

## TOURISM TODAY - IS IT ALL THEME PARKS? Grades 5-8

### OBJECTIVES:

- The students will develop a list of special places to visit in Orlando.
- The students will create a Central Florida tourist guide along with advertisements.
- The students will compare tourism today with that of the Tin Can tourists days.

### FCAT STRANDS ADDRESSED:

**Reading Exam**            Comparisons and Cause/Effect / Reference and Research

**Writing Exam**            Persuasive and Expository Writing

### MEETS TO FOLLOWING SUNSHINE STATE STANDARDS:

#### *SOCIAL STUDIES (Grades 6-8)*

**Strand A: Time, Continuity, and Change (History)**

**Standard 6: The student understands the history of Florida and its people**

**Benchmark SS.A. 6.3.2** The students knows the unique geographic and demographic characteristics that define Florida as a region.

**Benchmark SS.A. 6.3.5** The student understands how Florida has allocated and used resources and the consequences of those economic decisions.

#### *LANGUAGE ARTS (Grades 6-8)*

**Strand B: Writing**

**Standard 1: The student uses writing processes effectively**

**Benchmark LA.B. 1.3.3** The student produces final document that have been edited.

**Standard 2: The student writes to communicate ideas and information effectively**

**Benchmark LA.B. 2.3.3** The student selects and uses appropriate formats for writing, including narrative, persuasive, and expository format, according to the intended audience.

## **MATERIALS:**

- Resource books about Central Florida
- Maps of the Orlando area
- Examples of ecotourism (brochures, websites, etc.):
  - EcoFlorida <http://www.ecofloridamag.com/>
  - Florida Environment and Ecotravel News  
<http://www.ecofloridamag.com/current/news.htm>
  - Florida EcoTourism Directory [http://florida.uscity.net/Eco\\_Tourism/](http://florida.uscity.net/Eco_Tourism/)
  - EcoTourism links  
[http://www.sfrc.ufl.edu/Faculty/Web\\_Pages/TStein/ecotourlinks.htm](http://www.sfrc.ufl.edu/Faculty/Web_Pages/TStein/ecotourlinks.htm)

## **PRE-VISIT ACTIVITIES:**

1. Ask students what they think drew tourists to Florida in the 1920s. Continue the discussion with how they traveled and what they brought with them compared to today. What were the roads like? Where did they eat? Where did they sleep? Were there McDonald's or Holiday Inns? Did the cars they rode in have air conditioning?
2. Have student brainstorm places they would recommend tourists visit in Central Florida besides theme parks. Introduce the concept of ecotourism. Guide them in further brainstorming for environmentally attractive and sensitive areas.
3. Using their list, have them create a tour guide or advertisements. Students should use persuasive language to convince readers to visit their area of interest. In pairs or individually, each can focus on a different place to include in their guide (hopefully, some will focus on a few environmental places of interest)

## **AT THE HISTORY CENTER:**

1. Visit the Tourism exhibit beginning with the Tin Can Tourist Camp. Ask students to closely observe the old postcards, scrapbooks, and other artifacts from Tin Can Tourist days.
2. Have students reconsider the questions you asked before the trip to the History Center. How was vacationing similar and different in the 1920s compared to today? What attracted tourists back then? What made tourism a strong industry here before Disney? What do they think they might have been doing on their vacations to Central Florida in the 1920s?

**POST-VISIT ACTIVITIES:**

1. Take time to discuss the students' observations on tourism. Ask them if there are any similar entries in their tour guides to what they saw prior to Disney?
2. Have students devise a chart comparing and contrasting tourism then and now. Have students share their charts with the class.