

Summary: Florida Industry

New Industries Grow

In the 1800s, industries were changing the way people made things. Industrialization helped people to quickly make many products. Many workers were needed for new factories. Some people left farms to work in the factories. Many workers came from other countries.

In 1888, phosphate was discovered in Florida. People use phosphate to make fertilizer and other things. Phosphate mining became one of Florida's most important industries. Miners used tools to dig the phosphate from the ground. They also used machines called dredges to dig under streams. Large machines separated the phosphate from dirt. Other machines washed and dried the phosphate. Then, factories made the phosphate into fertilizer.

Industry and Immigration

In the late 1800s, many immigrants came to the United States. They were looking for better lives. Many immigrants wanted better jobs and incomes. Some immigrants started important Florida industries.

In the late 1800s, Cuba fought for independence from Spain. During the war, many Cubans died. Others went into exile. Many Cubans came to Florida to escape the war or punishment. One Cuban immigrant was a cigar maker named Don Vicente Martinez Ybor. He hired other Cuban immigrants and started a cigar-making business in Key West. Soon, their factories made millions of cigars each year.

Greek immigrants gathered sponges from the sea floor. Around 1900, the industry slowed down. Most of the sponges in shallow water had been taken. Greek immigrants around Tarpon Springs used special diving suits to collect sponges in deep water. Sponge diving became a huge industry. More Greek immigrants moved to Tarpon Springs to work in the sponge industry.

Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

industry *noun*, a business that makes a product or offers a service that can be sold to people

industrialization *noun*, using machines to help make products in large numbers

immigrant *noun*, a person who moves from one country to a new country

income *noun*, a payment people earn for working

exile *noun*, when people leave a country to escape punishment by the government

After You Read

REVIEW How did machinery help Floridians mine phosphate? Draw a box around three sentences that tell about machines used in the phosphate industry.

REVIEW Why did many Cuban and Greek immigrants move to Florida? Underline the sentence that tells why many Cubans came to Florida. Highlight the sentence that tells why many Greeks moved to Tarpon Springs.