

FAQ: When/How to teach Florida History?

Top 10+ Florida "How Our State Works" Field Trips



WHEN TO TEACH?

Generally, 4th/5th grade for State History. Generally, 7th-8th grade for State Government & State Constitution. But as homeschoolers, you can teach it how/when you want. Although high school US History and US Constitution is very much a norm in Junior year.

HOW?

Alongside reading and unit studies, in 4th/5th grade we did the following amazing Florida "How Our State Works" field trips:

- 1. Tallahassee, our state capital** - We toured both the historic Old Capitol Building, the new, current, Capitol Building, and the Old City Cemetery
- 2. St. Augustine - Oldest (continental) U.S. city** - St. Augustine was founded on September 8th in 1565. Old City Gate, Castillo de San Marcos National Monument, History Museum, Potter's Wax Museum, stroll the original streets... Learn about Ponce de Leon, Henry Flagler, etc.
- 3. Tampa Bay History Center** - This is a really neat place with very nice, well-designed exhibits! The History Center is a 60,000-square-foot museum focused on the history and heritage of Florida and the Tampa Bay region. From the earliest native peoples and Seminole Wars, to the growth of transportation and industry, the History Center covers 12,000 years of Florida's past.
- 4. Edgecomb Courthouse "Journey Through Justice"** - Learn about the history of the courthouse, George Edgecomb, Jury Duty, watch a courtroom in session, meet a Judge, Behind the scenes tour, visit Courtroom 1 - the biggest in the area.

5. Henry Plant Museum – Young historians will learn about: - Tampa’s early development during the late 19th century, The Gilded Age lifestyle in late 19th century Florida, Visionary Henry Plant and the impact of his Plant System of railroads, steamships and hotels in the development of Florida, The vital role of the Tampa Bay Hotel in the Spanish-American War, The unique Moorish-Revival architectural style of the Hotel. While Henry Flagler helped develop much of the east side of the state, Henry Plant developed much of the west side of the state. They were kind of "frenemies" - sometimes working together, sometimes against each other.

6. Port of Tampa Bay Harbor Tour - Port Tampa Bay is by far Florida’s largest port, handling over 37 million tons of cargo per year. For the first half of this fiscal year, we are experiencing a 10% increase in our total cargo tonnage. We are also Florida’s largest port in terms of physical size (and one of the largest in the country) encompassing over 5,000 acres.

7. Tampa International Airport Tour - tour talks about the history as well as the current workings of the airport. Behind the scenes at the Airport Control Center, visit the fire department with their unique neon trucks, go on a bus tour of the airfield, hear about the history of the airport, follow the path of a passenger and more

8. Pinellas County Waste-to-Energy Plant - There are only 13 in Florida and our area boasts most of them, including Pasco, Hillsborough and Tampa. The steam generated creates electricity and that is sold to the power companies.

9. Post Office Tour - Behind the scenes tour and walk-through of how our mail system works. We did New Port Richey USPS.

10. Bay News 9 Studio Tour - Learn the in's and out's of broadcast television for Bay News 9! We'll hear about traffic, weather and breaking news. Maybe we will meet some of the reporters, meteorologists and news anchors, and even witness a live broadcasting! Learn about how things have changed over time in broadcasting and reporting the news, weather and traffic.

BONUS “ECONOMICS” ADVENTURE!

Enterprise Village - Enterprise Village is a self-contained economic education program that provides a hands-on learning experience for students. Students spend 6 weeks in their classroom studying economic education objectives that teach them about writing checks, using a debit card, keeping a checkbook register, applying for a job and working in a group. These educational objectives are put into action as the students spend one day at the village