

Summary: Hunger for Land

Florida's Land Boom

After World War I, many tourists came to Florida. Some of them liked Florida so much that they wanted to buy land and homes. Land developers bought real estate at low prices. Then, they divided the land into smaller sections and sold it at high prices.

Florida leaders wanted more people to move to Florida. They helped the land developers by building roads and other public works. Florida's leaders also promised that Floridians would not have to pay income tax. An income tax is a tax on money people earn for doing their jobs. They wanted people to know that it cost less to live in Florida than in other states.

Thousands of people bought land in Florida. The Florida land boom had begun. Many buyers hoped to make money by selling their land at a higher price. Soon, the demand for land became much greater than the supply. The price of land soared.

Facing Consequences

The land boom ended in 1925. Land prices rose so high that many people could not afford to buy land in Florida. Sellers were no longer able to find buyers. The end of the boom caused problems for Florida's economy. Floridians could no longer afford to buy the food, clothing, and homes they needed. Still, they hoped for a better future.

Florida's population grew by 300,000 people between 1923 and 1925. New cities such as Miami Beach, Coral Gables, and Hollywood were created. Southern Florida grew the most. Miami became the state's second largest city.

Builders drained swamps and other wetlands to build these new communities. They did not think of the effect this would have on the environment. Many plants and animals depended on the wetlands to live. Florida's water supply also depended on the wetland areas. Floridians would have to face these problems in the future.



Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

real estate *noun*, land or property

supply *noun*, the amount of something that is available to use or sell at different prices

demand *noun*, the desire for something and the willingness to buy it for a certain price



After You Read

REVIEW Why did people want to buy land in Florida? Highlight the sentence that tells what Florida leaders promised Floridians. Circle the sentence that tells what many buyers hoped to do with their land.

REVIEW Why did the land boom end? Underline two sentences that tell the answer.