

## Using Graphic Organizers for Problem Solving

### How Did Railroads Influence Florida's History?

*Level: 4<sup>th</sup> Grade ESE*

*Subject: Florida History*

Purpose	<p>This lesson is multifaceted. Students will use Kidspiration to visually organize information and map facts. They will find links between seemingly unrelated concepts to determine a pattern. This information will be used to answer the question, "How did railroads influence Florida's history?" Students will gain a greater understanding of the impact railroads had on Florida in the late 1800s and early 1900s.</p>
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students will increase knowledge of graphic organizers</li><li>• Students will become comfortable using Kidspiration</li><li>• Students will evaluate the outcome of historical events</li><li>• Students will answer the question, "How did railroads influence Florida's history?"</li></ul>
Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Harcourt Horizons 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Florida History Textbook</li><li>• DVD- The Railroad That Went to Sea</li><li>• Kidspiration Software</li><li>• Notebook computer and projector</li><li>• Teacher Completed Graphic Organizer Guide</li><li>• Student Worksheet</li><li>• <i>Graphic Organizer Lesson.kid</i> Kidspiration File</li></ul>
Procedures	<p><b>Before beginning this lesson, students should</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Understand and be able to apply the following vocabulary terms:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Influence</li><li>• Entrepreneur</li><li>• Invest</li><li>• Isolation</li></ul></li><li>2. Students should acquire background information by reading Chapter 7 of the textbook <u>Harcourt Horizons: Florida</u>.</li><li>3. Students should watch the DVD "The Railroad That Went to Sea".</li><li>4. Students should explore the Kidspiration program and be familiar with basic techniques such as:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Creating textboxes</li><li>• Imputing text</li><li>• Creating arrows</li><li>• Moving textboxes</li><li>• Undoing actions</li></ul></li></ol> <p><b>The following activity will take approximately 2- 45 minute class periods.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>5. Set up notebook computer and projector.</li><li>6. Load Kidspiration Software.</li><li>7. Open file <i>Graphic Organizer Lesson.kid</i>.</li></ol>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. Give students a paper copy of the graphic organizer they see projected on the screen. (<i>ESE Accommodation</i>)</li> <li>9. Allow students to review information already provided.</li> <li>10. Brainstorm Florida’s problems in the post Civil War era.</li> <li>11. Guide students to select the 6 problems listed in the Teacher Completed Graphic Organizer Guide.</li> <li>12. Enter ideas under <i>problems</i> on the graphic organizer.</li> <li>13. Direct students to think about the outcome of those problems and how solutions were achieved.</li> <li>14. Divide students into groups.</li> <li>15. Assign each group a computer.</li> <li>16. Direct students to load file <i>Graphic Organizer Lesson.kid</i> on the student computer. (This file contains a shell of information and includes the student listed problems.)</li> <li>17. Allow students to work together to fill in textboxes on the graphic organizer. Students should not yet attempt to fill <i>solutions</i></li> <li>18. Remind students to use provided information to aid problem solving.</li> <li>19. Allow students to print completed group charts.</li> </ol> <p><b>During the second class period:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>20. Use computer and projector to display original file <i>Graphic Organizer Lesson.kid</i>.</li> <li>21. Allow each group to provide relevant historic information while the teacher puts the information into the chart.</li> <li>22. When organizer chart is filled, examine arrows to describe flow of progress.</li> <li>23. Discuss outcomes of these events.</li> <li>24. As a class, enter 6 solutions to the original 6 problems.</li> <li>25. Hold class discussion to answer the question, “How did railroads influence Florida’s history?”</li> <li>26. Encourage students to discuss way in which the graphic organizer helped them reach this conclusion.</li> </ol>
Benchmarks Met	<p><b><u>A.1.a</u></b> The student understands how individuals, ideas, decisions and events can influence history.</p> <p><b><u>A.2.b</u></b> The student understands developments in transportation and communication in various societies</p> <p><b><u>A.3.a</u></b> The student knows significant people and their contributions in the field of communication and technology and the impact of these devices on society.</p> <p><b><u>A.4.f</u></b> The student knows causes, key events, and effects of the Civil War and Reconstruction</p> <p><b><u>A.6.c</u></b> The student knows the significant individuals, events, and social, political, and economic characteristics of different periods in Florida’s history.</p> <p><b><u>A.7.c</u></b> The Student uses information technology as a tool to create reports using technology tools.</p> <p><b><u>B.1.d</u></b> The student knows how changing transportation and communication technologies have affected relationships among locations</p> <p><i>Diocesan Standards and Benchmarks: Diocese of St. Petersburg</i></p>

Accommodations	Diagrams for visual learners; peer assistance; adaptive keyboard; text to speech program; open textbook problem solving; partially completed graphic organizer; Kidspiration "Listen" tool; paper copies
Additional Resources	<p><b>Henry Flagler Museum-</b> (Includes virtual tours and teacher's resource guide) <a href="http://www.flaglermuseum.us/#">http://www.flaglermuseum.us/#</a></p> <p><b>Henry Plant Museum-</b> (Includes historical information and photographs) <a href="http://www.plantmuseum.com/">http://www.plantmuseum.com/</a></p> <p><b>Florida Department of Transportation-</b> (provides timeline of events related to Florida's railroad system) <a href="http://www.dot.state.fl.us/rail/railhistory.htm">http://www.dot.state.fl.us/rail/railhistory.htm</a></p>
Assessment	<p>Students will be graded out of a possible 25 points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 points for participation in brainstorming</li> <li>• 10 points for completing graphic organizer with group</li> <li>• 5 points for participation in summative class discussion</li> <li>• 5 points for appropriate peer interaction (sharing, demonstrating patience, keeping a positive attitude, and helping peers)</li> </ul>

**Personal Statement:**

This is my first experience using Kidspiration. I have recently been given this program for my classroom but until this point, I did not have the opportunity to use it. While it is easy to use, I am concerned that students will be distracted by the Listen tool and the easily accessible clip art style icons. Before using this program for any learning activity, I plan to allow students free time to explore the program. I will also demonstrate its use to my classes so they are familiar with all its capabilities.

For this lesson, I have chosen to allow students to use a shell of the graphic organizer rather than create their own because this will be their first attempt at using Kidspiration and blank documents tend to be intimidating. In the future, students will be able to create their own graphic organizer from scratch.

This graphic organizer is a **Mindtool** because students can visualize the interdependence of events on Florida's history. The flow of the chart emphasizes how each individual occurrence led to a solution to Florida's problems in the post Civil War era. Students can see the impact of a few men on the entire population of the state. They can also see how one missing link influences or potentially changes the entire course of history.

Students can also gain a greater appreciation for their hometown city of Tampa since Henry Plant played a major role on the local area. Students visited the H.B. Plant museum last school year and will now be able to use what they learned on the field trip to understand Plant's impact on the rest of the state.

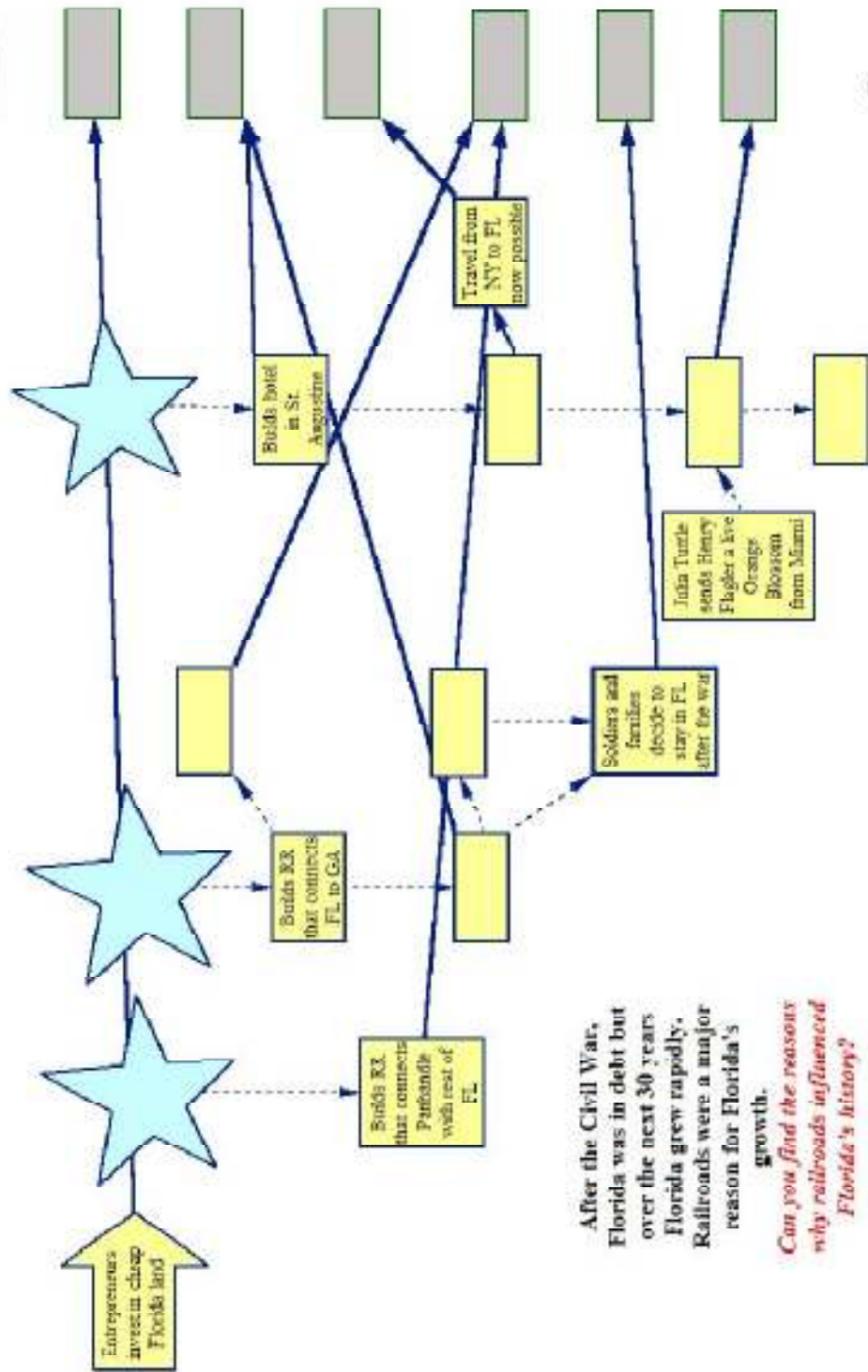
Graphic Organizer Charts were exported as .jpg files and then inserted into this document.

# Railroads

## Problems

- Florida was in debt after the Civil War
- Economy was weak
- No quick way to transport goods
- People who lived inland were isolated from the rest of the state
- Population was small
- Froreer liked citrus crops

## Solutions



After the Civil War, Florida was in debt but over the next 30 years Florida grew rapidly. Railroads were a major reason for Florida's growth.

Can you find the reasons why railroads influenced Florida's history?



