

CITY TIES

Tampa History Classroom Activities



Presented By
Henry B. Plant Museum
Ybor City Museum Society

City Ties Tampa History Classroom Activities

Hello Educators!

The Ybor City Museum Society and the Henry B. Plant Museum are thrilled to announce the City Ties Activity. We want to make Ybor City and Tampa's unique histories and their ties more accessible to you and your students.

With these online activities you and your students will:

- Access projects that are tailored to teach/reinforce local history
- Learn using primary sources
- Cover social studies curriculum for grades 4-6
- Use cross-discipline skills

Make the connection between Ybor and Tampa with the City Ties Tour. The museums have partnered to offer a one-day field trip opportunity to both museums. Start your morning at the Ybor City Museum State Park to learn about the founding and evolution of Ybor City and the cigar industry and visit a restored cigar worker's house. Continue your journey to the Henry B. Plant Museum to experience life in the Gilded Age at the opulent Tampa Bay Hotel and learn about how Henry Plant influenced the development of Tampa.

These activities can be used as classroom lessons or homework to build upon social studies content, or as pre- or post-City Ties Tour activities to reinforce field trip content.

To schedule a City Ties Tour, contact Heather Trubee Brown at 813.258.7304 or htrubee@ut.edu.



Activity One: Early Tampa Time Line

Grades: 4-6

Duration: 30 Minutes In-Class + Homework (optional)

Objective: To teach students important dates in early Tampa history and to trace Tampa's early population growth while working with primary sources.

Materials:

Activity Worksheets (population graph and time line)

Scissors

Tape/Glue Stick

Suggested Approach:

Tell students that they will be learning about Tampa in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Let them know that this is when Tampa grew from a small fishing village with fewer than 1,000 residents into a big city. Explain that the events in this activity highlight the people and important moments that helped shape the Tampa we all know today.

Directions:

1. Print out and distribute the activity worksheets.
2. Have students make a graph using the population data provided. Students should use a bar graph format and can use graph paper if available. You can provide as much or as little guidance in making the graph as appropriate.
3. Ask students to then match the time line events with the image that seems to most represent that event.
4. Have students cut out the images and events, then glue/tape the events onto the unlined paper in chronological order and with the event's corresponding image.
5. Once the students are finished, go over the correct order and image association, talk about each event using the provided background information, and lead students in a discussion.

Discussion Questions:

1. Think about the people who were moving to Tampa and Ybor City. Why were they coming? What were they doing?
2. Thinking beyond the time line, what industries grew or benefited from the railroad?
3. Think about the relationship between the time line and the population graph you have made. What relationship do you see? Are there certain events that may have resulted in the population growth on your graph?

Optional Homework Ideas:

1. The Florida flag featured in this activity was adopted in 1900, but Florida had several other versions of a flag before the one we have now. Have students research the different versions of the Florida flag and have them write a short paper on the changes in the flag and the symbolism of elements of today's Florida flag.
2. Have students select two events on the time line and write a short paper about how one influenced or resulted in the other.
3. For a creative writing and art project, ask students to think about their life and create a personal time line of significant events. Include images (drawings, photographs, clippings) to illustrate the time line. Write a short narrative of the time line with supporting explanations of why these were significant events.

Background Information and Answer Key: Early Tampa Time Line Activity

Event 1 - March 3, 1845: Florida became the 27th state in the United States



Background: Florida's history dates back 12,000 when people first reached the land that is today called Florida. In 1513, Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de León landed on the east coast of Florida, near present day St. Augustine, and called the land la Florida. Of all the European countries that tried to colonize Florida, Spain was the most dominant until it ceded Florida to the United States in 1821. Florida was a US Territory with a diverse population of Native Americans, escaped slaves seeking refuge, white settlers, and free blacks. This diverse and growing population and tense political climate contributed to Florida's participation in three Seminole wars and the Civil War.

Event 2 - January, 1884: Henry Plant brings the railroad to Tampa



Background: Plant visited Tampa in 1883. At that time, it took one day to travel by wagon from Kissimmee to Tampa. He recalled passing no more than seven homes during his daylong journey. By 1886, Plant remarked that the same trip could be made in three to four hours by railroad and pass multiple thriving cities along the way. Bringing the railroad to Tampa was an exciting achievement. Plant purchased the right to lay the critical 75 miles of rail line from Kissimmee to Tampa, but he had to complete it

within six months. Plant accomplished the feat by starting at both ends of the line with two days to spare.

Event 3 - November, 1884: Gavino Gutierrez travels to Tampa in search of guava trees



Background: A Spaniard who immigrated to New York City in 1868, Gavino Gutierrez was a businessman, architect and civil engineer. As one of his business ventures, he owned several guava paste factories in Cuba, and in 1884 he traveled to the southern US in search of new lands on which to farm guava trees. Having heard that guava trees grow naturally in Tampa, he visited in November of 1884. Though he did not find the guava trees as he had hoped, he did note that Tampa had a humid natural climate (which is ideal for keeping tobacco leaves moist during cigar

production), a good natural harbor and a newly constructed railroad line that connected Tampa to the interior of the US. After leaving Tampa, Gutierrez traveled to Key West and met up with his friend, a Spanish cigar factory owner named Vicente Martinez-Ybor. Coincidentally, Martinez-Ybor hoped to relocate his factory, as labor disputes were a big problem among his workers, and the fact that Key West is an island made travel and transportation of his cigars more difficult. Gutierrez's report of Tampa prompted Ybor to consider moving his factory to the west coast of Florida.

Event 4 - May 7, 1885: Tampa establishes the Board of Trade



Background: Fueled by the new railroad, the leadership of Tampa founded the Board of Trade in an effort to transform what was a small fishing village of about 700 people into a productive city. The new Board of Trade promoted the benefits of founding businesses in Tampa (many of these benefits are those noticed by Gutierrez on his visit) and eagerly supported the ventures of the village's largest boosters, like Henry B. Plant. When Vicente Martinez-Ybor and another factory owner, Ignacio Haya,

approached the Board of Trade about the potential of moving their factories to Tampa, the Board of Trade worked hard to ensure they would choose Tampa over other places they considered.

Event 5 - October 5, 1885: Vicente Martinez-Ybor purchases 40 acres of land in Tampa



Background: In September of 1885, Vicente Martinez-Ybor and Ignacio Haya traveled to Tampa to assess the benefits of moving their factories from Key West. They had entertained offers from other cities, including Galveston Texas, to move their factories, but they were still intrigued by the port and railroad that Tampa had to offer. The new Board of Trade showed Ybor and Haya several sites, but the two men were only interested in one plot of land right along the bay that was close to the railroad. The Board of Trade's asking price of \$9000 was too high for Ybor and Haya, and they

planned to leave Tampa behind and travel to Galveston to make a deal. Desperate for the factory owners to choose Tampa, the Board of Trade subsidized \$4000 of the land's value, making the final price just \$5000. Vicente Martinez-Ybor made the deal, and Ybor City was born. Ybor bought another 50-60 acres over the next few days, and Haya purchased his own 20 acres. Within a week, the men cleared the first trees to begin building the new cigar town.

Event 6 - January 7, 1886: A steamer ship called the Mascotte goes into service



Background: The Mascotte became the first steamer in Henry B. Plant's shipping service to run from Havana, Cuba to Key West and then on to Tampa. Beginning in January of 1886, the Mascotte brought workers from both Cuba and Key West into Tampa. These workers helped clear the land that became Ybor City, they built the first factories, and then they worked in those factories and lived in Ybor City. Over the next ten years, more than 10,000 Cubans would move to Tampa, and the Mascotte carried

most of them into the Port of Tampa. Henry B. Plant added more ships to his steamer line, and his network of ships brought not only immigrants into Tampa, but visitors to his new luxury resort, the Tampa Bay Hotel. The role this particular ship played in the history and growth of Tampa is why it appears on the official Seal of the City of Tampa.

Event 7 - April 13, 1886: First cigar produced in Ybor City



Background: Though Vicente Martinez-Ybor and Ignacio Haya both bought land in Tampa and opened their factories on the same day, it was Haya, not Ybor, who produced Ybor City's first cigar. This is likely due to the fact that Haya brought tobacco that had been processed and was ready to roll to Tampa from his New York warehouse, while Ybor imported unprocessed tobacco from Cuba. The fact that Haya could start rolling right away, while Ybor still had to prepare the tobacco for rolling,

gave Haya the advantage and allowed him to capture the honor of producing the first cigar in the city that would come to be known as the "Cigar Capital of the World."

Event 8 - June 1888: Henry Plant opens Port Tampa



Background: As a fishing village and with the growing cigar industry in Ybor City, Tampa had a functioning port. However, Port Tampa wasn't deep enough to accommodate the large steamships carrying tobacco from Cuba or passengers. The big ships had to weigh anchor off shore and wait for smaller boats to sail out to collect the cargo or passengers. It was a time consuming and laborious process. Henry Plant committed to spend "a million dollars or more" to develop Port Tampa. To make the

planned port more accessible, Plant extended his rail line nine more miles to Port Tampa, dredged out a deep-water channel, and built an enormous wharf. The Plant Steamship Company's steamers began docking at Port Tampa in June 1888.

Event 9 - February 5, 1891: Tampa Bay Hotel Opens



Background: After three years of construction, the Tampa Bay Hotel opened with all the modern amenities, including electricity, indoor hot and cold running water, two Otis elevators and telephone service. Henry Plant's vision for the hotel was to create a grand luxury resort with every entertainment imaginable, including the new sport of golf and a race track. The Moorish-Revival architecture with silver minarets was a striking and unique design for Tampa. Building the hotel was Henry Plant's second promise (the port was his first) to invest in the development of Tampa.

Event 10 - April-August 1898: Spanish-American War (Tampa Bay Hotel is the headquarters for the US Army's Cuban invasion campaign)



Background: As Cuba's fight for independence from Spain intensified, the United States was encouraged to assist the Cubans in their plight. Tampa had two concerns. 1. It's close proximity to Cuba worried residents of an attack should war break out. 2. The large number of Cubans living and working in Ybor City were sympathetic to the fight. Henry Plant sent letters to Secretary of War Russell Alger asking that Tampa receive defensive support should war break out. Plant also make the argument that Tampa be selected as the port of embarkation for the US. Army's Cuban campaign. Tampa was selected. The Tampa Bay Hotel became the headquarters for US. Army's Cuban invasion campaign. More than 30,000 troops arrived in Tampa via the Plant System Railway. The troops and supplies embarked from Port Tampa, many aboard Plant System Steamships.

Tampa Population Activity Sheet

Directions:

1. Use the population information below to create a bar graph that will show you how Tampa's population grew in the late 1800s and early 1900s.
2. Use the grid below to draw your graph.

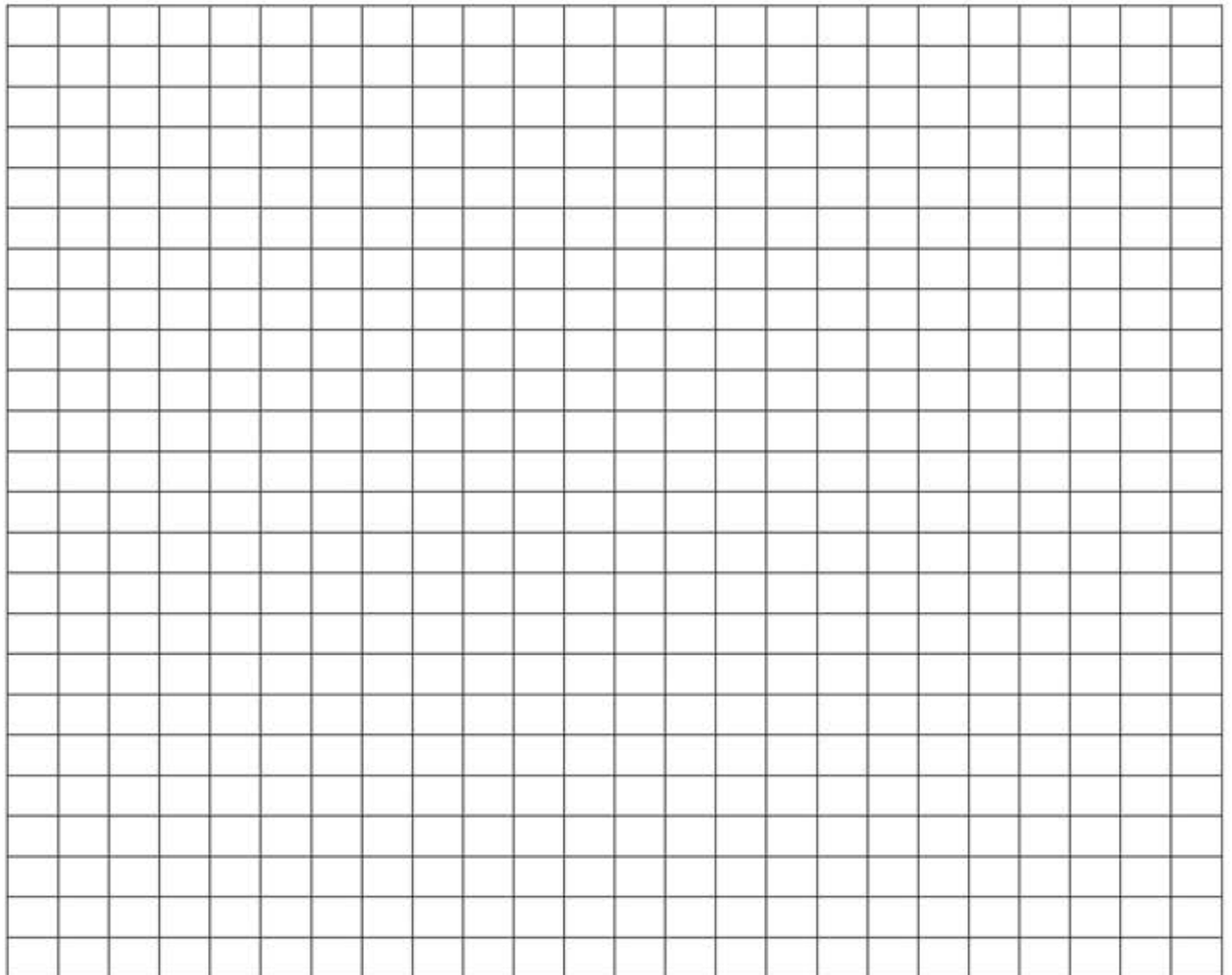
Tampa Population

| Year | Number of People Living in Tampa |
|------|----------------------------------|
| 1880 | 720 |
| 1890 | 5,500 |
| 1893 | 12,000 |
| 1900 | 15,800 |

Make Your Graph

Name of Graph: _____

X-Axis: _____



Y-Axis: _____

Early Tampa Time Line Activity Sheet

Directions:

1. You will see a list of dates and events on the left and a group of pictures on the right.
2. First, use your scissors to cut out the events and the pictures.
3. Next, match each event with the picture that you think goes with each event.
4. Next, put the events and each event's picture in order from the earliest to the latest event.
5. Last, create your time line Use your glue stick to glue the events and pictures in order on the "My Early Tampa Time Line" sheet.

Events

May 7, 1885

Tampa establishes the Board of Trade

April 13, 1886

Fist cigar produced in Ybor City

November, 1884

Gavino Gutierrez travels to Tampa in search of guava trees

June, 1888

Henry Plant opens Port Tampa

October 5, 1885

Vicente Martinez-Ybor buys 40 acres of land in Tampa

Pictures



March 13, 1845
**Florida becomes the 27th state in
the United States**



January 7, 1886
**A steamer ship called the *Mascotte*
goes into service**



February 5, 1891
The Tampa Bay Hotel opens



January, 1884
**Henry Plant brings the railroad to
Tampa**



April - August, 1898
**Spanish-American War (Tampa
Bay Hotel is the headquarters for
the US Army's Cuban invasion
campaign**



Your Name: _____

My Early Tampa Time Line

Glue Picture 1 here

Glue Event 1 here

Glue Picture 2 here

Glue Event 2 here

Glue Picture 3 here

Glue Event 3 here

Glue Picture 4 here

Glue Event 4 here

Glue Picture 5 here

Glue Event 5 here

My Early Tampa Time Line - Page 2

Glue Picture 6 here

Glue Event 6 here

Glue Picture 7 here

Glue Event 7 here

Glue Picture 8 here

Glue Event 8 here

Glue Picture 9 here

Glue Event 9 here

Glue Picture 10 here

Glue Event 10 here