

# Summary: Railroads and Tourism

## Railroads Improve Transportation

In the late 1800s, Florida's government wanted to improve the state's transportation system. First, they needed money. In 1881, the government sold 4 million acres of land to a developer named Hamilton Disston. State leaders used this money to convince more developers to come to Florida.

Some developers made investments to build railroads in the state. An entrepreneur named Henry Plant built a railroad line that connected the Gulf coast to northern states. He built hotels near the railroad to attract visitors to Florida.

Another entrepreneur named William Chipley convinced the Louisville and Nashville Railroad Company to build tracks from Pensacola to eastern Florida. This made it easier for people to travel. They could also ship products to the east and north quickly.

Henry Flagler built the Florida East Coast Railway along the Atlantic coast. This helped bring visitors to Florida. He also built large hotels for northern visitors in St. Augustine, Palm Beach, and Miami.

## How Railroads Changed Florida

The new railroads helped Florida's businesses to grow. Farmers, lumber mill owners, and cattle ranchers began to ship their goods to other parts of the country. Soon, they had more customers, sold more goods, and earned more money.

As businesses grew, a demand for new workers was created. Workers came from other states by railroad. They needed housing, food, and clothing. Entrepreneurs invested in businesses to provide these items. Florida's economy continued to grow.

The railroads also helped Florida's economy by making it easier for tourists to visit. Each winter, trains brought northern tourists to enjoy the sunshine and warmth. Tourism soon became an important part of Florida's economy.

### Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

**transportation** *noun*, the way people and goods are moved from one place to another

**developer** *noun*, a person who uses land to build houses, farms, and businesses

**investment** *noun*, money a person puts into a business

**entrepreneur** *noun*, a person who takes risks to create a new business

**tourism** *noun*, the business of getting travelers to visit an area and serving them when they come there

### After You Read

**REVIEW** Why did Henry Plant build hotels in Florida? Draw a box around the sentence that tells the answer.

**REVIEW** In what ways did railroads help Florida's economy? What did the railroads do to Florida's businesses? Workers? Tourism? Underline three sentences that tell the answer.