

Creating a Ruskin Timeline

Grade:	4
Locale:	Ruskin
When:	19 th , 20 th and 21 st Centuries
Spark of Interest:	Make a 150 year timeline for Ruskin
Content Areas:	History/Math/Reading
Timeframe:	1 st Lesson 45 Minutes 2 nd Lesson 1 Hour

Sunshine State Standards: SS.A.1.2 SS.A.6.2 MA.A.1.2

Abstract:

Students will learn many of the important events and dates pertinent to the historical development of Ruskin. These dates will be scrambled so the students will place them in chronological order and create a historical timeline for Ruskin.

Materials:

- 8 sheets of 12" x 18" of construction paper per student
- Seven 12" strips of clear tape per student
- One copy of Ruskin Events sheet per student
- One pair of scissors per student
- One pencil per student
- One ruler per student
- Glue
- One teacher copy of Ruskin Events (Teacher Copy) sheet
- One teacher copy of The Founding of Ruskin sheet
- One copy of The Founding of Ruskin sheet per student

Key Vocabulary:

- | | | |
|-----------------|------------|--------------------|
| -Timeline | -Circa | -Industrialization |
| -Capitalization | -Socialism | -Tuition |
| -Turpentine | -Founding | -Paleontologist |

Lesson Outline:

1. Prior to lesson make 1 copy of Ruskin Scrambled Events sheet for each student.
2. Read The Founding of Ruskin aloud to class and discuss. Focus on key vocabulary and concepts.

3. Pair students up to reread The Founding of Ruskin together and answer the FCAT Connection comprehension questions. (You may wish to pair a stronger reader with a weaker reader).
4. Review answers to the questions with students.
5. Have teacher copy of Ruskin Events sheet on hand to check accuracy of student work beginning with step 6.
6. Inform class they will be creating a timeline for Ruskin.
7. Place students in cooperative pairs.
8. Distribute 8 sheets of construction paper per student.
9. Distribute seven pieces 12” clear tape to each student.
10. Students should lay each piece of construction paper end to end the long way.
11. Have students use their pencils and rulers to draw a straight line lengthwise (The 18” direction) along the middle of the construction paper so it will form a continuous line.
12. Tape ends of paper together.
13. In the upper middle part of the first sheet of paper (very left sheet) students should write 1801-1825.
14. In the upper middle part of the second sheet of paper on the students should write 1826-1850.
15. In the upper middle part of the third sheet of paper on the students should write 1851-1975.
16. In the upper middle part of the fourth sheet of paper on the students should write 1876-1900.
17. In the upper middle part of the fifth sheet of paper on the students should write 1901-1925.
18. In the upper middle part of the sixth sheet of paper on the students should write 1926-1950.
19. In the upper middle part of the seventh sheet of paper on the students should write 1951-1975.
20. In the upper middle part of the eighth sheet of paper on the students should write 1976-2000.
21. In the upper middle part of the eighth sheet of paper on the students should write 2000-2025.
22. Distribute Scrambled Ruskin Events sheet.
23. Students neatly cut out each event and corresponding date.
24. Each student should organize the events into chronological order on the appropriate sheet of construction paper. Dates and events should be placed in the approximate location on the paper that corresponds with the time frame of that sheet of paper. For example, June 15 1863 would be halfway along the paper for the time period 1851-1876 so it should be placed in the middle of the sheet, December 1876 should be placed at the very right side of that paper.
25. Student partners should check each others work then raise hands for teacher to check.
26. Students should glue the cutouts onto the construction paper.
27. Display timelines for others to see.
- 28.

Extensions:

-Have students create a timeline for each of the South Hillsborough communities. Display the timelines side by side in a place for the entire school to see.

-Have students talk to family members or friends to add any significant dates to the timeline.

The Founding of Ruskin

Key Vocabulary and Concepts:

Capitalism

Socialism

Tuition

Industrialism

Turpentine

Before Ruskin Florida

In the late 1800's and early 1900's **industrialization** was growing in leaps and bounds. Industrialization was a period of time in the United States where factories were doing the work formerly done only by people, factories performed jobs less expensively and much faster. Factories made everything from clothes, to steel, and cars. The number of factories was increasing, so was the number of people who worked in them. As you learned in the previous activity, workers in the factories often endured long hours of physically demanding labor in unsafe, unclean conditions for very little pay or opportunity to improve their own lives or working environment. Young children your age were often subject to the same work environment as adults.

Back then and today **capitalism** is a concept that has helped make the United States strong. Capitalism rewards people by allowing them to keep the money they earn for starting businesses and working hard. According to this belief people who work hard will naturally have the opportunity to get more money and improve their lives. But Dr. George McAnely Miller felt that this was not happening in the factories and with small farmers. He believed that all factory workers and farmers were not given equal opportunities to improve their lives and he wanted to change that. He believed in **socialism**. Socialism is a belief that people should work for the benefit of the common good of everyone. Dr. Miller believed that by starting a college where everyone could attend regardless of their ability to pay he could help everyone, even poor people to improve their lives.

Dr. Miller helped establish two Ruskin colleges outside of Florida. One of them was in Trenton Missouri. This college cost \$120.00 per year in 1900. Working at one of the college businesses was a requirement for all students. Students who could not afford the \$120.00 **tuition** or payment for school could work on the school farm or school businesses making items such as brooms, furniture, handles, or boxes. This would also allow them to "Work off" their room and board. Room and board means having a place to live and food to eat. This way even people without any money could still get a college education and improve their lives if they were willing to work hard. Unfortunately the two Ruskin colleges Dr. Miller was involved in did not last very long. Relations with people in the communities around the colleges were not good. He decided if a Ruskin college was to be successful it would have to be located in a more isolated location.

This place would be in Southern Hillsborough County. We know it today as Ruskin Florida. In 1906 George Miller moved his family here back then it was a wilderness though.

Ruskin Florida Begins

Miller and his brother in law A. P. Dickman made a deal with a landowner named Captain C. H. Davis. The Dickmans and Millers would trade 550 acres of excellent Missouri farmland and pay \$3.75 per acre for 12,000 acres of land that Capt. Davis owned. This land stretched from the Little Manatee River in the south to present day Apollo Beach in the north. Once this was done A. P. Dickman's two brothers moved from Missouri to Florida and joined Dr. Miller and his wife Adeline. Dr. Miller envisioned Ruskin as a place for a new Ruskin College. The Dickmans were more interested in establishing a business.

The Millers and Dickmans moved by train. The closest train depot was in Wimauma. Today that is an easy drive but in 1908 there was only a sandy dirt rut road to travel on. Hauling all their farm equipment, livestock, and personal belongings was not an easy task. When they finally arrived at Shell Point where they would live they had to live in a turpentine camp. At that time Southern Hillsborough County was full of longleaf pine trees. Early settlers in the area would strip the bark off the trees and collect sap which would provide turpentine. Selling turpentine was a very profitable business. In the process of doing this the trees would be killed so they would then be cut down for timber. Much of this work had been done with convict labor. A. P. and Rose Dickman and their twin children Paul and Pauline lived in a camp built for convicts working at the turpentine business. Pauline remembered that the families hogs would sleep under their house and the fleas from them would come through the cracks of the floor!

Life was challenging for these pioneers. They had to hunt and fish for food. They planted gardens for vegetables. They had to build their own homes from the trees they cut themselves. Life was not easy then.

Building the Ruskin Community in Florida

Once their homes were completed the Millers and Dickmans turned their attention to building a community. They set aside land for the college and started making land available to other settlers who share the same beliefs. They established the Ruskin Homemakers and the Florida Club. The Florida club would sell land in Ruskin but the Ruskin Homemakers would receive a portion of the money to build a college and improve the community. If you wanted to live in town you could buy one-third of an acre for \$50-\$90. Five to ten acres of farmland sold for \$35-\$55 per acre.

The Florida Club changed its name to the Commongood Society of Ruskin, Florida in November of 1909. On November 26 1910 eighty members of the society showed up for the meeting. Ruskin was growing!

By 1913 Ruskin was still somewhat isolated. The residents preferred this though. They knew that people were often mistrustful of socialism, it was perceived as a threat. By 1922 highway 41 was four lanes wide and was paved. Small boats such as the Kilcare made regular trips to Tampa. Traveling to Tampa by boat was quicker and easier then. Produce such as cabbage, peppers, squash, and carrots were grown in Ruskin and sold in Tampa. Boys could earn money by hunting alligators and selling the meat and skin.

Ruskin College

Dr. Miller built Ruskin College very soon after arriving. The college and community were named after English philosopher John Ruskin who lived from 1819-1900. The college was the center of life in the community. The students divided their time into three parts they included time for studying and learning, a time for work and being productive, and a time for relaxation. Ruskin College served more than just college students. Young children and adults also attended classes there. Job skills and college classes were taught. Many people without much money moved to Ruskin between 1908 and 1919. Many of them worked at hard jobs in factories and farms but did not have much money. The community of Ruskin offered them and their families an education and opportunity to improve their lives with education and a home.

Disaster!

1918 and 1919 brought about an end to Ruskin College. In 1918 someone knocked out the embers of their pipe. This started a fire that destroyed most of the college buildings. In 1919 Dr. Miller died while on a train trip in the Midwestern United States. Many people were moving to larger cities such as Tampa where there were more jobs with better wages. During World War One many men from Ruskin went off to fight. Many chose to live someplace else when they returned.

Despite the tragic fire two of the original Ruskin College houses still remain standing today, one is the George Miller House located on Highway 41 south. The other structure is the College Arts building located on 4th Street.

FCAT Connection Comprehension Questions

Answer the following questions about the text:

1. Explain what capitalism is.
2. Explain what socialism is.
3. Use a Venn diagram to display how capitalism and socialism are alike and different.
4. Explain what industrialization is.

Ruskin Events Teacher Sheet

The following dates and events are by no means the only significant ones in the development of the community of Ruskin. Ruskin has a rich Paleontological and aboriginal history that begins much before the earliest date on this timeline.

- 1819 British philosopher John Ruskin for whom Ruskin Florida and Ruskin College was named after is born.
- 1888 Adeline Dickman and Dr. George Miller are married.
- 1897 Paul Dickman was born in Iowa.
- 1900 British Philosopher John Ruskin dies.
- 1903 Dr. George and Adeline Dickman visit Florida during the winter
- 1906 Ruskin College in Glen Ellyn Illinois burns. It is not rebuilt.
- 1908 A. P. Dickman and family move to land they purchased with brothers and brother in law.
- 1908 Adeline Dickman establishes the first post office in Ruskin.
- 1910 A. P. Dickman House built on College Inlet. It is the first house in Ruskin built with "Dressed" lumber.
- 1914 Dr. George and Mrs. Miller built their Swiss chalet house. It still stands today and is called the Miller House.
- 1919 Dr. George Miller, college president dies.
- 1919 Paul Dickman and Esther Cralle wed.
- 1920 Electric power first comes to Ruskin. It is run by generator.
- 1921 1920 December 13th, Lyle Cralle Dickman is born to Esther and Paul Dickman.
- 1924 Paul and Esther Dickman donate land for the building of the United Methodist Church.
- 1928 The Ruskin Chamber of Commerce is formed.

- 1929 (Circa) Tea room on the corner of Shell Point Rd. and Hwy 41 became The Coffee Cup Restaurant.
- 1936 Mary and Willie Walker take over The Coffee Cup Restaurant.
- 1930 Paul Dickman begins farming in the Apollo Beach area.
- 1941 Paul Dickman helps form Ruskin Vegetable Cooperative and Ruskin Vegetable Distributors.
- 1944 Esther Dickman begins a two year term as president of the Ruskin Woman's Club.
- 1946 Margaret Ray and Lyle Dickman are married.
- 1947 Paul Dickman, first son of Margaret and Lyle Dickman is born.
- 1948 Paul Dickman received the distinguished Service award from the Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association.
- 1949 Margaret and Lyle Dickman have their second son Ned Dickman.
- 1949 Paul Dickman was named "Man of the Year in Agriculture" by the Progressive Farmer Magazine.
- 1951 Paul Dickman received the American Vegetable Growers Association's "Man of the Year" award.
- 1950 Paul Dickman dredges Ruskin Inlet.
- 1952 Margaret and Lyle Dickman have their third son and last child Glenn Dickman.
- 1960 Paul and Lyle Dickman build first complete resort facility on Tampa Bay on 37 acres on Bahia Beach.
- 1961 First Bank of Ruskin opens with Paul Dickman as its first president.
- 1967 The Ruskin Commongood Society ceases to exist.
- 1974 The Miller House which is cared for by the Ruskin Woman's Club is chosen for the National Register of Historic places.
- 1976 May 13 Lyle Cralle Dickman dies.
- 1976 December 22nd Paul Dickman dies.

- 1983 Paleontologist Frank Garcia makes a historical find of fossils in the Leisey Shell Pit. Among the discoveries was the largest North American Sloth skeleton discovered.
- 1988 Paul Dickman is inducted to the Florida Agriculture Hall of Fame.
- 2000 The A. P. Dickman House becomes Ruskin's second nationally designated historic landmark.
- 2004 November, Dr. Harold (Hal) Ott, owner and veterinarian at Ruskin Animal Hospital opened South Hillsborough County's first and largest off leash dog park named Ott's Off leash Dog Park.
- 2008 Hillsborough Community College opens on land donated by the Dickman family.

Ruskin Scrambled Events

(Student)

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