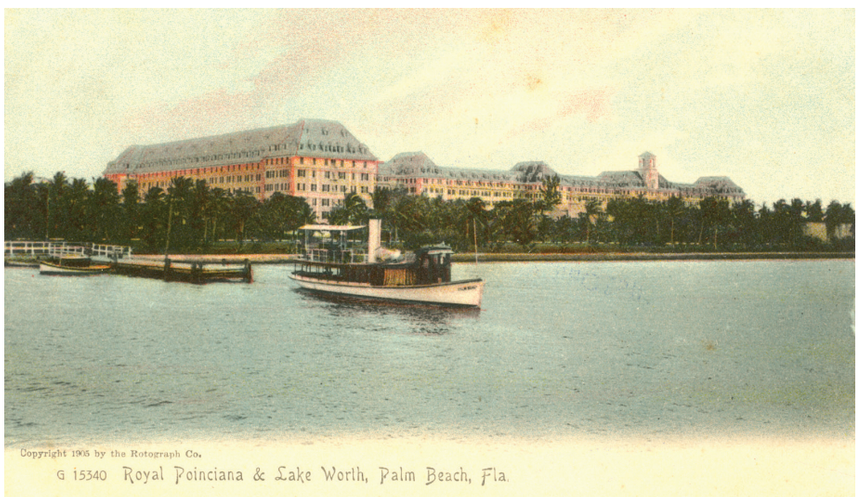
Since the late 1940s, tourism has become a multibillion-dollar industry in the county. More visitors come to south Florida to enjoy the warm winter months, stay longer, and spend more money than nineteenth-century tourists did. At that time, the winter tourist season had been about ten weeks long. (Currently, the winter tourist season runs from October to just after the Easter holiday.) As more people came to Florida, whether as visitors or residents, various amusements were developed to entertain them. Early tourists found that the lake area offered warm winter weather and unique leisure activities, such as hunting and fishing for exotic creatures.

The first person in the lake area to realize the business potential of tourism was Elisha Newton Dimick, who came to this area from Michigan in 1876. In 1880 Dimick added rooms to his house to rent to visitors. Eventually, he had a fifty-room inn named the Cocoanut Grove House – a hotel for tourists and a social center for locals. Thirteen years later, when Henry Flagler started building the Royal Poinciana Hotel, Dimick sold the Cocoanut Grove House. Shortly after the sale, the hotel was destroyed by fire. Dimick went on to become a co-founder of Dade County State Bank, the first in the lake area. He was elected to serve as a state representative in 1890 and as a senator six years later. In 1911, when the Town of Palm Beach incorporated, Dimick was elected as its first mayor, an office he held until 1918.

Without a doubt, Henry Flagler is most responsible for expanding the tourist industry in Palm Beach County. Before Flagler, most of the early tourists were men who came to fish and hunt. Soon, tourists included couples, families, and large groups of friends who had more money and leisure time than did earlier travelers. They expected more activities to fill their days and nights. Entrepreneurs provided the shops. Guests

Courtesy Historical Society of Palm Beach County

Alligator Joe at his place of business. This was one of the earliest tourist attractions in Palm Beach.



Courtesy Historical Society of Palm Beach County

Flagler's Royal Poinciana Hotel opened for business in 1894. After its last major expansion in 1901, the hotel was the largest wooden structure in the world.

Courtesy Historical Society of Palm Beach County

The Cocoanut Grove House, the area's first hotel, built by Elisha N. Dimick, 1880-1893.

could also enjoy swimming in the morning; lunch; tea in the afternoon at the Royal Poinciana; and dinner, dancing, and gambling at E.R. Bradley's Beach Club.

At the end of World War II, the tourist industry exploded with new entertainment venues. There are now over 160 golf courses and over 1,000 tennis courts to enjoy. Hundreds of thousands of visitors and residents take to the water to fish, swim, surf, scuba dive, and boat. Animal attractions such as the Palm Beach Zoo and Lion Country Safari draw thousands of people each year. The county's wildlife and nature preserves also lure visitors. They can enjoy the natural surroundings and the wildlife in settings that have experienced few, if any, man-made changes.

Tourism, an enormous business for Palm Beach County, generates more than $2 billion a year for the county. The money spent by visitors helps provide jobs for many people. Tourism has such an impact on the economy that if tourism is down even a little bit, many businesses feel the crunch, and the lack of business can cause workers to lose their jobs. If business is good, there are more jobs for more people.

Trapper Nelson

Courtesy Historical Society of Palm Beach County

Trapper Nelson at his zoo on the Loxahatchee River.

Trapper Nelson, who came to the Jupiter area in the 1920s, purchased land along the Loxahatchee River, where he planted pineapples and trapped animals. To pay his real estate taxes, he opened a small zoo featuring bobcats, raccoons, opossums, alligators, and snakes. Trapper Nelson's zoo became a favorite tourist destination before and after World War II. Nelson was a local conservationist and worked hard with others to preserve the Loxahatchee River. The zoo closed in the 1960s, several years before his death. Trapper Nelson's site has been preserved and is open to the public.

Test Your Knowledge:

Do you know the differences and/or similarities of the word(s) migrate to, migrate from, emigrate, and immigrate?

Reading Check:

1. Among states with the greatest population, what is Florida's rank?

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

As you read:

1. Highlight the various groups who are part of Palm Beach County's diverse population.

2. Using a map, identify the different areas where local African Americans lived during the late 1800s and early 1900s.

Florida Population

With the close of World War II, the population's of Florida and Palm Beach County grew rapidly. Many of the veterans stationed here during World War II moved to Florida permanently because, like the pioneers of the nineteenth-century, they saw the state as a land of opportunity. They felt that this was a great place to make a fresh start. Thus, the state experienced a new land boom that has lasted from the 1950s to the present day with only a few economic slowdowns. The state population from 1950 to 1960 increased by 79%, from 2,771,305 to 4,951,560. During the same period, Palm Beach County's population increased by 99%, going from 114,688 to 228,106. The rise in population fueled the increased need for industry, agriculture, recreation, and housing. Since 1950, Florida has become home to at least two million additional people every ten years.

As more people move to Florida, the population becomes more diverse. Floridians now include people from all over the United States and, in fact, the world. Europeans, Asians, West Indians, and Hispanics add to the richness of Florida's culture. Since World War II, the state has become home to a large population of immigrants from Cuba and Haiti.

The 2010 U.S. Census shows that Florida had a population of over 18 million. This made Florida the fourth most populated state. Only California, Texas, and New York had more people. However, in 2015, according to the Census Bureau, Florida became the third most populated state with about 20.27 million. New York has moved down to number four. The population figure does not include "snowbirds," those who live in Florida only during the warm winter months.

Palm Beach County's Diverse Population

Between the 1870s and 1880s, some of the early pioneers who came to the Lake Worth region were African Americans and people from the Caribbean. They came seeking a better life, jobs, and to build new homes. When Flagler arrived, many new people came to work on his railroad and in his hotels. Others established businesses in Palm Beach and West Palm Beach to serve the growing population. In the early twentieth century, Japanese farmers also arrived in Palm Beach County. They established a small community and farms for themselves. But not until after World War II did the permanent population of Palm Beach County explode, drawing people from around the globe.

African Americans

By the late nineteenth century, a small population of African Americans was living in the Lake Worth area. When Henry Flagler started building in Palm Beach, a large work force of African Americans came from all over the United States to work in the hotels and on the Florida East Coast Railroad. One of the earliest communities for these workers was just north of the present-day Flagler Memorial Bridge in Palm Beach.

The Styx, as this community in Palm Beach was called, existed from the early 1890s to the early 1900s. The word "Styx" comes from Greek mythology; it is the name for the river to the underworld.

The land occupied by the Styx originally belonged to Dr. James Munyon, who later sold it to Edward R. Bradley, who owned Bradley's Beach Club, and his brother, John. When the Bradleys decided to develop this section of Palm Beach, the residents who rented the land from them had to move. Many relocated to the West Palm Beach subdivisions of the Northwest District and Pleasant City.

While some African Americans worked on the railroad and hotel construction, others ran their own businesses, such as Haley Mickens, who ran a wheelchair business in Palm Beach.

Courtesy Historical Society of Palm Beach County

One of the first African American churches organized in the county in 1893. Haley Mickens was one of the founding members of the church. It was located in the Styx and was known as Bethel until 1894 when it changed to Payne A.M.E. Church.

Mickens also co-founded the Payne Chapel A.M.E. Church that later moved to West Palm Beach. African Americans also lived in other communities in the county. In Riviera Beach, Will Melton and the Gildersleeve family settled in the 1880s and 1890s. African Americans also settled in the Boynton Beach area. Like many other settlers, this group included farmers.

African Americans Continued

Some blacks came to Delray Beach to work on Flagler's railroad as it moved south. They settled in areas known as Green's Corner, Hannah Town, and Davis Town. These early communities were near today's Atlantic Avenue.

In the 1920s, the Freshwater District of West Palm Beach was where wealthy African Americans lived. Local African American contractors built most of the houses there. Hazel Augustus, West Palm Beach's first African American architect, designed many of the houses and churches in Freshwater, as well as other structures in the area.

Professionals such as doctors, dentists, and pharmacists came to West Palm Beach to set up their own offices. Dr. Thomas LeRoy Jefferson was the first African American medical doctor to come to West Palm Beach. Dr. Warren Hale Collie, a World War I veteran, was one of the first African American dentists to practice in the county. In 1933 Dr. Joseph Wiley Jenkins moved to West Palm Beach. He and his wife, Roberta, opened the Economical Drug Store at the corner of Fourth Street and Rosemary Avenue. Roberta designed their dream house on Virginia Avenue (now Division Avenue). In 1996 the City of West Palm Beach bought this house to save it. It is now the home of the Artists Showcase of the Palm Beaches.

In 2016 Bradley G. Harper became the first black 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 (see right). 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, African Americans have played important roles in the history and development of Palm Beach County. African Americans 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.

Courtesy Historical Society of Palm Beach County

(Left) Dr. Warren Hale Collie, D.D.S., was one of the first African American dentists in West Palm Beach. (Right) Millie Gildersleeve, one of the early African American pioneers in Palm Beach County.

Venus and Serena Williams

Professional Tennis Players

The Williams sisters are world-class tennis professionals. Venus began her career in 1994 and holds more than twenty-eight singles titles and ten doubles titles. Venus won the 2000 Olympic gold medals in singles and doubles (with sister Serena), the first woman to do so since 1924. Serena went professional in 1995 and holds more than twenty titles for singles and eleven titles for doubles. Serena was the first African American woman to win a Grand Slam title since 1958. In 1999, at age eighteen, Serena won the U.S. Open. The Williams sisters are credited with increasing the awareness of women's participation in tennis. They live in Palm Beach Gardens.

F. Malcolm Cunningham, Sr. (1927-1978)

Lawyer and Politician

F. Malcolm Cunningham was a graduate of Florida A&M University and Howard University, where he received his law degree. In 1953 he opened his own law practice in West Palm Beach. Cunningham was also involved in the Civil Rights movement, fighting for equal rights for African Americans. Nine years later, Cunningham was the first African American elected to the Riviera Beach City Council, where he served three terms before retiring from public office. The F. Malcolm Cunningham Sr. Bar Association was named for him. His son F. Malcolm Cunningham Jr., followed in his father's footsteps as an attorney.

Alfred "Zack" Straghn

Entrepreneur and Community Activist

Alfred Straghn, founder of Straghn and Sons Funeral Home in Delray Beach, has been in the funeral profession most of his life. Now in his eighties, he started running a funeral home for a prominent black family when he was twenty-one. At a very early age, he had been the child who always buried the dead farm animals and created a funeral service and program so that other children could participate. Straghn, who runs the family business with his three sons, has provided services for almost 10,000 people since being in the funeral business. The business has grown tremendously; one son serves as embalmer, one is the public relations manager, and one is the business manager. Alfred Straghn is a native of Palm Beach County, born in Delray Beach. He attended Bethune-Cookman College in Daytona Beach, Florida, where he earned a bachelor's degree. He is a very active member of several strong community organizations, including the NAACP. Many adults in the community remember him as their Sunday School teacher, a role he has filled for fifty years. Not one to tout his generosity, he is a philanthropist and has provided assistance to many when it was needed for professional service, clothing, tuition, food, utilities, etc. Although he has received many honors, trophies, and plaques, a singular honor was bestowed upon him when he was recognized as a Distinguished Man of Excellence by the Delta Heritage Foundation.

Reading Check:

1. What was the Yamato Colony's contribution to Palm Beach County?

2. Where is the largest Haitian population in Palm Beach County?

Map Skills:

Using a world map, identify the countries that the various Hispanic groups are emigrating from.

The Yamato Colony

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

The Hispanics of Palm Beach County

The Hispanic population is the fastest growing ethnic group not only in Palm Beach County, but in the nation. Between 1980 and 2010, the Hispanic population in the county grew from 28,505 to more than 250,832. Cubans, Puerto Ricans, and Mexicans are still the majority, but immigrants from Central and South American countries are on the rise.

Presently, large groups of Mexicans and Guatemalans live in Lake Worth, and there is also a large Guatemalan community in Jupiter. Most of the time, the Guatemalan Maya are grouped with Hispanics. However, they are Native Americans 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, but they also live 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 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 more leading roles in the development of Palm Beach County.

"Mexico Frank"

Frank Lopez, also known to the pioneers as "Mexico Frank," arrived in the Lake Worth area in the summer of 1874. He worked at various odd jobs for the pioneers for three years. During the winter of 1877, Frank outfitted his small boat and sailed south, never to return. He might be the first Hispanic known by name to live in what became Palm Beach County.

The Haitian American Community

Haitian immigrants came to Palm Beach County seeking a better future. They made Delray Beach the site of the largest Haitian population in the United States. Haitians have been arriving in Florida in small and large numbers since before 1980. Many of them came from agricultural backgrounds and have found jobs in the farming areas of Palm Beach County.

After 1980 a few more waves of migration occurred. In 1986, at the end of the Duvalier family regime, large numbers of refugees arrived in Florida. Many of them settled in Delray Beach, Boca Raton, and Boynton Beach. In 1991 another mass migration took place and more recently, after the devastating 2010 earthquake in Haiti, many more moved to Florida. One particular subdivision in Delray Beach, Osceola Park, is where Haitian Americans have been living since 1980. Many Haitians have opened businesses in downtown Delray Beach—making it the largest Haitian population in the United States. In 2013 the Haitian population in Palm Beach County 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 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.

Major Joseph M. Bernadel, U.S. Army, Retired

Principal, Toussaint L'Ouverture High School Foundation

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

Palm Beach County's Jewish Heritage

Jews have been settling in Florida since the late nineteenth century. For many of the early years, they lived in north Florida and Key West. When railroads opened up south Florida, they moved here. The recorded history of Jews in Palm Beach County dates to at least the early 1890s, when Henry Flagler developed West Palm Beach, and 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 as 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 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 cultural arts organizations. They also have supported educational institutions and agencies providing help to the less fortunate.

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

By 1950 the Jewish population had grown to about 3,000 in Palm Beach. Thirty years later, it had risen to 89,000, and by 2012 to about 255,000. Today 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.

Palm Beach County Jews are involved in every facet 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. after his doctor recommended that he leave the northeast because of bad health in 1908, Mendel came to Florida. In 1923 he was elected to the West Palm Beach City Council, which appointed him mayor, making Mendel the first Jewish mayor of West Palm Beach. Afterward, Mendel worked in banking and real estate.

Pioneer Women of Palm Beach County

Men were not the only ones who helped to shape Palm Beach County. Many women were instrumental in helping the county become what it is today. Two of those were early pioneers Lillie Pierce Voss and Susan DuBois.

In 1874 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, although Lillie admitted that no one could teach her "figures." She grew up as a tomboy. When she was an adult, she wore a pistol on her hip so she could shoot the rattlesnakes on her property. In the 1920s, the sheriff warned her to stay inside because the Ashley gang, a notorious bunch famous for bootlegging and robbing banks and trains were rumored to be in the vicinity. That warning didn't stop her. She grabbed her shotgun and sat in a chair in the middle of the road, determined to protect her property.

Yet another young woman, Susan Sanders, came to Florida in 1897 when she was 21. Her first teaching assignment was west of Stuart in an eight-foot-by-ten-foot palm-thatched hut with a dirt floor and benches along the sides for students. She earned $40 per month, out of which she paid $10 a month for board and washing. The family she lived with consisted of a mom and dad, five children (one girl and four boys), and two male boarders. The house was one room – a bed in each corner and one in the middle. Sanders shared a bed with the daughter. The daughter and mother shared a pair of shoes; the men in the family went barefoot. But they paid Sanders so their children received an education.

Sanders was eventually transferred to the school in Jupiter, where she met her future husband, John DuBois. Sanders used her salary to buy a cow, a dozen hens, and an old rooster. Her husband built her a three-room house, and she planted a large garden. Her husband grew pineapples for a cash crop. The happy couple had several children, so they had to add on to the house. Susan said they did very well and never went hungry, because they always had eggs, fresh vegetables from her garden, and fish. The Native American mound that the DuBois house was built on had been visited by Jonathan Dickinson when he was shipwrecked in the 1690s. That house is still there in the county's DuBois Park, open to the public.

The 21st Century

The many cultures that work and reside in Palm Beach County provide the diversity that makes the county an exciting and vibrant place to live, work, and learn. Residents and visitors interact with people from all over the world. As time passes, the many cultures will make the county's future even richer.

What does the twenty-first century hold for Palm Beach County and Florida? According to 2003 statistics, 79 people move into the county every day: 553 a week; 2,370 a month; or 29,000 new residents a year. This places an incredible amount of stress on the county's natural resources, emergency services, health care, roads, government, and waste disposal.

Westward growth continues to push toward the agricultural land and what is left of the Everglades. Eventually, there will be no more land to build on. Rapid expansion also endangers areas where wildlife lives. A greater demand for water will deplete the already limited supply of fresh water. Greater numbers of automobiles will mean more construction of roadways and more air pollution. The next generation of voters will need to make educated decisions about management of the environment, waste disposal, new construction, and the safekeeping of the historical past of Palm Beach County.

Reading Check:

What types of contributions have people of Jewish heritage made in Palm Beach County?

Add It Up:

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

2. What is the increase, in percentage, in the number of Jews living in Palm Beach County from 1980 to 2012?

Imagine That:

Write a fictional story with either Lillie Pierce Voss or Susan DuBois as one of the central characters.

Thinkabout,discuss, and/or write about the following:

1. How will the residents of Palm Beach County cope with continued growth?

2. What changes do you think will take place in Palm Beach County in the next twenty years, with regard to population growth, economy, and the environment?

3. What will your role be in the preservation of the environment and in the history of Palm Beach County?

Reading Check:

1. Who was Jo Sakai?
2. What was his Japanese given name?
3. What type of colony did Sakai establish in Palm Beach County and why?

Yamato founder hoped Japanese colony would benefit farming in Florida (Benchmark: SS.7.E.2.4)

by Morikami Museum staff

When Jo Sakai came ashore in Jacksonville, he had a pretty good idea of what to expect. It was November 1903, and Sakai had just arrived from New York aboard the steamship Arapahoe. He had never been to Florida before, and had never met the business and political leaders with whom he had appointments. Still, he was confident that they would listen to what he had to say, and even support his proposal whole-heartedly.

Sakai would not be disappointed. The proposal? To organize and settle one, perhaps more, Japanese farming colonies in the state of Florida. As a result of his visit, the historic Yamato Colony of Japanese settlers was established two years later between the frontier towns of Delray (later renamed Delray Beach) and Boca Ratone (spelled today without the final 'e') on Florida's southeast coast.

Jo Sakai was born Kamosu Sakai on October 7, 1874, in the castle town of Miyazu, Japan, a center for fishing and farming on the coast of the Japan Sea. Jo was the fourth of seven children of Takamasu and Masu Sakai. He first attended school in the public school system of Miyazu, and later studied at Doshisha, a private high school in the city of Kyoto.

Sakai's father was a former samurai who had served the last daimyo, or lord, of Miyazu Castle. He was like many young men of his era who shared his class background. The samurai drew upon a heritage of leadership and high educational standards. In the late 1800s, they led Japan in its push to modernize. As a member of this class, Sakai showed the same forward-looking, entrepreneurial spirit that many of them seemed to have.

Sakai's entrepreneurial spirit was no doubt fostered by his education at Doshisha. There he found a stimulating intellectual atmosphere that existed because of Doshisha's late founder, Jo Niijima (1843 - 1890). Sakai patterned his own life after that of Niijima. He decided to travel to America just as the great educator and activist had done when Japanese were forbidden to travel outside of Japan.

No such restrictions were in place when Sakai arrived in the United States in 1895. He changed his given name to Jo partly to be like Jo Niijima, but also because it was easier for Americans to pronounce and remember. ("Jo" and "Kamosu" are different ways to pronounce the character he used to write his name.) Some thirty years earlier, Niijima had become the first Japanese to earn a degree from a university in the West. Like Niijima, Sakai came to America to continue his schooling. At first he hoped to study electrical engineering under Thomas Edison. Eventually, though, he enrolled in the business school of New York University. A few months after graduation, he cam to Florida.

Prior to Sakai's arrival, state leaders had decided to bring Japanese farmers to Florida to develop our agriculture. James Ingraham was president of the Model Land Company, a branch of Flagler's Florida East Coast Railway set up to sell land. Ingraham asked a friend on the faculty of New York University to recommend a dependable Japanese to start a Japanese colony to grow crops in Florida. The friend informed Sakai and advised him to head south. Thus, the young entrepreneur came to Florida confident about opportunities in the Sunshine State.

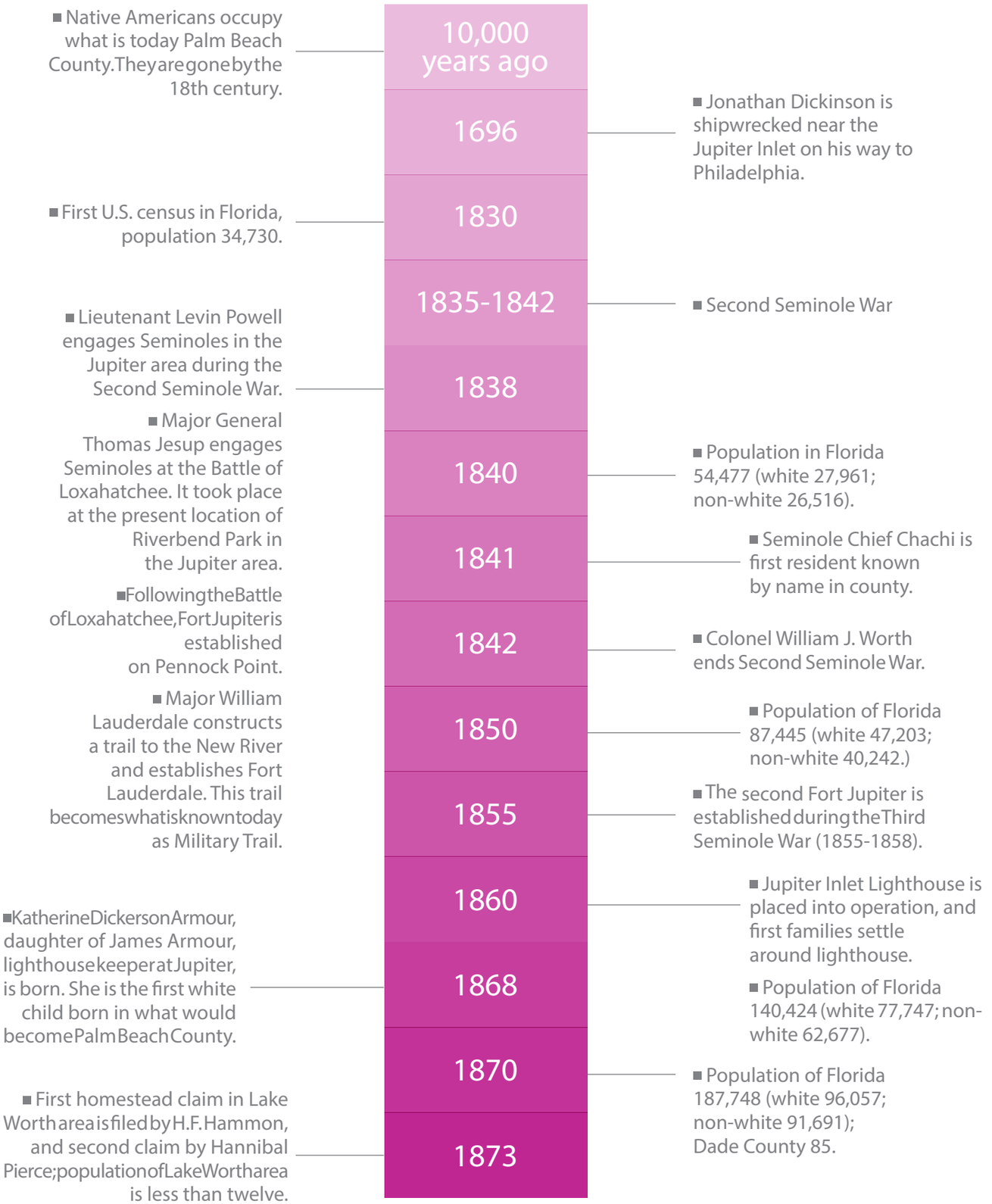
Sakai proposed to bring experienced farmers as colonists directly from Japan to raise Japanese crops that Florida farmers had not seen before. The colonists would also introduce new farming methods for Florida farmers to imitate. In this way the colonists would stimulate the growth of farming in the state.

It was a message that Florida's leaders wanted to hear. Sakai met with officials of the Jacksonville Board of Trade and Governor William Jennings in Tallahassee. He watched interest in his proposal grow. Soon Sakai found himself on a whirlwind tour of the state to view possible sites for the colony. Sakai inspected Model Land Company property near Boca Ratone on Christmas Day, 1903. He then headed to St. Augustine to sign a contract with Ingraham.

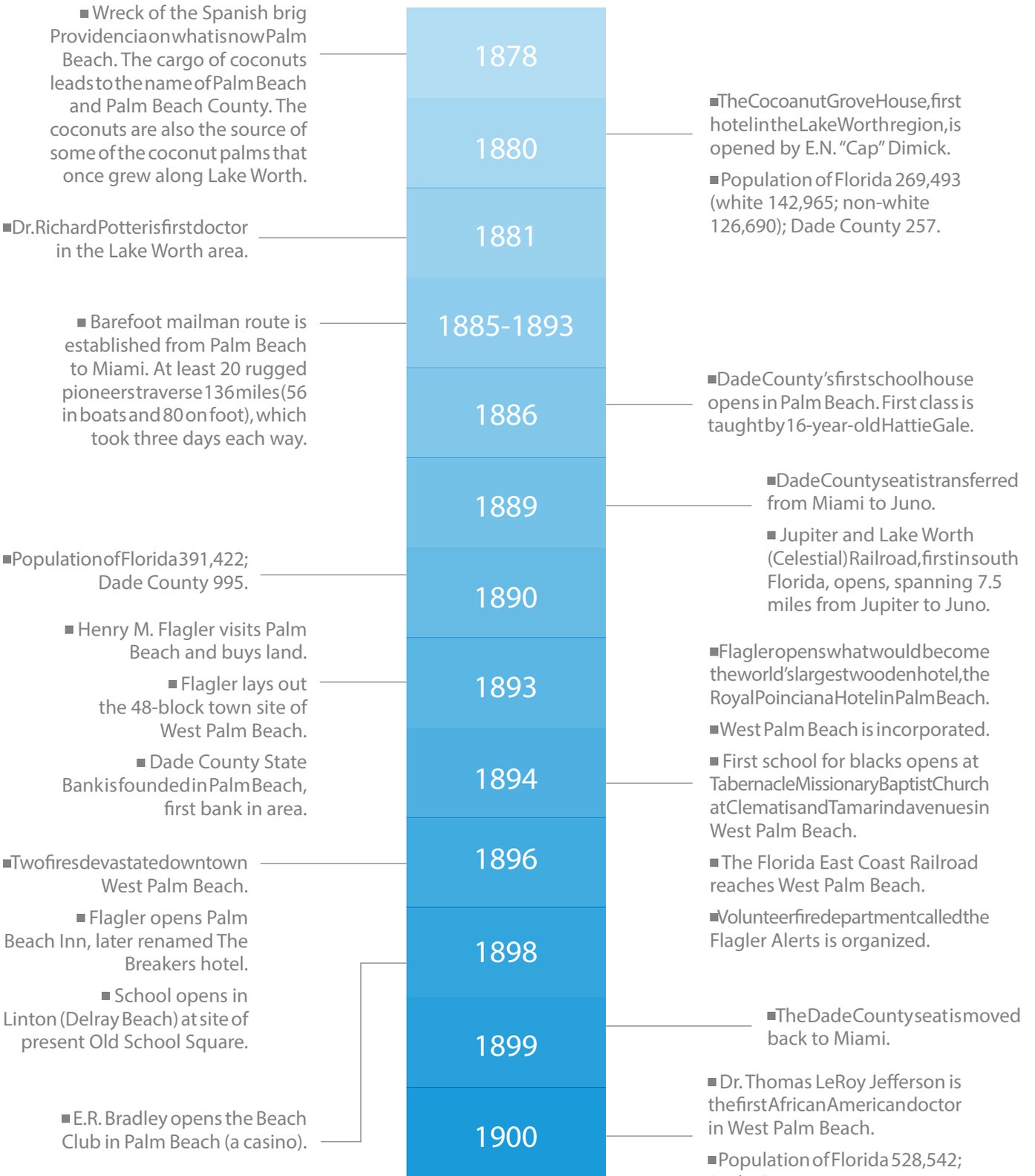
Sakai sailed for Japan in February 1904, just as the eighteen-month Russo-Japanese War began. Despite delays caused by the war, he returned to Florida by November, leading a group of colonists. He recruited George Morikami and others from Miyazu, Sakai's birthplace, and now a sister city of Delray Beach due to this historic connection. Since the original colony site had not drained enough for farming, Sakai arranged to purchase the Keystone Plantation, a large farm where pineapples were already being raised. The Keystone Plantation, located to the north of the original site, became the Yamato Colony in late June or early July of 1905.

Sakai spent the rest of his life actively promoting Yamato. He worked to bring families to Florida in order to help the colony continue and experimented with Japanese crops to fulfill his mission of stimulating farming in the state. His efforts were mostly unsuccessful, but they did help contribute to Florida's diverse and exciting ethnic heritage. Leaving behind his wife, Sada, and five daughters, Sakai died of tuberculosis on August 21, 1923, at the age of 49.

Palm Beach County Timeline



Palm Beach County Timeline



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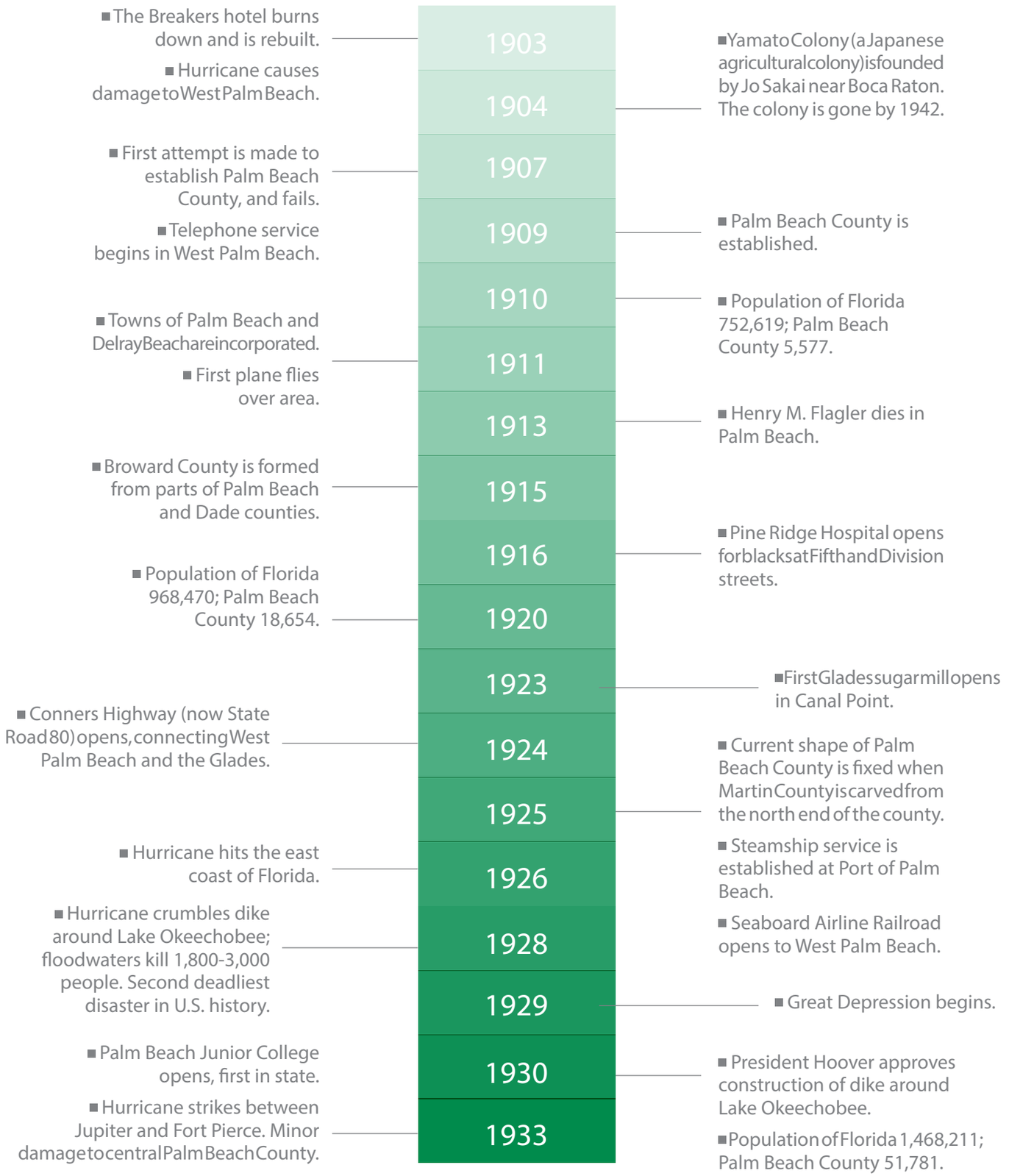

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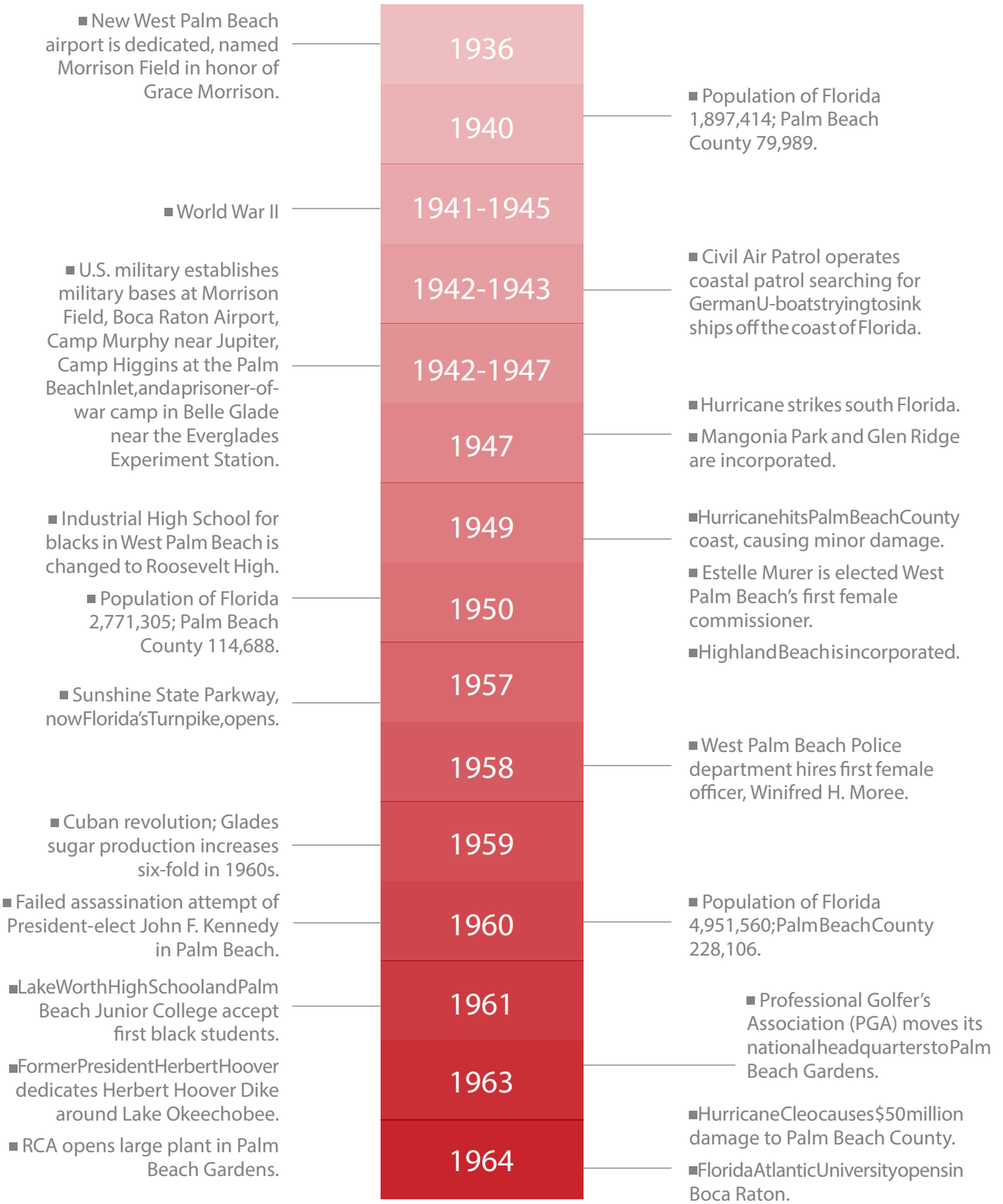
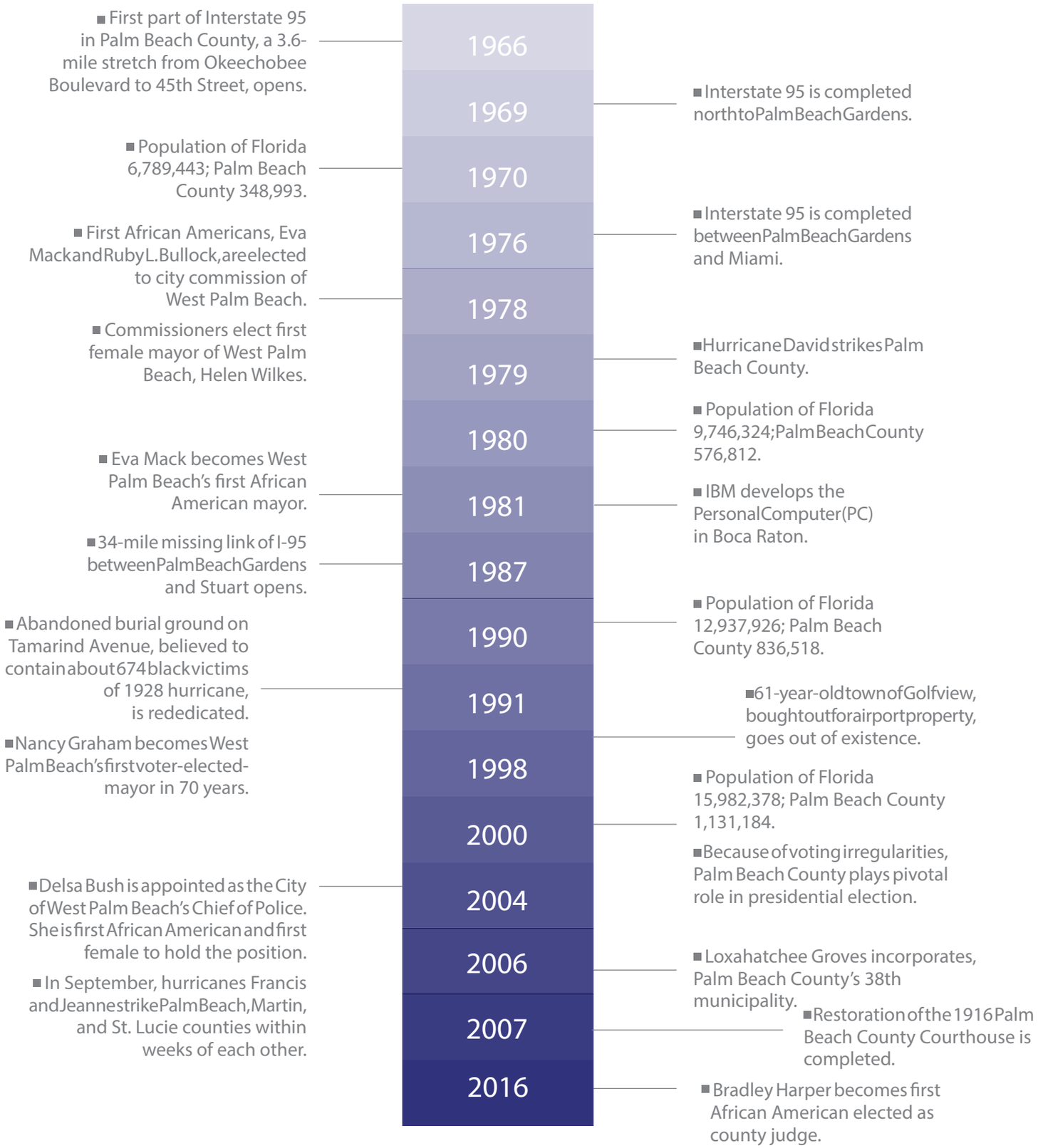
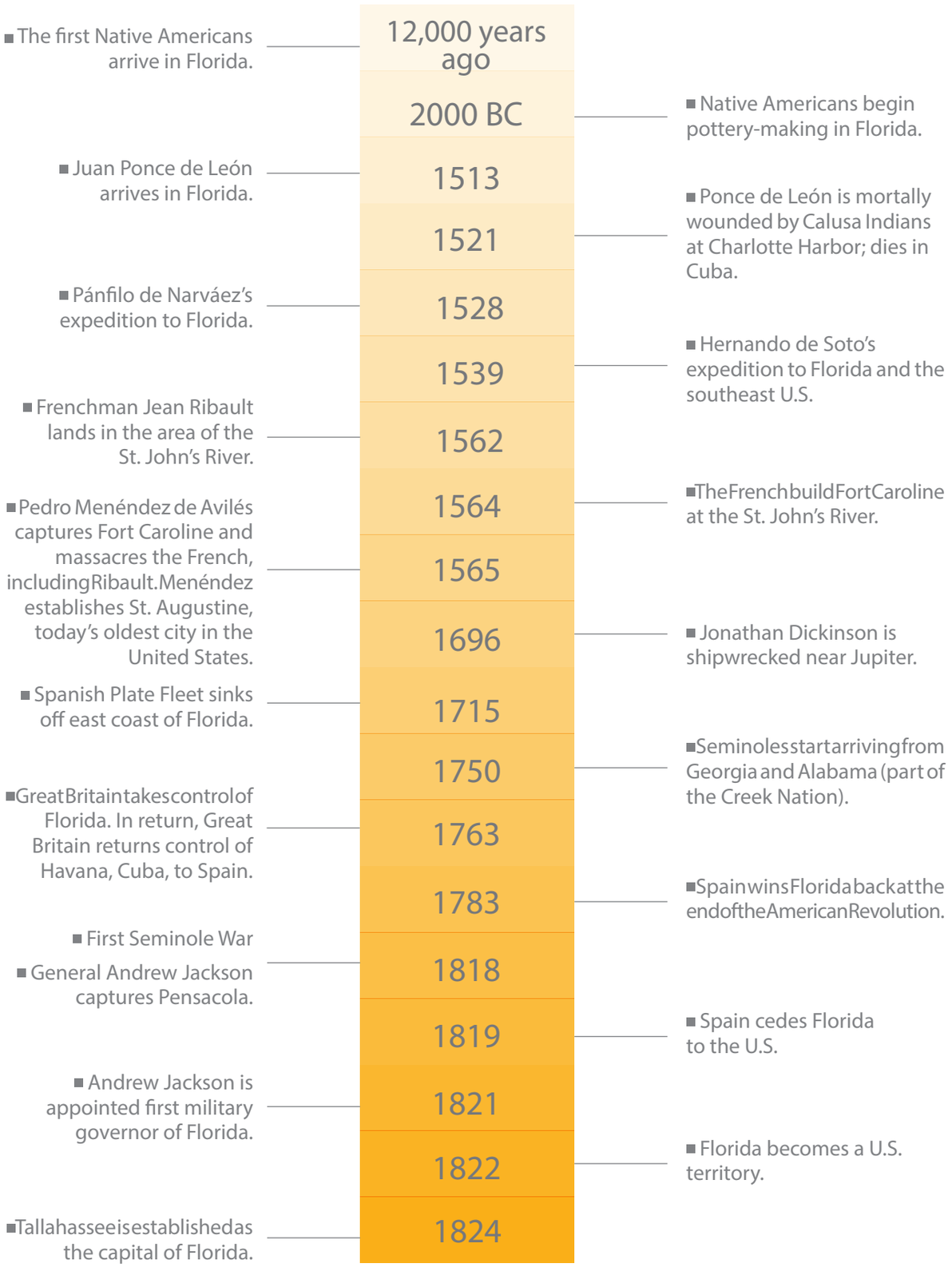


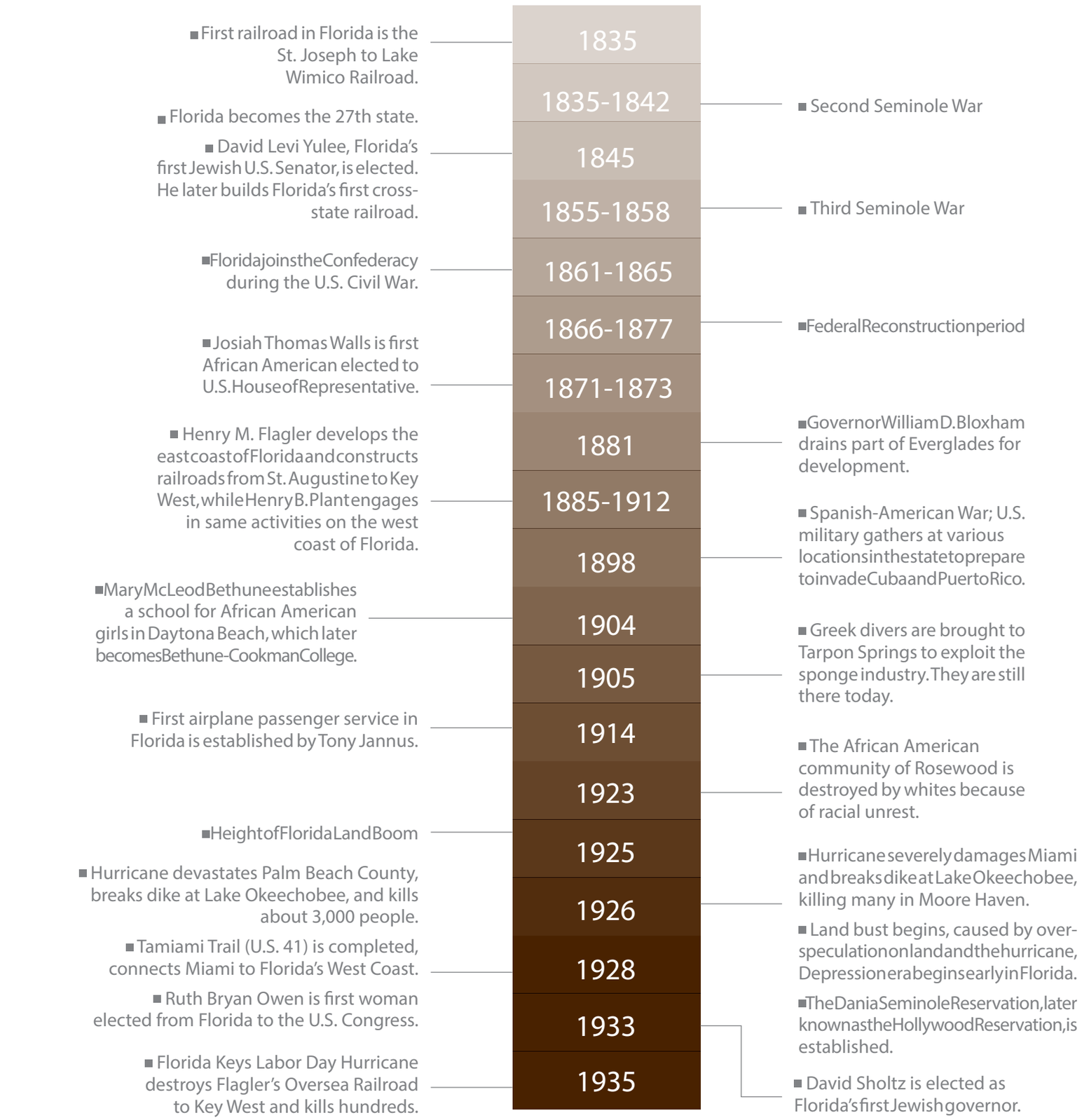
Palm Beach County Timeline



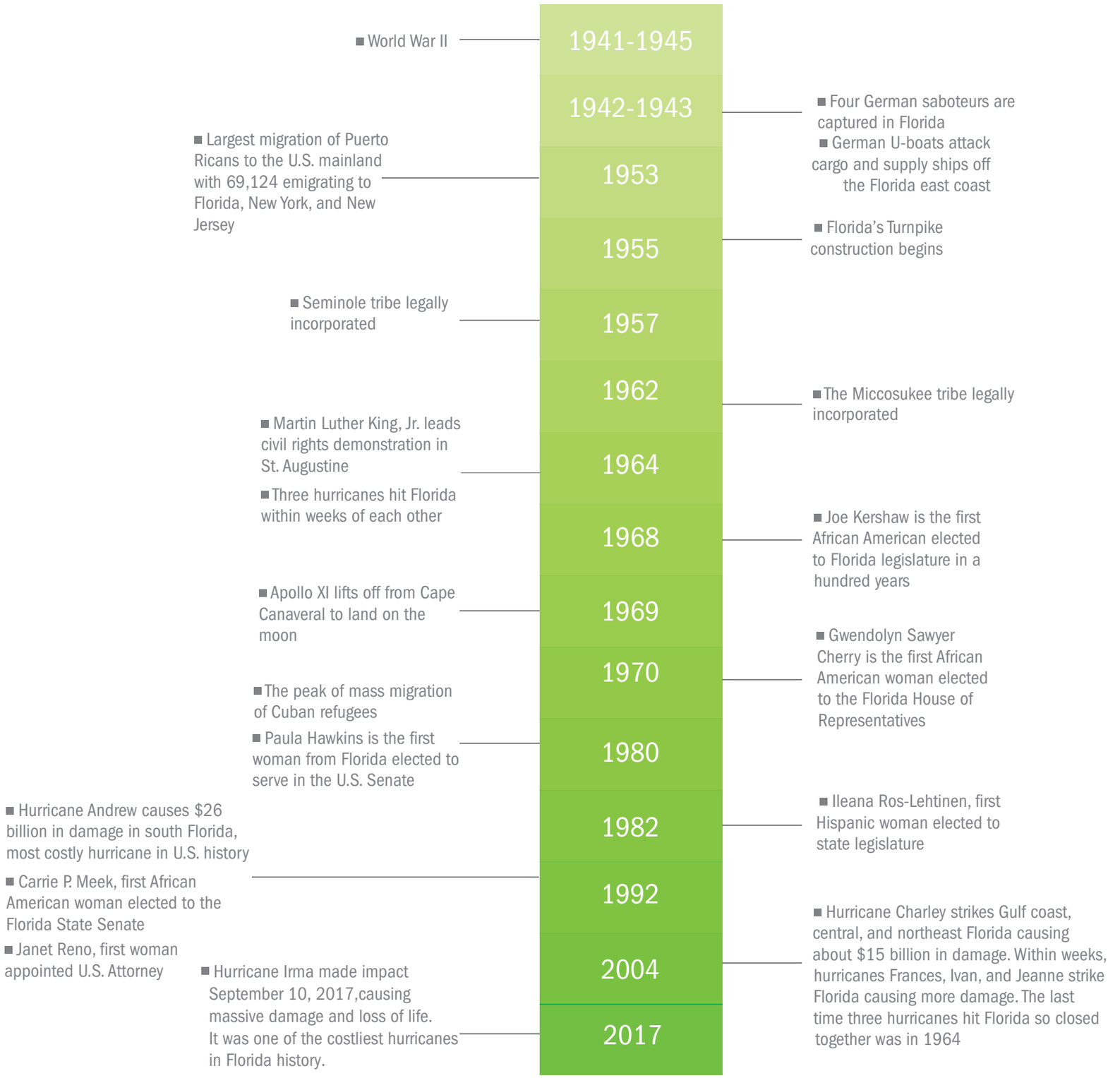
Florida Historical Timeline

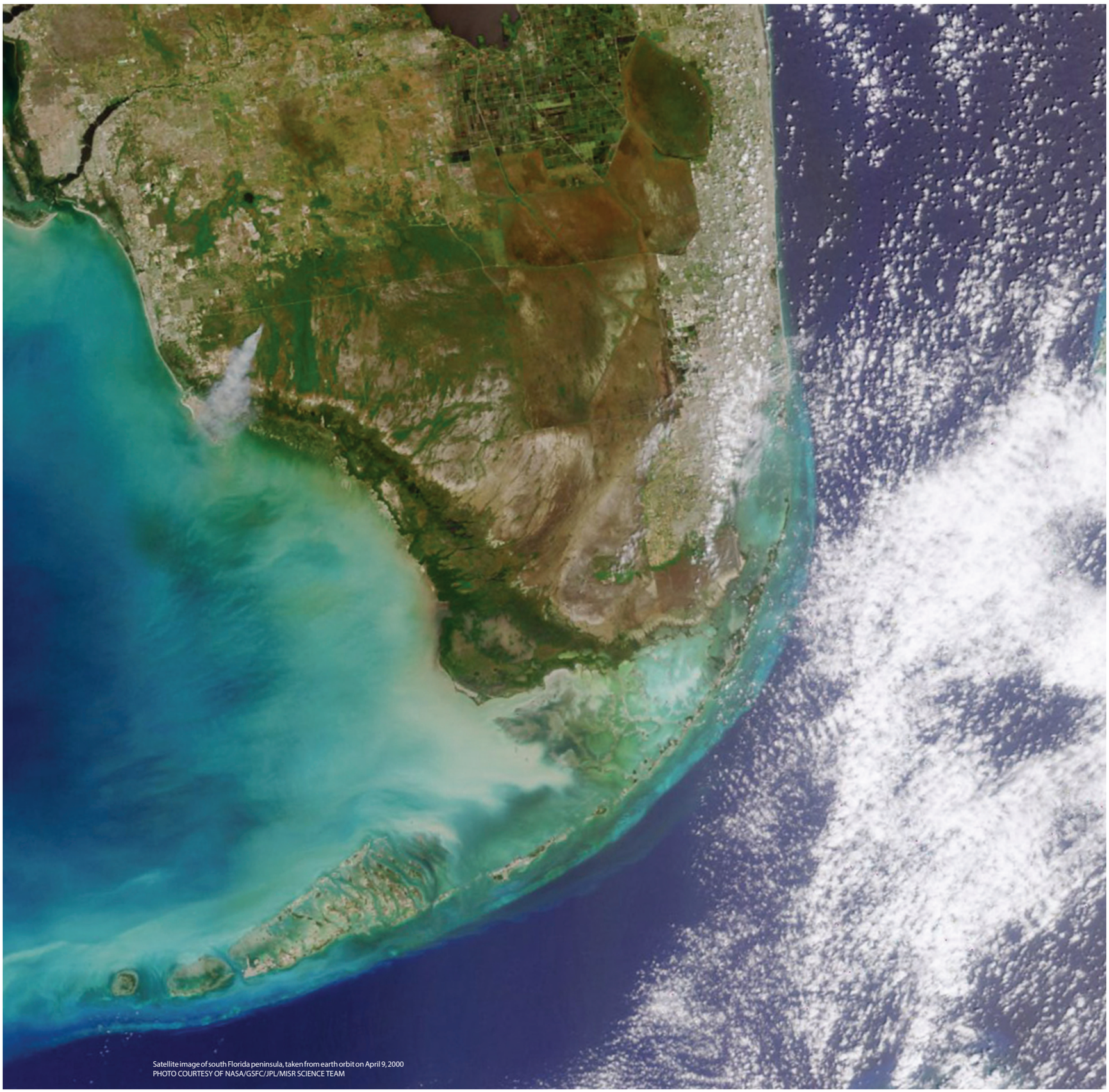


Florida Historical Timeline



Florida Historical Timeline





Satellite image of south Florida peninsula, taken from earth orbit on April 9, 2000
PHOTO COURTESY OF NASA/GSFC/JPL/MISR SCIENCE TEAM

PALM BEACH COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
ESTABLISHED 1922

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Dear Palm Beach County Students and Parents:

The Palm Beach County Bar Association, together with its North County Section and Young Lawyers Section, is proud to support the Historical Society of Palm Beach County's Florida History and Civics curriculum for seventh-grade students. One of the key missions of the Bar is to enhance the public's knowledge and understanding of the legal system.

As a free society, we rely on the knowledge, skills, and virtue of our citizens and those elected to public office. It is vitally important that all people, especially students, gain an awareness of the rich history of Palm Beach County, as well as the principles upon which our great country was founded. This includes an understanding of the separation of powers among the three branches of government and the limits on those powers.

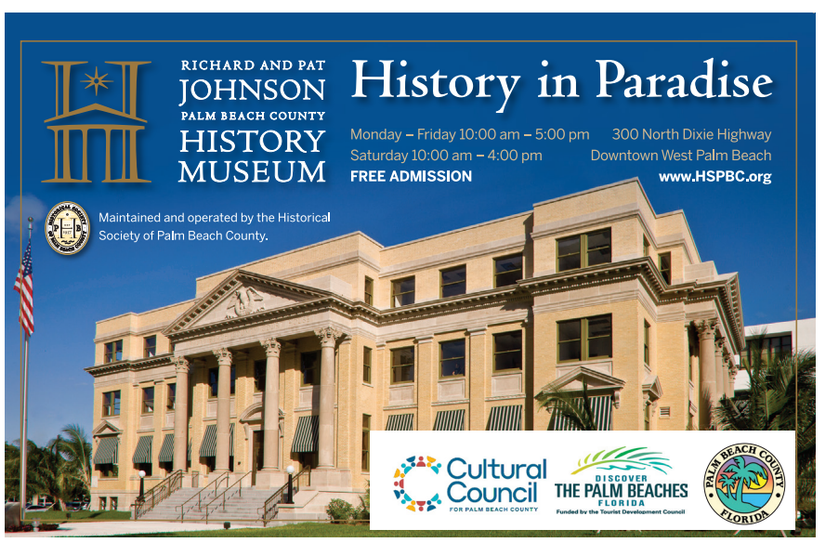
The restored 19 l 6 Courthouse in downtown West Palm Beach houses the Richard and Pat Johnson Palm Beach County History Museum. The Museum's exhibits enrich the lives of children and adults by making our local history accessible, interesting, and meaningful. On the third-floor of the Museum is Palm Beach County's original courtroom, which contains exhibits and displays depicting the operation and history of our government and legal system.

A strong civics education is essential to the preservation and improvement of our American constitutional democracy. It is an honor for the Palm Beach County Bar Association to support the Historical Society and the School District of Palm Beach County in fostering civics education.

Sincerely,

Andrea Lewis

President
Palm Beach County Bar Association

FLORIDA STATE AND SUNSHINE STATE STANDARDS

SS.7.CG.1.2: Analyze the ideas (natural rights, role of the government) and complaints set forth in the Declaration of Independence.
SS.7.CG.1.7: Identify how the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation led to the writing of the Constitution.
SS.7.CG.1.9: Describe how the Constitution limits the powers of government through separation of powers and checks and balances.
SS.7.CG.2.2: Evaluate the obligations citizens have to obey laws, pay taxes, defend the nation, and serve on juries.
SS.7.CG.3.3: Ilustrate the structure and function (three branches of government established in Articles I, II, and III with corresponding powers) of government in the United States as established in the Constitution.
SS.7.CG.3.3: Analyze the structure, functions, and processes of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches.
SS.7.C.3.11: Diagram the levels, functions, and powers of courts at the state and federal levels.
SS.7.C.3.13: Compare the constitutions of the United States and Florida.
SS.7.C.3.14: Differentiate between local, state, and federal governments' obligations and services.
SS.7.E.1.3: Review the concepts of supply and demand, choice, scarcity, and opportunity cost as they relate to the development of the mixed market economy in the United States.
SS.7.E.2.2: Describe the banking system in the United States and its impact on the money supply.
SS.7.E.2.4: Identify entrepreneurs from various gender, social, and ethnic backgrounds who started a business seeking to make a profit.
SS.7.G.2.3: Explain how major physical characteristics, natural resources, climate, and absolute and relative location have influenced settlement, economies, and inter-governmental relations in North America.
SC.7.E.6.6: Identify the impact that humans have had on Earth, such as deforestation, urbanization, desertification, erosion, air and water quality, changing the flow of water.