

# 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. 8<sup>th</sup> 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 Dummitt'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:**

### **Third Grade:**

Understand how the freezes of 1835, 1894, & 1895 affected the citrus groves in Florida.

Use a map to locate the Indian River.

Measure the distance from your hometown to the Indian River.

Describe what the Florida Citrus Exchange is an essay.

Solve addition facts with sums to 18 and related subtraction one digit fact families.

### **Science:**

SC.3.L.17.1 Describe how animals and plants respond to changing seasons.

How did the freezes in February 1835, December 1894, and February 1895 affect the citrus groves in the state of Florida? How did it affect Dummitt's citrus grove?

### **Social Studies:**

SS.3.G.1.6 Use maps to identify different types of scale to measure distances between two places.

Locate the Indian River on a map and your hometown, measure the distance from a certain point on the Indian River to your hometown using the map scale.

**Reading and Language Arts:**

LA.3.4.2.3 The student will write informational/expository essays that contain at least three paragraphs and include a topic sentence, supporting details, and relevant information; Using what you learned today write an essay on the Florida citrus industry and what the Florida Citrus Exchange is. Make your essay three paragraphs long and be sure your essay has a topic sentence and supporting details.

**Mathematics:**

MA.3.A.1.In.b Solve addition facts with sums to 18 and related subtraction one-digit fact families using the formal algorithm with numerals and signs (+, -, =).

12 oranges + 5 oranges =

5 oranges – 3 oranges =

12 oranges + 8 oranges =

5 oranges + 3 oranges =

7 oranges + 7 oranges =