

Walt Disney World

FLORIDA TOURISM LESSON 2

While Central Florida is so much more than Walt Disney World, it sure is hard to imagine what this area would be like without it. Certainly, the triumph of Walt Disney World wouldn't have been possible without the vision and imagination of the man himself.

In 1955, animation pioneer and film producer Walt Disney opened his first theme park – Disneyland – in Anaheim, California. Disney wanted his park to be educational and entertaining for both adults and children. Nearly 10 years after the success of Disneyland, he began planning his next big project.

Center Florida is famous worldwide as the home of Walt Disney World, but it wasn't the first choice of location for the park. St. Louis, Missouri, was originally set to be the home for Disney's newest park. However, right before he signed the papers, Disney decided against that location. Ultimately, he chose the Orlando area for its warm weather, abundant space, and good networks of roads.



History AT HOME

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Disney's Magic Kingdom opened in 1971 and changed Central Florida forever. Within 10 years of the park's opening, Orlando had become the most popular tourist destination in the world. Within 20 years, the population of the Orlando metropolitan area had exploded from 500,000 to 1.3 million people. And within 30 years, Central Florida had become home to more than 80 tourist attractions and featured six of America's eight largest tourist attractions!



Mouse Ears ACTIVITY

We may not be able to visit Disney World right now, but we can make a little magic at home by designing our own mouse ears!

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- Mouse ears template printed on card stock (or you can print on paper and paste to a piece of thin cardboard like a cereal box)
- 2 strips of cardstock (or thin cardboard) measuring 1 inch x 11 inches
- Scissors
- Stapler or scotch tape
- Markers, crayons, glitter, stencils or any other items you'd like to decorate your creation



Mouse Ears

ACTIVITY

WHAT TO DO:

1. Cut out the mouse ears template.
2. Cut two strips of card stock (or cardboard) to 1 inch by 11 inches – this will be to create a band to wear your ears on.
3. Decorate your mouse ears however you like.
4. Staple or tape the cardboard strips together and to your mouse ears so that they fit your head. You may need a grown-up to help you with this part.



History AT HOME

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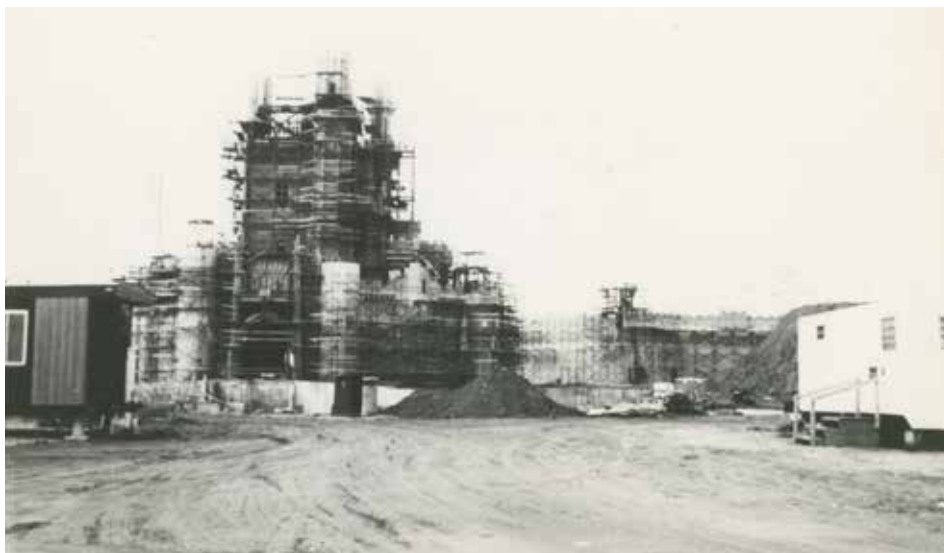
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Sources

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

- SS.1.A.2.1 Understand history tells the story of people and events of other times and places.
- SS.1.A.2.2 Compare life now with life in the past.
- SS.4.A.6.1 Describe the economic development of Florida's major industries.
- SS.4.A.6.3 Describe the contributions of significant individuals to Florida.
- SS.4.E.1.1 Identify entrepreneurs from various social and ethnic backgrounds who have influenced Florida and the local economy.
- SS.4.A.8.4 Explain how tourism affects Florida's economy and growth.



