

The Railroad Comes to Boca Raton

CONTENT / THEME: Florida History / Railroad and Transportation

GRADE: Fourth

TIME: 1 class period

TEXTBOOK CONNECTION:

Houghton Mifflin Social Studies: Florida Studies: (2005) Grade 4, Core Lesson 1, Chapter 7, pages 196-203.

Harcourt Brace Social Studies: Florida Edition: (2002) Grade 4, Unit 4, Chapter 7, pages 272-273, 276-279.

After reading about *Railroads and Tourism*, *Henry Flagler*, and *The Importance of Florida Citrus (Railroads and the Citrus Industry)*, ask the students, “How did Henry Flagler’s railroad affect Boca Raton?” Explore the answer with this lesson.

OBJECTIVES: The students will...

- analyze the first map of Boca Raton.
- recall events about Boca Raton’s first resident, Thomas M. Rickards.
- demonstrate the impact of Henry Flagler’s railroad (FEC) on Boca Raton’s population.

BENCHMARK CONNECTIONS:

- SS.A.1.2.1 understands how individuals, ideas, decisions, and events can influence history.
- SS.A.1.2.2 uses a variety of methods and resources to understand history (such as interpreting diaries, letters, newspapers; and reading maps and graphs) and knows the difference between primary and secondary sources.
- SS.A.6.2.2 understands the influence of geography on the history of Florida.
- SS.B.1.2.1 The student uses maps, globes, charts, graphs, and other geographic tools including map keys and symbols to gather and interpret data and to draw conclusions about physical patterns.

FCAT SKILLS PRACTICED:

- details/facts
- cause/effect
- chronological order
- data analysis/probability

MATERIALS:

- Reading passage: *The Railroad Comes to Boca Raton* (Lexile Measure: 800L)
- Rickards Map (see *Maps*, 2)
- Student Activity sheet
- Overhead projector (optional)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION & TEACHER PREPARATION:

- Read the following topics from A Teacher's Guide to Boca Raton History:
 - Florida East Coast Railway (*Turning Points*, 1)
 - Thomas Rickards (*People*, 10)
 - Rickards (1900) (*Maps*, 2)
- Read pages 11, 27, 38-39 from A Stroll Through Early Boca Raton from A - Z.
- Read photo captions on pages 9-11 from Images of America: Boca Raton.
- Review the reading passage: *The Railroad Comes to Boca Raton* and make copies for the students if desired.
- Review the Student Activity sheet and make copies for students.
- Review Rickards map (A Teacher's Guide to Boca Raton History, *Maps*, 2) and make copies for students and/or make an overhead transparency of the map.
- Incorporate the following vocabulary words into the weekly vocabulary list:
 - **crops** - plants that people grow for food
 - **population** - the number of people living in the area
 - **extensive** - a wide selection
 - **survey** - to study and map out
 - **transportation** - the way people and goods are moved from one place to another

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES:

- Introduce the lesson by asking, "How did Flagler's railroad affect Boca Raton?"
- Read the passage: *The Railroad Comes to Boca Raton*.
- Distribute Student Activity sheet and guide students to completion.
- Distribute the Rickards map to the students and/or show as an overhead transparency.
- Ask the following questions:
 1. What is the title of this map? (*Boca Raton*)
 2. Who is the author of this map? (*T.M. Rickards*)
 3. What year was this map made? (*1900*) What month? (*March*)
 4. Boca Raton was part of what county at the time? (*Dade*)
 5. Locate the railroad. What is the name of the railway company? (*Florida East Coast Railway*)
 6. Not including the distance through Boca Raton, what is the number of miles from Jacksonville to Miami by way of the railroad? ($324+42 = 386$ miles)
 7. What is the western boundary of Boca Raton? (*Hillsborough River*)
 8. What is the eastern boundary of Boca Raton? (*Atlantic Ocean*)
 9. What land is owned by Rickards? (*Black Cat Plantation*)

10. What body of water must be crossed to get to the Seminole camp? (*Hillsborough River*)
11. Is Lake Wyman north or south of Lake Boca Raton? (north)

REVIEW & APPLICATION OF LESSON:

- Challenge the students to look at a current map of east Boca Raton and answer the following questions:
 1. What is the Hillsborough River called today in Boca Raton? (*El Rio*)
 2. Is the Hillsborough River still the western boundary of Boca Raton? (*no*)
 3. Do Lake Boca Raton and Lake Wyman still exist today? (*yes*)
 4. What is the name of the Fla. East Coast Line Canal today? (*Intracoastal Waterway*)
 5. What is the name of the County Road today? (*Dixie Highway*)
- Book the education program, *Ticket To Ride*, conducted at the Boca Express Train Museum by the Boca Raton Historical Society & Museum. *Ticket To Ride* allows the students to role-play train passengers and crew members, while discovering Boca Raton's railroad history and more. This field experience is approved by the School District of Palm Beach County. For more information, go to www.bocahistory.org/education/schoolprograms or contact the Education Department at (561) 395-6766 x107 or education@bocahistory.org.

ASSESSMENT:

- Evaluate the students' Student Activity answers and map activity responses.
- Student Activity answers:
 1. **B** Wrote a description of the setting
 2. **B** The Rickards were probably the only family living in Boca Raton at the time.
 3. **A** He bought land around Boca Raton and built a house on it.
 4. **C**. There were many panthers in Boca Raton.
 5. Bar graph (L-R): first column represents **8**, second column represents **18**, third column represents **100**.
 6. **B**. 92
 7. The arrival of the FEC railroad through Boca Raton to Miami was a cause of the increased population. The use of the railroad and available land for sale encouraged people to farm in the area.