Florida's Rural Heritage

Standards-Based Activities
(4th - 5th Grades)

NOTE: This activity set can stand alone or be used as an introduction for a fieldtrip to the Morningside Nature Center in Gainesville, FL. Contact them at (352) 334-2170 or at http://www.natureoperations.org.

1) Reading
2) Writing
3) Math
4) Answers

Designed by Gary Paul (Morningside Nature Center)

Created at a Pelotes Island Nature Preserve FCAT Workshop
Sponsored by Pelotes Island Nature Preserve (JEA & FPL)
The League of Environmental Educators in Florida (LEEF), and the Museum of Science and History (MOSH)
For more Standards-Based Activities, check out http://pelotes.jea.com.

Provided by Pelotes Island Nature Preserve (JEA & FPL) and Morningside Nature Center
“Cane Grinding & Syrup Making”

This standards-based activity can stand alone or be used in conjunction with the following Environmental Activity Curricula:

- Project WILD “Wild Edible Plants” p. 90
- Project WILD “The Hunter” p. 190
- Project WET “Wish Book” p. 460
- Project WET “Common Water” p. 232
- Project WET “The Long Haul” p. 260
- PLT “Then & Now” p. 131
- PLT “A Look at Lifestyle” p. 353
- PLT “Did You Notice?” p. 366
- PLT “In the Good Old Days” p. 394

To learn about attending a workshop in Florida to receive these Environmental Curricula Texts, see below.

Project WET – contact Project WET State Coordinator at (386) 329-4752.

Project Learning Tree (PLT) – contact PLT State Coordinator at (850) 222-5646.

Project WILD – contact Project WILD State Coordinator at (850) 488-4676.

Project Aquatic WILD - contact Project WILD State Coordinator at (850) 488-4676.

Schoolyard Wildlife - contact Project WILD State Coordinator at (850) 488-4676

Provided by Pelotes Island Nature Preserve (JEA & FPL) and Morningside Nature Center
Florida’s Rural Heritage

Standards-Based Reading Questions

Florida’s Rural History

Florida is full of different cultures and lifestyles. Miami Beach is a big exciting city, while our capitol, Tallahassee, is quieter, with beautiful farms and natural areas. Far from Florida’s larger cities, the landscape is full of old houses and barns. Some people still live simply in these rural areas, eating turtles, making their own syrup from sugar cane, and burning wood to keep warm in winter. Why do you suppose these old traditions and buildings still survive in Florida?

The Civil War brought many changes to the South. In nearby Georgia and Alabama, northern armies destroyed many buildings, fences, railroads, bridges, and stores. Except for having its seaports destroyed, most of the inner parts of Florida were able to avoid serious damage. However, by 1865 when the war ended, people in rural Florida had to do without many things.

Because Florida had always been an agricultural state, it produced crops, not factory items. Most southern factories had been destroyed, so it was difficult or impossible for rural Floridians to get much-needed items like metal hoes, hunting rifles, or wheat flour.

Normally, a state’s government helps its citizens survive hard times like these. But after the war, the US government was concerned about rebellion by southern state governments. They ordered all state governments to stop operating. Suddenly, Florida and the other southern states lost their state senators and governors, county clerks, chiefs of police, tax collectors, and school officials. Not even southern money or stamps could be used. Many people were left without any way to buy things.

The new governments formed when elections were held for the first time after the Civil War were too much like the old Confederate ones to satisfy the federal government. So the federal government decided to try to rebuild southern state governments from scratch, a policy that came to be known as reconstruction. Federal troops were sent to all the states, including Florida. These troops became the new government in a situation called martial law.

Martial law made people even unhappier. They felt that their wishes and needs were not being cared for, so they began to ignore the government and even refused to use the courts. The mistrust of government made people take law into their own hands, which made it very dangerous to have new or different ideas. Many people became suspicious and kept to themselves as much as possible. Others thought if they caused enough trouble, the federal troops would just give up and go home. When that didn’t happen, lawlessness increased and communities began making their own rules and punishments. Even after reconstruction ended after ten years, communities and people held on to many of these ways of thinking and acting.

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Florida’s Rural Heritage

Standards-Based Reading Questions

Florida’s Rural History, continued

All of these things caused prosperity and social change to come much slower to the southern states than it did to the rest of the nation. It also caused rural families to continue producing the things they needed without trading with faraway cities or working with the government. They produced their own meat, vegetables, fruit, sweetening, cloth and clothing, houses, furniture, and simple medicines. They even produced their own power, which they got from strong animals like horses or mules and even themselves and their children! Family farms were small, and Florida soils are often poor. This made it difficult to produce extra items, like cotton, tobacco, or vegetables, to sell for money. Even without extra money, these rural Floridians were able to build houses from logs or milled lumber, using simple methods and few furnishings. Paint was expensive, so most houses did without. Large nearby trees and wide overhanging porches kept most homes fairly cool. These rural Floridians were proud of their simple belongings and way of life.

They had lots of children, partly to help them work the family farm. These families ate and wore what they could provide for themselves. They survived on corn and greens from the garden, beef, pork and chicken from the barnyard, and turkeys, deer, and fish from forest and lakes. They patched and fixed up most broken items and threw very little away.

Florida’s beaches were the first parts of the state to become more modern. They became resorts and vacation destinations for visitors from across the country. Because northern Florida stayed poor for a long time, people continued to live in the old houses and using the old skills well into the 1900’s.

You can visit many outdoor museums in our state where trained guides show how Florida’s rural people worked, ate, dressed, and played. These guides remember, or have been taught by those who remember, how to spin thread from wool or cotton, how to weave the thread into cloth, and how to cut and sew the cloth by hand. The clothing made in this way sometimes fits badly and isn’t very colorful or stylish, but it is sturdy and warm. These guides also know how to grind cornmeal to make biscuits or cornbread and make sweet syrup from stalks of sugar cane. They know how to grow vegetables without chemical fertilizers or pesticides and can use the strange household tools found mostly in museums today.

Life in rural Florida was never glamorous, but it was filled with people determined to survive hardships. Their skill, strength, and determination are part of the heritage of every Floridian today – whether you live at South Beach, Miami, or in the rural town of Middleburg.

Resources:

A Short History of Florida. Division of Historical Resources, Florida Department of State. August 2001 http://dhr.dos.state.fl.us/flafacts/fla_flag.html
Florida’s Rural Heritage

Standards-Based Reading Questions, continued

1. Explain two sources of power available to rural Floridians after the Civil War and two things rural Floridians accomplished with this power. Use details and information from the article to support your answer.

________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________

2. Which of the following is defined as “a time when the military becomes the government”?
   a) The Civil War  
   b) Reconstruction  
   c) Martial law  
   d) Confederacy

3. According to the article, what is one reason that some northern Florida cultures still incorporate many skills and celebrations from the period just after the Civil War?

   a) Social change came slower to southern states than to the rest of the nation.  
   b) Florida’s seaports became independent early in the Civil War.  
   c) The U.S. government was concerned about the railroads.  
   d) All southern state governments were ordered to create new money.
4. Explain at least two factors that caused prosperity and social change to come much slower to the southern states than it did to the rest of the nation. Use details and examples from the article to support your answer.
Florida’s Rural Heritage

Standards-Based Writing Prompts

1. In the early 1900s, many Floridians could not find what they needed in stores and had to do without. Think about how you would feel if you couldn’t buy shoes in any store. Write to explain how you would manage without being able to buy shoes.

2. People living in the country or a very small town have fewer places to go for recreation than those living in big cities. Think about ways that recreation in the country differs from recreation in large cities. Write to explain how changing where you live would affect your recreation choices.

3. Almost everyone gets lost at some time in life. Think about it would feel to be lost in the woods. Write a story about a child who is lost in the Florida woods.

4. Many people have lost electrical power to their homes during or after a storm. Think about how your life would be different if your power went out. Write a story about an evening at your house without power.
## Florida’s Rural Heritage

### Standards-Based Math Questions

#### CHORES/TIMES IN 1900 AND 2000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR 1900</th>
<th>ACTIVITY/CHORE</th>
<th>HOURS TO COMPLETE</th>
<th>YEAR 2000</th>
<th>ACTIVITY/CHORE</th>
<th>TIME TO COMPLETE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Breakfast</td>
<td>Breakfast (home cooked)</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
<td>Breakfast (McDonald's)</td>
<td>0.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buy/trade</td>
<td>Buy/trade goods (separate stores)</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>Buy goods</td>
<td>Buy goods (Wal-Mart)</td>
<td>0.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drive</td>
<td>Drive mule-drawn wagon 30 miles</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>Drive</td>
<td>Drive car 30 miles</td>
<td>0.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed</td>
<td>Feed mule/hitch to wagon</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>Gas</td>
<td>Gas car</td>
<td>0.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Put</td>
<td>Put supplies away</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>Put</td>
<td>Put supplies away</td>
<td>0.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unhitch</td>
<td>Unhitch, feed &amp; water mule</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>Park</td>
<td>Park car in garage</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Use the information provided in the table “Chores/Times in 1900 and 2000” to answer questions 1 through 4.

1. What is the speed, in miles per hour (mph) of the mule-drawn wagon?

   a) 1 mph  
   b) 5 mph  
   c) 6 mph  
   d) 12 mph

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Florida’s Rural Heritage

Standards-Based Math Questions, continued

2. How much less time (in hours and minutes) does it take to complete all the activities listed in the column for the year 2000 than to complete all the activities listed in the column for the year 1900?

   a) 4 hours, 25 minutes  
   b) 5 hours, 5 minutes  
   c) 8 hours, 45 minutes  
   d) 8 hours, 15 minutes.

3. How many times could all of the Year 2000 Activities be performed in the length of time it takes to do all of the Year 1900 Activities? Show your work. Round your answer to the nearest tenth.
Florida’s Rural Heritage

Standards-Based Math Questions, continued

4. The old mule, your only form of transportation, is sick. You have to walk to a neighboring town to find the vet and bring him back to treat the mule. You can walk at 3 miles per hour. If the nearest town is 6.25 miles away, how long will it take you to walk to town? Be sure to show your work and give your answer in hours and minutes.
Florida’s Rural Heritage – Answers

Writing

For All – Use the rubric for Florida Writes! – 6 points

1. LA.B.1.2.2, LA.B.2.2.3, LA.B.2.2.6
2. LA.B.1.2.2, LA.B.2.2.3, LA.B.2.2.6
3. LA.B.1.2.2, LA.B.2.2.3, LA.B.2.2.5
4. LA.B.1.2.2, LA.B.2.2.3, LA.B.2.2.5

Math

1. b) MA.A.3.2.2., MA.A.3.2.3, MA.E.1.2.1
2. d) MA.A.3.2.2., MA.A.3.2.3, MA.E.1.2.1
3. Use the rubric for Short Response Math Questions – 2 points
   MA.A.3.2.2, MA.A.3.2.3, MA.E.1.2.1

Example of a Top-Score Response
Subtract the sum of all hours to complete numbers for the Year 1900 from the sum of all Time to Complete numbers for the Year 2000. Divide the larger number by the smaller number. The answer is 5.71, rounded to the nearest tenth, 5.7.

4. Use the rubric for Short Response Math Questions—2 points
   MA.A.3.2.2, MA.A.3.2.3, MA.E.1.2.1

2 hours 5 minutes to walk to town.

6.25 mi. = 6 ¼ miles. You walk 3 mph, so you need to divide 6 ¼ by 3.

\[
\frac{6 \frac{1}{4}}{3} = \frac{25}{4} \div 3 = \frac{25}{4} \times \frac{1}{3} = \frac{25}{12} = 2 \frac{1}{12} \text{ hours} = 2 \text{ hrs. 5 min.}
\]
Florida’s Rural Heritage – Answers, continued

Reading

1. Use the rubric for Short Response Reading Questions – 2 points
   LA.A.2.2.1, SS.A.4.2.6, Bloom’s Taxonomy Level One
   
   **Example of a Top-Score Response**
   Strong animals as well as the farmers and their children provided labor. They could use this labor to produce their own food, homes, and clothing.

   2. c) LA.A.2.2.1, SS.A.4.2.6, Bloom’s Taxonomy Level One
   3. a) LA.A.2.2.1, SS.A.5.2.1, Bloom’s Taxonomy Level One

4. Use the rubric for Extended Response Reading Questions – 4 points
   LA.A.2.2.1, SS.A.5.2.1, SS.A.6.2.2, SS.A.6.2.4, SS.A.4.2.6
   Bloom’s Taxonomy Level One

   **Example of a Top-Score Response**
   After the Civil War, people in Florida had to do without many things. The southern factories had been destroyed, so it was difficult to find needed items like hunting rifles. The Florida government couldn’t help because it was ordered to shut down. Florida’s rural people got angry and made their own rules and supplies without the government’s help. Because the people were suspicious and angry with the government and outsiders, new ideas and changes didn’t make it into Florida easily. Sometimes, the rules rural Floridians made up even punished people with new ideas. As a result, change came slowly to north Florida.

Grading Resources:

Sunshine State Standards can be found at [http://firn.edu/doe//menu/sss.htm](http://firn.edu/doe//menu/sss.htm)
Grading Rubrics can be found at [http://www.finr.edu/sas/fcat.htm](http://www.finr.edu/sas/fcat.htm) under “What Every Teacher Should Know About FCAT”
Additional information about FCAT can be found at [http://www.finr.edu/sas/fcat.htm](http://www.finr.edu/sas/fcat.htm)