



Railroads, Cities, and Industry

MICHAEL MILLER & CAROL RICHARDSON

Grade: 4-5

Materials

Books

- *Florida Portrait* - Jerrell Shofner; Flagler, Henry; Plant, Henry.
- *Florida: A Short History* - Michael Gannon
- *Atlas of Florida* - Florida State University

Software

- Mac USA
- PC USA
- Small Blue Planet
- HyperStudio

Key Question: How did railroads change life in Florida?

Preassessment:

Brainstorm and list students' prior knowledge of transportation such as kinds (historical periods), and its importance.

Investigation:

Students will read trade books on various people involved in the formation of Florida's railroads.

- Use the Florida Atlas to look at transportation systems

- Read trade books
- Bring in railroad club speakers
- Investigate railroad terms/jargon
- View authentic photographs of railroad construction, workers, and systems
- Investigate biographical information on Henry Flagler and Henry Plant
- Investigate the "Florida East Coast Hotel" map

Confirmation:

- Take list of brainstorming during preassessment and verify and/or correct each item.
- Pretend you are a rider on the first train. Keep a daily journal of the towns they went through and what they experienced.
- Have students make a HyperStudio stack of advertisements of cities along the route and what each city has to offer.
- Create a map of Florida showing the railway systems and towns -- possibly drawing on computer.
- Pretend you are a travel agent and plan a trip.
- Create a brochure of a city along the railway route, explaining why someone should stay in their city.
- Create a timeline of the various stages of railway completion.

Extensions:

- Create a model or use pictures of trains throughout history.
- Bring in model trains and recreate the Florida East Coast Railroad including the cities, etc.
- Investigate careers in the railway industry today.
- Write a skit honoring Flagler or Plant for their contribution to Florida.
- Collaborate with the Science teacher to incorporate a lesson on steam.
- Collaborate with the Mathematics teacher about scale.

- Collaborate with English or Language Arts teacher with literature books that correspond with railroads.
- Collaborate with Music teacher to learn about railroad songs.



Florida Geographic Alliance
Educating Tomorrow's stewards of Florida