

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:

Second Grade:

Understand how the Indian River is an ideal environment for growing citrus.

Use a map to locate the Indian River.

Understand the importance of the Indian River area and Florida's citrus industry.

Understand how the citrus industry arrived in Florida.

Give supporting details in an essay on the how the citrus industry arrived in Florida.

Recall basic addition and subtraction facts.

Science:

SC.2.L.17.2 Recognize and explain that living things are found all over Earth, but each is only able to live in habitats that meet its basic needs.

How is the area along the Indian River an ideal environment for growing citrus?

Social Studies:

SS.2.G.1.1 Use different types of maps (political, physical, and thematic) to identify map elements.

Using a map locate the Indian River. Why was this area so important to the citrus industry in Florida?

Reading and Language Arts:

LA.2.4.2.3 The student will write informational/expository paragraphs that contain a topic sentence, supporting details, and relevant information;

Almost all citrus is native to the Orient, how did citrus arrive in America? Write a paragraph on how the citrus industry arrived in America and give supporting details.

Mathematics:

MA.2.A.2.1 Recall basic addition and related subtraction facts.

4 oranges + 6 oranges =

3 oranges – 1 orange =

7 oranges – 4 oranges =

2 oranges + 3 oranges =