

Creating a Sun City Timeline

Grade:	4
Locale:	Sun City Center
When:	20 th and 21 st Centuries
Spark of Interest:	Make a 175 year timeline for Sun City Center
Content Areas:	History/Math
Timeframe:	1 Hour
Sunshine State Standards:	SS.A.6.2 SS.A.1.2 MA.A.2.2

Abstract:

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

Materials:

- 7 sheets of 12" x 18" of construction paper per student
- Six 12" strips of clear tape per student
- One copy of Scrambled Sun City Center Events sheet per student
- One pair of scissors per student
- One pencil per student
- One ruler per student
- Glue
- One teacher copy of Sun City Center Events (Teacher Copy) sheet

Key Vocabulary:

- | | | |
|------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| -Timeline | -Circa | -Home Owner's Association |
| -Community Association | -Civic | -Corporation |
| -Corp. | -Incorporate | -Development (Housing) |
| -Retired | | |

Lesson Outline:

1. Prior to lesson make 1 copy of Sun City Center Events sheet for each student.
2. Have a teacher copy of Sun City Center Background Information sheet.
3. Have teacher copy of Scrambled Sun City Center Events on hand to check accuracy of student work.
4. Read Sun City Center Background Information sheet to class. Discuss.
5. Inform class they will be creating a timeline for Sun City Center.
6. Place students in cooperative pairs.
7. Distribute 7 sheets of construction paper per student.
8. Distribute 6 pieces 12" clear tape to each student.

9. Students should lay each piece of construction paper end to end the long way.
10. 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.
11. Tape ends of paper together.
12. In the upper middle part of the first sheet of paper (very left sheet) students should write 1851-1875.
13. In the upper middle part of the second sheet of paper on the students should write 1876-1900.
14. In the upper middle part of the third sheet of paper on the students should write 1901-1925.
15. In the upper middle part of the fourth sheet of paper on the students should write 1926-1950.
16. In the upper middle part of the fifth sheet of paper on the students should write 1951-1975.
17. In the upper middle part of the sixth sheet of paper on the students should write 1976-2000.
18. In the upper middle part of the seventh sheet of paper on the students should write 2001-2025.
19. Distribute Scrambled Sun City Center Events sheet.
20. Students neatly cut out each event and corresponding date.
21. 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.
22. Student partners should check each others work then raise hands for teacher to check.
23. Students should glue the cutouts onto the construction paper.
24. Display timelines for others to see.

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.

Scrambled Sun City Center Events (Student)

- 1961 January 1st, official Grand Opening of Del E. Webb's Sun City Center.
- 2001 Watermark Communities Inc. changed its name to WCI Communities Inc.
- 1960 Del Webb opens first phase of Sun City in Arizona. Sun City Center in Florida would be modeled on this community near Phoenix.
- 1972 March Jim Walter and Gerald Gould formed W-G Development Corporation purchased 12,000 acres from Del Webb for 13.1 million dollars. They continued to develop Sun City Center.
- 1960 Late that year Del Webb a 12,000 acre cattle ranch that extended from the Little Manatee River at the south to 19th St. in the north, Hwy. 301 at the east and about where I-75 is now in the west.
- 1962 April 20th, the following people participated in the first key inspection of their homes; Mr. Aaron Lanier, Mrs. Mary Shelton, Mr. and Mrs. Jason Stafford, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Ward, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Stock, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Eakin, Mr. and Mrs. George Behner.
- 1981 The Victor H. Palmeri Corporation bought the development in Sun City Center. The company's name was later changed to Sunmark Corporation.
- 1962 April 25th, early in the day Frank and Mildred Ward actually moved into their house they were the first couple to occupy their permanent home. The Lindemans moved into their home later that day making them the second family to occupy their home in Sun City Center.
- 1899 Del E. Webb Jr. is born.
- 1964 The all volunteer emergency squad is organized.
- 1998 Part of the northern section of Sun City Center was developed as Aston Gardens.
- 1962 January, the second family moved into Sun City Center. Mary Shelton moved into Apartment C.
- 1971 The mini-bus system begins.
- 1962 January, the average price of a home and lot sold for just over \$20,000.

- 1971 May 24th the Kings Inn Restaurant of Sun City Center was completely destroyed by fire. The English Tudor style Inn and restaurant was a popular dining place at the time. Walgreens currently stands on the same location.
- 1972 W-G sold some of their property to a developer on the east coast of Florida. This company began building Kings Point.
- 1974 Del E. Webb Jr. died.
- 1981 The SCC Patrol originates with the response of several residents in response to a series of residential burglaries.
- 1961 Early this year Del Web purchased much of the cattle ranch from Universal Marion Corp.
- 1982 Trinity Lake Towers, later shortened to Lake Towers were built.
- 1961 May 10th, groundbreaking activities took place in Del Webb's Sun City Center.
- 1986 The Civic Association and Home Owners Association combined to better protect the residents and lifestyle of Sun City Center Residents.
- 1972 W. G. Development begins offering large acreage home lots (Ranchettes) in Sundance for horse people wanting to live in their own piece of the country.
- 1988 Al Hoffman , the developer of Walden Lakes in Plant City purchased the development interests of Sunmark in Sun City Center. It was renamed Florida Design Communities Inc. then renamed Watermark Communities Inc. He purchased Kings Point and undeveloped portions of Sun City Center.
- 2012 Sun City Center will celebrate half a century of existence!
- 1961 December, Aaron Lanier's family was the first to move into Sun City Center. They moved into Apartment A.
- * Many families moved into apartments while their homes were being completed. Some lived in nearby communities such as Ruskin.
- 1964 The Civic Association is incorporated to protect the individual and property rights of Sun City Center residents.
- 1972 Kings Inn and Restaurant is rebuilt.

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Sun City Center Background Information

In 1960 the area now known as Sun City Center was a large ranch and pasture extending from the Little Manatee River in the south to 19th Avenue in the north, Highway 301 in the east, and approximately where Interstate 75 currently is in the west. This area encompassed 12,000 acres of ranch land and pasture land. There would be no I-75 until the 1980's and much of the area flooded during the rainy season.

Del E. Webb Jr. visited this area late in the year 1960. Early in 1961 he purchased the 12,000 acres and his development company broke ground on May 10th 1961. Later that same year people began moving in!

Del Webb was a successful housing developer from the West Coast of the United States. He built a retirement community near Phoenix Arizona. At first he did not wish to start a new project in Florida but business associates and family members convinced him to do so.

The community he envisioned was not originally just for retired people. The original plans for Sun City Center included sites for several schools. This soon changed so that the community became one for seniors only. Sun City Center was originally named Sun City after the community Del Webb built in Arizona but a community to the south and west already had that name, so Del Webb added "Center" to the name to make it Sun City Center.

The community has gone through several up and down swings along with the economy in general. Some periods of time many people moved in, other times the Sun City Center's growth has been slow. Several companies have owned the development rights since 1961. Sun City Center is currently a thriving community rife with a spirit of volunteerism, helping ones neighbors and community, and charity and kindness. This senior community maintains a vigorous lifestyle where residents continue to educate themselves, stay physically fit, and participate in community activities that enhance everyone's lives. Several organizations continue to provide services and goodwill to residents within and about the outlying area of Sun City Center.