

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:

Sixth Grade:

Distinguish science from other areas of thought.

Use different types of scales to measure the distance between your hometown and the Indian River.

Write directions from your hometown to Winter Park.

Create a map that matches direction to Winter Park.

Compare and order decimals and find their location on a # line.

Science:

SC.6.N.2.1 Distinguish science from other activities involving thought.

Is process of growing oranges a science? Why or why not?

Social Studies:

SS.6.G.1.5 Use scale, cardinal, and intermediate directions, and estimation of distances between places on current and ancient maps of the world.

Using scale, cardinal, and intermediate directions estimate the distance between various points of the Indian River to your hometown and estimate the distance of the entire Indian River using a current map.

Reading and Language Arts:

LA.6.4.2.5 The student will write directions to unfamiliar locations using cardinal and ordinal directions, landmarks, and distances, and create an accompanying map.
Write directions from your hometown to a Winter Park, Florida (home of the Temple Orange) using cardinal and ordinal directions, landmarks, and distances, and create an accompanying map.

Mathematics:

MA.6.A.5.2 Compare and order fractions, decimals, and percents, including finding their approximate location on a number line.

Imagine that you found 7 baskets of oranges with different numbers of oranges in each:

- A.) 14.5 oranges
- B.) 22.5 oranges
- C.) 29.6 oranges
- D.) 84.2 oranges
- E.) 14.6 oranges
- F.) 94.3 oranges
- G.) 34.8 oranges

Put the baskets of oranges in order on a number line.