

Pioneer Life

Activity One: Greetings from Palm Beach County

Sunshine State Standards:
SS.A.1.2

Materials: Blank post-cards, colored pencils

Using your imagination, design a postcard from the below description of the first homes of the settlers and what they looked like. Include in your design what the pioneer families might have used in simpler times. On the back of your postcard write a brief note to the folks back home explaining how you are and how you're adapting to your new hardships.

"This place was nothing but a wilderness when we came here in 1876, but how beautiful that wilderness was. When my husband landed from his sailboat, he crawled on his hands and knees through the jungle to find a place to build our house. The people who first settled Palm Beach were not people of means, no means at all, hardly. But they didn't need money much. "

Ella

Activity Two: Design a Map

Sunshine State Standards:
SS.B.1.2

Materials: You will need a Blank Map of Florida, colored pencils, fine-tip markers

Read the below passage aloud to your students and discuss what symbols you might use to represent different locations. Using a map outline of the state of Florida design a route to help pioneers reach Lake Worth. Discuss with students how to illustrate the following: A steamer up the St. Johns' River, a wagon drawn by sturdy mules over 8 miles of Palmetto roots and deep sand. Make sure your maps include colorful illustrations, titles, and symbols.

Travelers required determination to reach Lake Worth at all before the 1890s. When they reached Jacksonville on their way south, they had two choices:

One was by sea; the other to take a small steamer up the St. Johns River as far as Salt Lake, then by a wagon drawn by sturdy mules over eight miles of palmetto roots, and through deep sand, to Titusville. Then by small sailboats to Jupiter, which, with reverse winds and bad weather, often consumed two weeks. From Jupiter one could take his choice, either going out of Jupiter Inlet a distance of ten miles at sea, or through the sawgrass route a distance of eight miles, rowing or poling, as it was impossible to sail through owing to the narrowness of the channel. It was so very winding and indistinct that an experienced pilot was required. This was a hard day's work,

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getting through to the “haulover”; here several men were needed to drag the boat across to Lake Worth, a distance of 250 yards. Difficult as it was, our freight and supplies were often carried through this way.

Ella Geer Dimick

Activity Three: The Diary of the Barefoot Mailman

Sunshine State Standards:
SS.B.2.2

Materials: notebook paper

Imagine you are the Barefoot Mailman making a 5 day round trip from Lake Worth to Miami and back. Using the passage, "Orange Grove House of Refuge No. 3," write a descriptive passage for each one of the five days. Be creative! Include the following details: weather, people at the House of Refuge you might meet, terrain, animals, hardships, and the supplies/provisions you would need to make the trip.

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