



## Post-Trip Lesson Plan Transportation

- I. Grade level: grades 6-8
  - II. Objectives:
    - a. To compare transportation in 1898 with transportation today.
    - b. To discuss various means of transportation in 1898 and their histories.
    - c. To examine how transportation affected the citrus industry in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.
  - III. Standards:
    - a. Sunshine State Standards (2006):
      - 1) Social Studies: Time, Continuity, and Change: Standard 1: Knows the relative value of primary and secondary sources and uses this information to draw conclusions from historical sources such as data in charts, tables, graphs.
      - 2) Social Studies: Time, Continuity, and Change: Standard 5: Understands U.S. history to from 1880 to the present day.
      - 3) Social Studies: Time, Continuity, and Change: Standard 6: Understands the history of Florida and its people.
  - IV. Vocabulary:
    - a. Flying Cracker: an express passenger train that traveled between Jacksonville and Tampa in the 1890s. This would be about a 9 hour trip.
    - b. Freight: Goods to be transported by train.
    - c. Short rail lines: trains that ran short distances between towns.
    - d. Telegraph: a method of communication, using coded signals.
- Activity 1: Transportation in 1898 versus Transportation today
- V. Materials:
    - a. Two large sheet of paper.
    - b. Markers
    - c. (or chalkboard and chalk)
  - VI. Procedures: As a class make a list of all the sorts of transportation we have today and whether the mode is used for people, freight or another purpose. On the next sheet of paper make a list of the various types of transportation system in 1898 (trains, ships, boats, canoes, horse and carriage, and horse back, etc.) also list the various items these modes of transportations transport. Discuss as a class how the modes of transportation have changed over the years. Are they more efficient now in 1898? How many more are there now then in 1898?
  - VII. Assessment: This group activity can be assessed based on participation.
  - VIII. Open-Ended Questions:
    - a. What types of transportation do we have today?
    - b. What types of transportation existed in 1898?
    - c. How has transportation improved over the past century?
    - d. Have you ever ridden on a train? A Horse Carriage? Explain.



Activity 2: Worksheet: Transportation in 1898

- IX. Materials:
- Worksheet: Transportation in 1898
  - Writing Utensil
- X. Procedures: Read the history of transportation in 1898 with your students. Once you have discussed the history give students enough time to complete the worksheet.
- XI. History:
- Railroads: Railroads began growing in Florida in the 1880s and 1890s. The first train to enter Tampa was in 1883, which was a town of 1000 people before the railroad. Railroads were used to carry people, mail, and goods to different areas in the United States. One of the most important people on a train is a conductor. The Conductor is the supervisor of the trains who is in control of the crew and freight. The Engineer is in charge of driving the train. With no telephones or other means of verbal communication those on the train and those off the train would communicate with hand signals (activity 2) and the train's horn. Henry Bradley Plant is a transportation entrepreneur who invested in the creation of railroads in Florida. After the creation of the first railroad path into Tampa, due to his investment, the city Plant City was named after him (1885).
- XII. Assessment: This activity can be graded based on participation, completion, and creativity.
- XIII. Open-Ended Questions:
- How often do we ride on trains in Florida today?
  - Are trains more popular in other areas than Florida? Why do you think this is?
  - Why were trains important in 1898?
  - What types of people rode on trains in 1898? (workers, tourists, freight controllers, etc.)

Activity 3: Game: Trains and the Citrus Industry

- XIV. Materials:
- Writing Utensil
  - Construction paper use colors that resemble citrus fruit (orange, yellow, green)
  - One large sheet of paper
- XV. Procedures: Using the construction paper have each student cut out 5 fruits. Next have each student write overripe on the back of one of their five fruits. Collect all the fruits and scramble them together in a large box. Next read the history of the citrus fruit transportation (provided below) to the class. Afterwards, have the students form a line. Allow each student to choose one fruit at a time, if the fruit is overripe they must write on the large sheet of paper one fact they remember from the history you explained. After all the fruits have been distributed and all the facts reviewed on the large sheet of paper, have each student write a fact about the year 1898 that they learned at Cracker Country on the front side of each of the paper fruits they have (should be five). Punch holes in either sides of the paper fruit and tie the entire class's paper fruits together to form a knowledge train. (You may want to create a front car for the train to attach at the beginning of the train, also the students can decorate each paper fruit).



XVI. History:

- a. Trains were used to ship various citrus fruits. These fruits could either be sent to the north, or they could be transferred to a port on the water where they would be shipped on a boat to their destination.
- b. The transfer of fruit on a train was very difficult. If one fruit was overripe it could bruise another fruit in the same box. In addition, during chilly nights if the train began to freeze so would the citrus fruit which prefers warm weather. Whenever the train had knowledge of a freeze coming various horn signals would transfer their knowledge onto those in charge of the freight so that they would be able to protect their goods.
- c. In order for fruit to arrive at its destination healthy certain farming procedures were necessary to be followed: The fruit should be picked as it ripens rather than all at once. Ripe fruit left on the tree will damage ripening fruit. When gathering the ripe fruit, cut the stem close to the orange rather than pull the orange from the tree. Boxes should contain no more than 75-100 oranges. Full boxes should be stored in the packing house until the moisture has escaped from the rind.
- d. Correct packing of oranges began in the grove with careful removal of the fruit from the tree and specific plans for packing the fruit for shipping. Workers placed fruit in wooden barrels or boxes, using Spanish moss to cushion the fruit. Workers at the packing house would sort through fruit and discard damaged citrus. Children would paste labels on boxes. Fruit box labels had more significance than the logo of the packing house. Colors indicated quality of fruit inside: Blue—best quality, red—2nd grade (medium quality), black, gold or yellow—damaged or poor quality. Widespread use of packing labels didn't become common until the 1930s.

XVII. Assessment: This is a group activity and it can be graded based on participation and use of historical facts provided.

XVIII. Open-Ended Questions:

- a. Where is citrus fruit grown?
- b. How do cooler places get citrus fruit?
- c. What are some different types of citrus fruit?
- d. How did various places get citrus fruit in 1898?

Activity 4: Candy Train

XIX. Materials:

- a. Marshmallows
- b. Pretzel sticks
- c. Cheerios
- d. Peanut butter, cream cheese, or icing
- e. Various other candies for decoration

XX. Procedures: Hand out 5 or 6 marshmallows to the students in the class and 5 or 4 pretzels sticks. Tell them to use the pretzel sticks to attach the marshmallow together and create the carts of the train. The cheerios can be used as wheels on each cart.



**Sources Consulted:**

Treatise and Handbook of Orange Culture in Florida, Louisiana and California

By T.W. Moore

E. R. Pelton & Co., New York 1886

Florida Heritage Collection online

The Florida Railroad

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by Herbert J. Doherty Jr.

Florida Historical Quarterly

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Charlotte Harbor Division of the Florida Southern Railroad

By Vernon E. Peeples

Florida Historical Quarterly Volume 58, 3

Railroads of Southwest Florida

By Gregg M. Turner

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The Citrus Industry in the Sunshine State

By Brian and Richard Weaver

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The Story of Florida Citrus

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Post-Trip Lesson Plan Transportation in 1898

Instructions: Read the excerpt below from The Florida Railroad. A late 19<sup>th</sup> century contract between the Florida Railroad Company and New York officials. Afterwards answer the questions provided below.

In short, the Florida Railroad is the necessary outlet for all the products of the Gulf seeking a market on the Atlantic because it affords the shortest possible railroad line connecting those waters, and secures the safest and shortest possible water route to New York or Europe. One hundred and fifty-four miles of railroad only are to be added to the water route whereas, but any other line the distance is three times as great, and the water route not materially less. The distance from New York to Fernandina is only fifty miles further than to Savannah, and the time practically less, because it is not necessary to wait for tides at Fernandina, and at Savannah vessels can go up only at high water; but from Savannah to the Gulf, where there is a harbor, is about three times as far as from Fernandina.

1) Is this a primary or secondary source? Explain.

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2) Name two Benefits of the Florida Railroad line compared to ending a trip in Savannah.

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The Florida Railroad has advantages over any other road in the country, in the cost of running and maintaining it. There is but one bridge on the line...The



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

grades are very light, not more than twenty feet to the mile; and for the most part the surface is level. The line is almost straight, and the curves very slight and few. The soil is porous and light, so that it is not washed away by rains, and there is no frost to disturb the surface, or make the rails brittle. Cross-ties which will last for twenty years are produced abundantly on the Company's land, costing only the labor of cutting them, which is done twenty-five cents a pieces. The best of fuel (pitch-pine) is growing in inexhaustible quantities on the line of the road, and is supplied at the stations for a dollar per railroad cord. The track is made of sixty-pound iron, and is now almost all laid upon cypress ties, requiring but a small amount to complete the work of reconstruction. Every condition, therefore, for durability and economical operation, is supplied.

3) Why would it be beneficial for the railroad track to have minimal curves?

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4) Name three advantages that Florida railroads have over other railroads.

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This road is a part of a system of internal improvements, whose object it was to develop the resources of the State of Florida. It was begun before the civil war, and had been nearly completed when its progress was arrested by that misfortune. As it progressed, however, the country was rapidly occupied by planters gressed, however, the country was rapidly occupied by planters who removed from the worn-out lands of South Carolina to this virgin soil, and the production of Sea



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Island cotton along the line of the road was becoming a large and profitable industry. Several towns were growing up at the stations on the line, and the local

business was becoming **remunerative**. The war, however, stopped all progress, and the rails were removed from a portion of the road, while the remainder, being disused, was overgrown with vegetation. Since the war, however, the road has been rebuilt, and is now running, but needs rolling-stock and streamers. The country is again beginning to enjoy prosperity, and population is coming into Florida to reap a large reward for industry and labor.

5) When and why was this railroad begun? (give approximate date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6) Who moved to this area of Florida prior to the Civil War? Where were these people from?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7) Define the word **remunerative** based on the text.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8) What stopped the country from having prosperity? (Hint: think about large events occurring during this time period) \_\_\_\_\_

Based on the entire text:



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

9) Why would a contract discuss all the benefits of creating a railroad?

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10) Why does this contract include an agreement with officials in New York?

(Hint: think about the kind of people who live in New York, and how projects are funded)

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## Post-Trip Lesson Plan Transportation in 1898 Answers

Instructions: Read the excerpt below from The Florida Railroad. A late 19<sup>th</sup> century contract between the Florida Railroad Company and New York officials. Afterwards answer the questions provided below.

In short, the Florida Railroad is the necessary outlet for all the products of the Gulf seeking a market on the Atlantic because it affords the shortest possible railroad line connecting those waters, and secures the safest and shortest possible water route to New York or Europe. One hundred and fifty-four miles of railroad only are to be added to the water route whereas, but any other line the distance is three times as great, and the water route not materially less. The distance from New York to Fernandina is only fifty miles further than to Savannah, and the time practically less, because it is not necessary to wait for tides at Fernandina, and at Savannah vessels can go up only at high water; but from Savannah to the Gulf, where there is a harbor, is about three times as far as from Fernandina.

- 1) Is this a primary or secondary source? Explain. **Primary because it is a contract from the late 19th century.**
- 2) Name two Benefits of the Florida Railroad line compared to ending a trip in Savannah. **Faster, shorter, connections safer and shorter water routes, less waiting, better port connections.**

The Florida Railroad has advantages over any other road in the country, in the cost of running and maintaining it. There is but one bridge on the line...The grades are very light, not more than twenty feet to the mile; and for the most part the surface is level. The line is almost straight, and the curves very slight and few. The soil is porous and light, so that it is not washed away by rains, and there is no frost to disturb the surface, or make the rails brittle. Cross-ties which will last for



twenty years are produced abundantly on the Company's land, costing only the labor of cutting them, which is done twenty-five cents a pieces. The best of fuel (pitch-pine) is growing in inexhaustible quantities on the line of the road, and is supplied at the stations for a dollar per railroad cord. The track is made of sixty-pound iron, and is now almost all laid upon cypress ties, requiring but a small amount to complete the work of reconstruction. Every condition, therefore, for durability and economical operation, is supplied.

3) Why would it be beneficial for the railroad track to have minimal curves?

**Because trains travel at high speeds which are hard to slow down. If a train goes too quickly around a corner it can jump the tracks. Therefore, curves in a railroad track are dangerous.**

4) Name three advantages that Florida railroads have over other railroads. **Only one bridge, the ground in level, lack of curves, soil will not wash away, lack of frost, near a good fuel source, easy to reconstruct, and durable.**

This road is a part of a system of internal improvements, whose object it was to develop the resources of the State of Florida. It was begun before the civil war, and had been nearly completed when its progress was arrested by that misfortune. As it progressed, however, the country was rapidly occupied by planters gressed, however, the country was rapidly occupied by planters who removed from the worn-out lands of South Carolina to this virgin soil, and the production of Sea Island cotton along the line of the road was becoming a large and profitable industry. Several towns were growing up at the stations on the line, and the local business was becoming **remunerative**. The war, however, stopped all progress, and the rails were removed from a portion of the road, while the remainder, being disused, was overgrown with vegetation. Since the war, however, the road has been rebuilt, and is now running, but needs rolling-stock and streamers. The



country is again beginning to enjoy prosperity, and population is coming into Florida to reap a large reward for industry and labor.

5) When and why was this railroad begun? (give approximate date) **It began being created in the late 19th century and it was created to further develop the resources of Florida.**

6) Who moved to this area of Florida prior to the Civil War? **Where were these people from? Planters moved to Florida from South Carolina.**

7) Define the word **remunerative** based on the text. **Profitable or Lucrative**

8) What stopped the country from having prosperity? (Hint: think about large events occurring during this time period) **The Civil War**

Based on the entire text:

9) Why would a contract discuss all the benefits of creating a railroad? **So the contract can sell the idea of a railroad to New York officials and other who may doubt the profitability of the railroad.**

10) Why does this contract include an agreement with officials in New York? (Hint: think about the kind of people who live in New York, and how projects are funded)

**New York was a hub during this time period, where many of the nations leaders and investors lived.**