

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:

Fourth Grade:

Recognize how citrus groves impact the environment.

Describe the economic development of Florida's citrus industry in an essay.

Record bibliographic information

Use outside sources appropriately

Understand how to find the area of a rectangle using the $\text{area} = \text{base} \times \text{height}$ formula.

Science:

SC.4.L.17.4 Recognize ways plants and animals, including humans, can impact the environment.

How do you think the citrus groves impact the environment?

Social Studies:

SS.4.A.6.1 Describe the economic development of Florida's major industries.

LA.4.6.2.2 The student will apply evaluative criteria (e.g., readability, currency, accuracy) for selecting and using a variety of appropriate resources, gather and record information, noting the difference between opinions and fact;

LA.4.6.2.3 The student will communicate information in a report that includes main idea(s) and relevant details, with visual supports; and

LA.4.6.2.4 The student will record basic bibliographic data and present quotes using ethical practices (e.g., avoids plagiarism).

Write an essay discussing the economic development of the citrus industry, use other resources to gain more information, record bibliographic data and use quotations when necessary.

Reading and Language Arts:

Grade 4: Refer to the science section where science and reading/language arts are combined.

Mathematics:

MA.4.G.3.2 Justify the formula for the area of the rectangle "area = base x height".

Imagine a citrus grove in a rectangle with the length and width given below, what is the area?

