

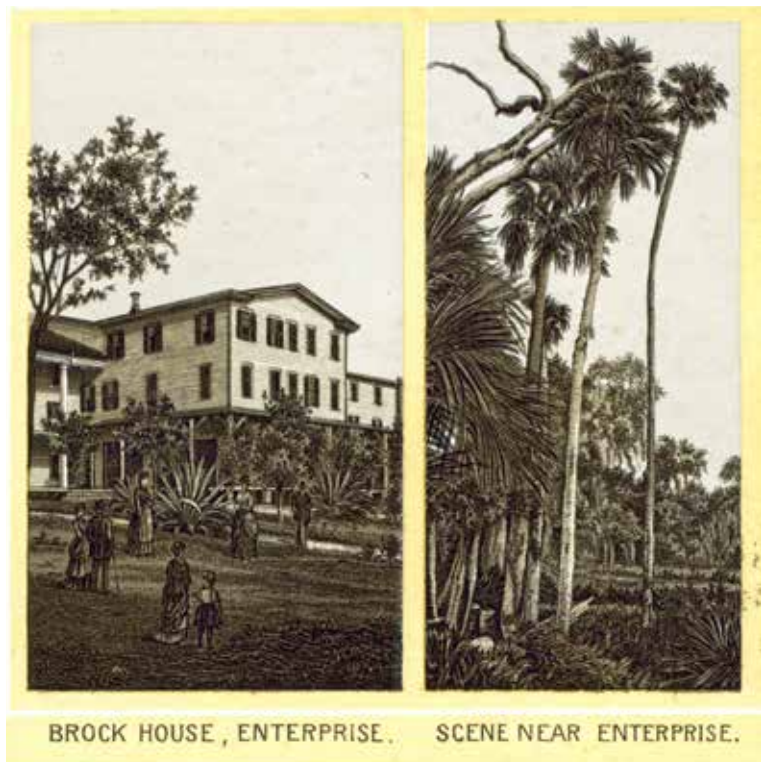
Florida, Naturally

FLORIDA TOURISM LESSON 1

For more than a century, visitors have been attracted to the Sunshine State for its warm climate and mild winters. Early visitors cruised into Florida on steamboats up the St. Johns River. Later tourists traveled by train on the expanding railroad system or down sandy and dirt roads in their Model T cars.

As more and more people came to Florida, entrepreneurs saw an opportunity to make money by building hotels and opening tourist attractions. When we think of attractions today, we probably think about theme parks such as Walt Disney World, Universal Studios, or Sea World. But what was here before theme parks? Florida's natural environment!

The earliest tourists came to marvel at the state's clear springs, beautiful beaches, and exotic plant and wildlife. They also came to enjoy winters without snow! For many visitors, Florida was the closest thing to a tropical paradise that they would be able to visit.



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As transportation became affordable, more and more attractions began to pop up in the mid-20th century. Cypress Gardens, Gatorland, and Weeki Wachee Springs are some of the most famous ones. At these attractions, visitors would enjoy unusual entertainment such as alligator wrestling, water-skiing stunt demonstrations, and underwater mermaid shows.

To share their experiences of going to these places, many visitors would send postcards to their friends and loved ones back home. Let's make some postcards of our favorite Florida places or places we want to visit!



Florida, Naturally ACTIVITY

We are going to make a 6-page booklet of mini postcards out of one sheet of paper.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- Paper (computer paper, construction paper, or card stock)
- Scissors
- Glue
- Crayons, colored pencils, or markers
- Optional: decorative scissors



Florida, Naturally

ACTIVITY

WHAT TO DO:

Step 1: Fold your paper in half, hamburger style. Fold again. It should look like a card. This will be your postcard booklet.

Step 2: Repeat step 1 with another sheet of paper. Open up the paper. You should have 4 rectangles. Cut out the rectangles. These will be your postcards.

Step 3: Let's make our postcards! Decorate your postcards using crayons, markers, or colored pencils. Use fun scissors as an option to create cute edges on your postcards. Glue your postcards to the pages of your book.

Step 4: If you are stuck for ideas, check out our postcard collection at the History Center's online collection.



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Sources

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<https://boktowergardens.org/our-history/>

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Sanford Historical Society, *Sanford*. Charleston, S.C.: Arcadia Publishing, Images of America Series, 2003.



This lesson helps reinforce these Florida State Standards for K-5th grade:

- SS.K.A.2.1 Compare children and families of today with those in the past.
- SS.1.A.3.1 Use terms related to time to sequentially order events that have occurred in school, home, or community.
- SS.1.A.1.1 Develop an understanding of a primary source.
- SS.1.A.1.2 Understand how to use the media center/other sources to find answers to questions about a historical topic.
- SS.2.A.1.1 Examine primary and secondary sources.
- SS.3.A.1.2 Utilize technology resources to gather information from primary and secondary sources.
- SS.4.A.4.1 Explain the effects of technological advances on Florida.
- SS.5.A.1.1 Use primary and secondary sources to understand history.

