

The Citrus Industry

The Indian River environment is ideal for growing citrus fruits due because the soil contains more organic matter and holds nutrients better than other areas of Florida where the soil is sandier. Citrus growers established groves in the center of Florida and the railroads gave easy access to these areas.

All citrus except the grapefruit is native of the Orient. The citrus fruits came to Florida through trade and expansion that was carried westward and eventually ended up in the Americas. Native Americans helped to disperse the seeds inland on their travels around the Peninsula.

The Indian River Citrus industry dates to the 1830 with Douglas Dummitt who planted an orange on Merritt Island. The worst freeze in the state hit on Feb. 8th 1835 and killed almost all citrus in trees in the states. Douglas Dummitt's groves were one of the only ones to survive. Dummitt's oranges became prized throughout the world. In December of 1894 and in 1895 Florida suffered two more devastating freezes and Dummit's groves survived once again.

The Florida Citrus Exchange was formed in 1910 and later became the Florida Citrus Commission. The FCE had advertising campaigns and formed national and international sales organizations along with other tasks.

Objectives:

First Grade:

Recognize the necessities that citrus fruits must have in order to survive.

Use a map to locate the Indian River.

Understand that the Indian River area where the Florida industry began.

Describe the citrus industry and give three facts about what you learned today.

Compare and order whole numbers to 100.

Science:

SC.1.L.17.1 Through observation, recognize that all plants and animals, including humans, need the basic necessities of air, water, food, and space.

Recognize that citrus fruits need the basic necessities of air, water, food, and space.

Social Studies:

SS.1.G.1.1 Use physical and political/cultural maps to locate places in Florida.

Using a map locate the Indian River and discuss how this is where the citrus industry in Florida began.

Reading and Language Arts:

LA.1.4.2.3 The student will write an informational/expository paragraph that contains a topic sentence and at least three details;

Describe the citrus industry and three details you learned today about it.

Mathematics:

MA.1.A.2.1 Compare and order whole numbers at least to 100.

Imagine that you have many baskets of oranges and each basket contains a different amount of oranges:

45 oranges

36 oranges

22 oranges

76 orange

14 oranges

84 oranges

11 oranges

64 oranges

53 oranges

98 oranges

49 oranges

Organize the baskets of oranges from smallest to greatest.