

Summary: A Post-War Boom

Growth After the War

After World War II, Florida's population boomed. One reason for the boom was the many Americans who trained at Florida's military bases. Many of them remembered Florida's beauty and warmth. They moved there.

Florida's leaders helped the boom by getting more people and businesses to move to Florida. They built modern highways and schools. They kept taxes low. They advertised Florida's inexpensive land. Many older people retired to Florida when air conditioning made living in Florida more comfortable.

The population boom made Florida's economy grow too. Now, the state needed more workers to provide housing and services for its growing population.

Florida agriculture also helped the economy. A new process for making concentrated orange juice was invented. Now, Florida's farmers were able to send orange juice to all parts of the country.

Then, the government decided to put the U.S. space program in Cape Canaveral. Soon high-tech industries moved to Florida to supply the space program with equipment and services.

The Tourist State

By the 1950s, millions of visitors came to Florida each year for sun and recreation. Tourists enjoyed Florida's beaches, fishing, golf, and tennis. Many visited interesting places, such as historic St. Augustine.

Businesses built attractions for tourists. Tourists enjoyed the sea life at Marineland. Others enjoyed Cypress Gardens and Busch Gardens. In 1971, Walt Disney opened the Magic Kingdom near Orlando. Other companies built theme parks as more tourists came to Florida.

Tourism created many jobs in the service industry. Service-industry workers run restaurants, arrange vacations, prepare and serve food, clean hotel rooms, and sell tickets and souvenirs. Florida's resorts and attractions brought wealth to the state.



Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

high-tech *noun*, advanced technology

recreation *noun*, any activity done mainly for fun

theme park *noun*, an amusement park built around a theme, or central idea

service industry *noun*, includes all the jobs that provide things that people want



After You Read

REVIEW What were some reasons for Florida's population boom after World War II? Draw a box around two paragraphs that tell the answer.

REVIEW Why did tourists visit Florida? Underline the sentences that tell what tourists like to do.