



Train Track Time Machine

All Aboard: History, Culture, and Innovation on the Florida East Coast Railway

Grade Level:

3rd Grade

Materials:

Photos:

- Railroad Travelers
- The Train on the FEC Railway

Map:

- FEC Railway and Extension to Key West
- FEC Extension to Key West

Additional Supplies:

- Examples of Vintage Travel Posters
- Paper
- Pencils
- Map of FEC Extension
- Markers
- Crayons
- Colored Pencils

Curriculum Connections:

Math, Social Studies, Science, Art, Florida Education

Objectives:

Students will be introduced to the Florida East Coast Railway's Overseas Extension and learn what it would have been like to ride on the train to Key West.

Standards:

MA.3.M.1: Measure the Length of Objects and Solve Problems Involving Length
SC.3.P: Physical Science
SS.3.G: Geography
VA.3.H: Historical and Global Connections
VA.3.F: Innovation, Technology, and the Future

Corresponding Map Hot Spot:

Key West, FL

Lesson Procedure

Introduction:

Introduce the lesson's theme, railroad travel. Use the pictures of the travelers and the railroad to have a discussion about what it would have been like to ride on the Overseas Railway to places that were formerly only reachable by boat.

Talk about how this new mode of transportation would have changed life for people living in the Keys (delivery of mail, supplies, passengers, etc.). Tell the students that today they will be imagining what it would have been like to travel to the Keys on the Florida East Coast Railway in the early 1900s.

Travel Agents:

Divide the students into groups of 4. Explain that they have been hired as travel agents working in 1912, the year the Key West Extension opened.

Their job? Get the word out to travelers about the Florida Keys. They have been tasked with designing an itinerary for a trip to Key West. The transportation for this trip is the Florida East Coast Railway. Give each group a map of the railroad, photos of the Florida Keys, pencils, and paper.

Their first job is to decide on which areas to visit and then map out the trip, measuring the distances between each destination and thinking about how much time visitors will need to spend at each location. Once they have a rough plan in place for their vacation package, the groups should work together to design a travel poster in the style of vintage travel posters. (Show them some examples).

Presentations:

Once the students have completed their trip plans and travel posters, they will present them to the class in the form of a commercial for their trip. Give them some time to plan how they will concisely share the highlights of the trip they have planned in a style that will entice people to book it.

*This lesson may be divided over the span of several days.

Additional Resources:[Overseas Railway Timeline](#)

This timeline on the Key West Art & Historical Society's website provides additional information about Henry M. Flagler's life, career, history and the development of the Florida East Coast Railway and extension to Key West, Florida.

[Online Collections Database](#)

With a collecting history that extends back to 1949, the Key West Art & Historical Society has unrivaled collections of contemporary and historic art and artifacts. Its collections, which number more than 35,000 works in all media, range from historical to present-day and span the entire Florida Keys.

Map of Florida East Coast Railway Showing the Key West Extension

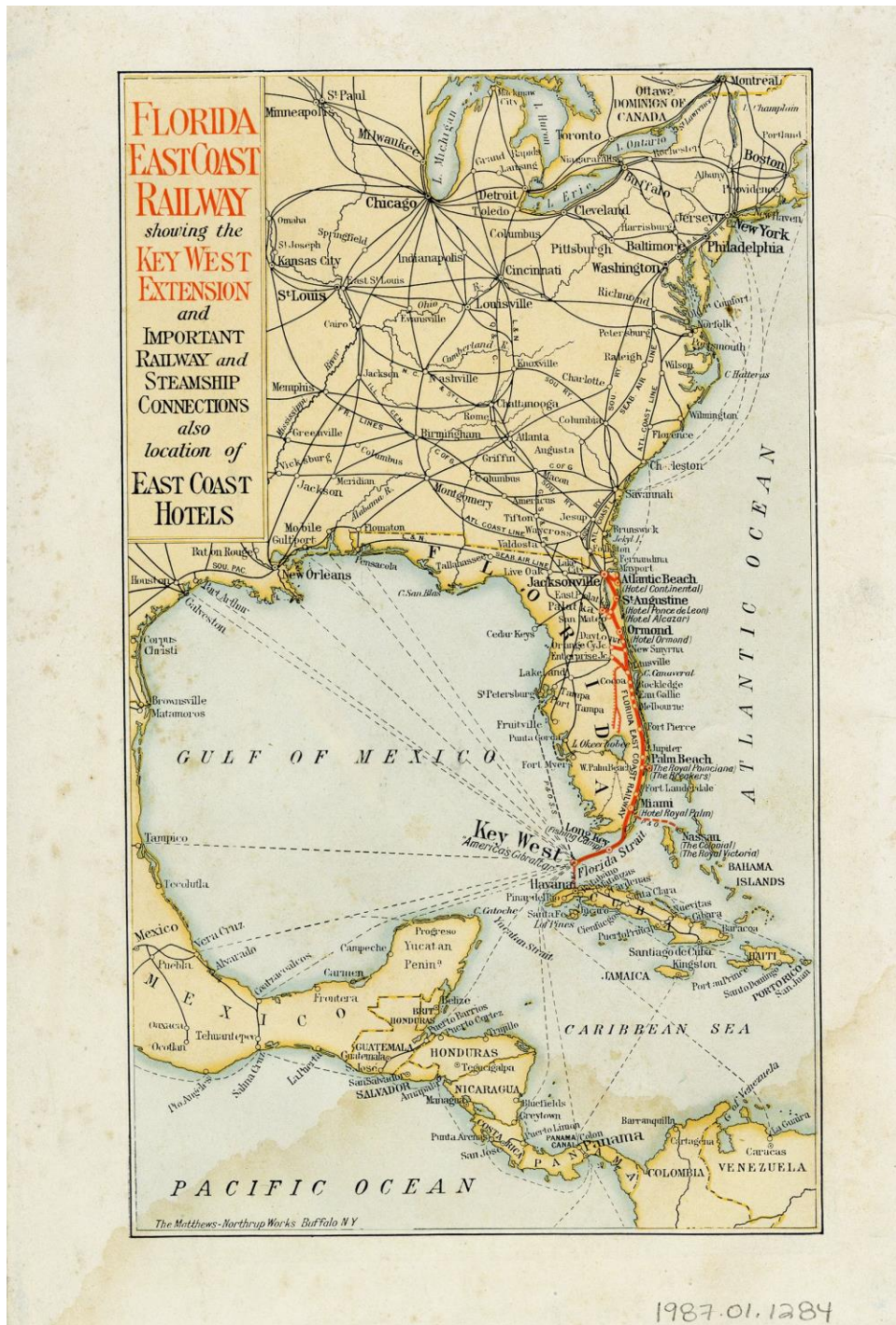


Photo: Key West Art & Historical Society



PROGRESS

THE above photographic reproduction of Engine 420 visualizes the new mountain type locomotives, which have been purchased for the express purpose of handling the winter tourist traffic this season. These locomotives are capable of hauling a passenger train of fifteen cars, or a freight train of eighty loaded cars. A description of the 400 series, of which there are twenty in service, follows:

Diameter of Cylinder.....	26 inches	Total Weight	515,000 pounds
Cylinder Stroke	28 inches	Fuel	Oil
Diameter of Driving Wheel.....	73 inches	Heating Surface	3,812 square feet
Boiler Pressure.....	200 pounds	Grate Area	66.8 square feet
Weight on Drivers	210,500 pounds	Maximum Tractive Power.....	44,000 pounds
Weight of Engine.....	313,000 pounds	Water Capacity	10,000 gallons
Weight of Tender.....	202,000 pounds	Fuel Capacity	4,000 gallons

The Florida East Coast Railway is the only line east of the Mississippi River operating oil-burning locomotives, which combined with rock ballast makes for a speedy, delightful, smokeless, cinderless trip along the famous East Coast of Florida.

The construction program inaugurated a year ago has progressed to the extent that double track is now in use at points where congestion has shown the necessity thereof, particularly at South Jacksonville, New Smyrna, Fort Pierce and West Palm Beach.

The Miami Belt Line is complete from the main line to Hialeah. The Okeechobee Extension will be open about January 1st to Canal Point and Pahokee.

The double track railway bridge across the St. Johns River is more than fifty per cent complete and will be finished during the summer of 1925.

Double track construction will be continued without cessation and it is expected that a continuous double track will be in service from Jacksonville to a point south of St. Augustine, and twenty-five miles between West Palm Beach and Miami by another season, with long stretches of it at several other locations between Jacksonville and Miami.



FLORIDA EAST COAST RAILWAY COMPANY

Remember that the railroads put more money into circulation than any other American institution; and that in one family out of every fifteen the bread-winner is a railroad employee.



Image: Florida Memory

Vintage Florida Travel Posters

*Collection of
McMickson - Post*

EXCURSIONS

TO HAVANA



THROUGH THE FLORIDA KEYS
THE RAILROAD OVER THE OCEAN
THE EIGHTH WONDER OF THE WORLD

\$27.50 ROUND TRIP FROM **Miami**

\$40.35 MIAMI TO HAVANA
And Return Direct to Tampa

Return Any P. & O. Ship Within Ten Days

No Extra Charge For Meals and Berth
on P. & O. Ships - Music and Dancing

HAVANA SPECIAL, F. E. C. TRAIN NO. 75
Sleeper Open 9:00 P. M.

LV. MIAMI, F. E. C. RY.	DAILY	3:40 A. M.
AR. KEY WEST	DAILY	7:40 A. M.
LV. KEY WEST, P. & O. SHIPS	DAILY	8:30 A. M.
AR. HAVANA, CUBA	DAILY	2:45 P. M.

RIDE THROUGH THE FLORIDA KEYS IN DAYLIGHT

LV. MIAMI F. E. C. RY.	DAILY	11:05 A. M.
AR. KEY WEST	DAILY	4:35 P. M.

OVERNIGHT AT KEY WEST
The Island City

SPECIAL RATES FOR DINNER, LODGING AND BREAKFAST AT THE CASA MARINA AND LA CONCHA HOTELS, KEY WEST, CAN BE HAD IF ARRANGED FOR AT TIME EXCURSION TICKET IS PURCHASED.

RETURNING

LV. HAVANA, P. & O. SHIP	DAILY	10:30 A. M.
AR. KEY WEST	DAILY	4:30 P. M.
LV. KEY WEST, F. E. C. RY.	DAILY	6:00 P. M.
AR. MIAMI	DAILY	10:00 P. M.

Short Sea Trip, Key West to Havana—6 Hours

For Reservations and Information Apply to F. E. C. Ticket Agents,
201 S. E. First Street. Phone 2-8408, or to
T. B. WALKER, Dist. Agt.,

211 S. E. First St. Phone 20518

THE PENINSULAR & OCCIDENTAL S. S. CO.

Image: Florida Memory

ATTRACTIONS OF **THE PLANT SYSTEM**

ON THE WEST COAST OF **FLORIDA**

PLANT SYSTEM HOTELS:
TAMPA BAY HOTEL, TAMPA, FLA.
HOTEL BELLEVIEW, BELLAIRE, FLA.
THE SEMINOLE, WINTER PARK, FLA.
THE KISSIMMEE, KISSIMMEE, FLA.
THE INN, PORT TAMPA, FLA.
THE OCALA HOUSE, OCALA, FLA.
THE PUNTA GORDA, PUNTA GORDA, FLA.

TAMPA BAY HOTEL, TAMPA BAY, FLA.
D.P. HATHAWAY, MANAGER.

THE CASINO, AT TAMPA BAY HOTEL.

"WINTER UNDER A SOUTHERN SKY"

THEATRICAL AUDITORIUM, TAMPA BAY HOTEL.

SWIMMING POOL, TAMPA BAY HOTEL.

THE WEST COAST OF FLORIDA
THE HEALTH & PLEASURE SEEKERS PARADISE.
Through Trains from all Points, via
PLANT SYSTEM.

Beautifully illustrated descriptive literature, sent upon application.

H. B. PLANT, PRESIDENT.
B. W. WRENN, PASS. TRAFFIC M'GR., SAVANNAH - GA.
J. J. FARNSWORTH, EASTERN PASS. AGENT., 261 BROADWAY, NEW YORK.

Image: Florida Memory

Vintage Florida Travel Posters

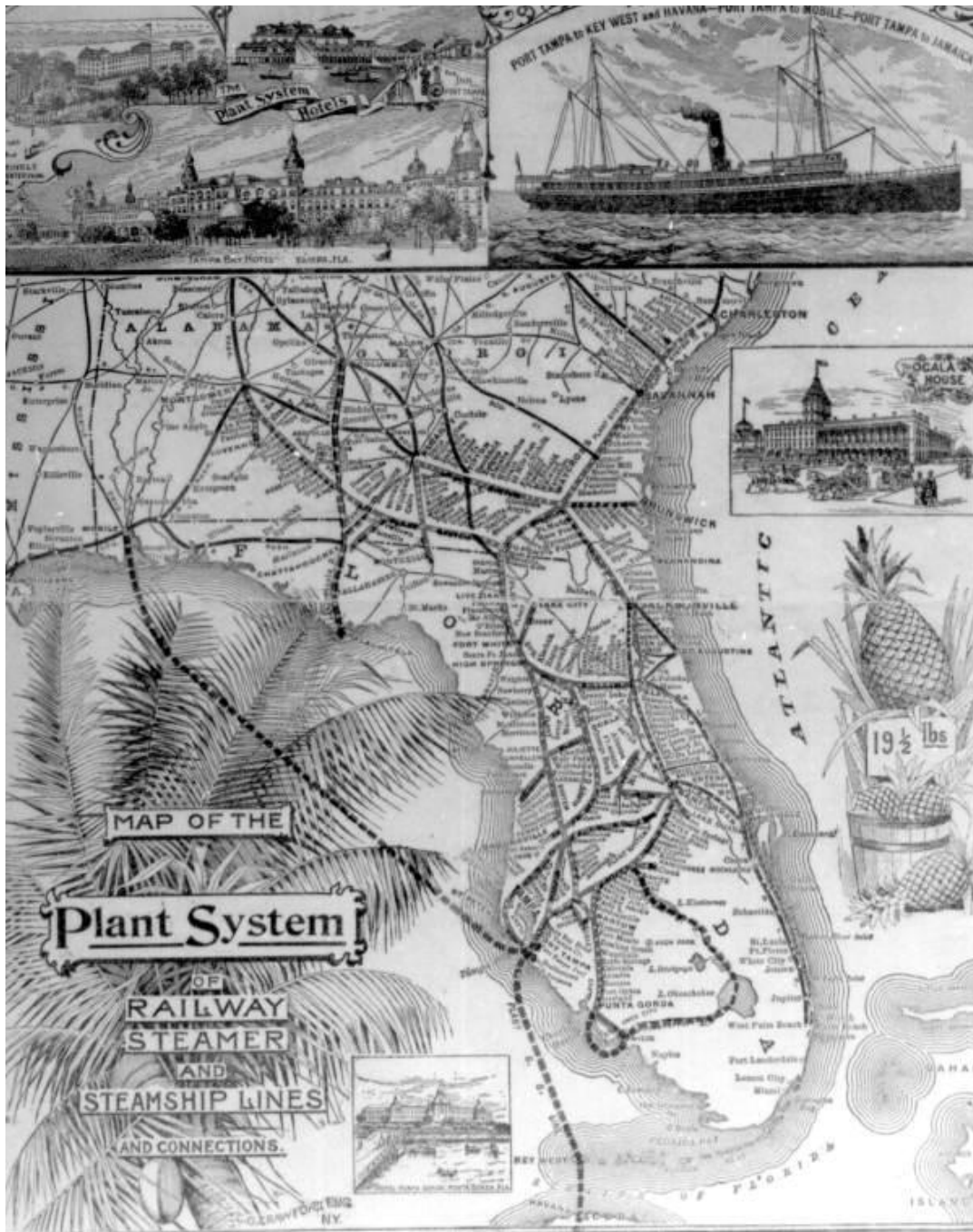


Photo: (left) Florida Memory (right) Florida Memory

Images of Travelers on the Florida East Coast Railway



Black and white photograph of passengers and waiter inside the club car on the Florida East Coast Railway in April, 1930. Passengers include Rosie Baker, Mrs. Kirtland, Kingman Curry, Minnie Porter Harris, Mr. N.C. Hall, Ilee Williams, Mr. Kirtland, Zuela Russel and Min Warren.

Photo: Key West Art & Historical Society



Postcard depicting two girls on the back of an Overseas Railway train car with a sign that reads, 'Key West, Florida Special, Over Sea Limited, Florida East Coast Railway'.

Photo: Key West Art & Historical Society

Images of Travelers on the Florida East Coast Railway



Black and white photograph of musicians and passengers at the rear of the Florida Special train at the Miami East Coast Railroad passenger station.

Photo: Key West Art & Historical Society

Images of the Florida Keys



Postcard depicting an Overseas Railway train on Long Key Viaduct. The caption reads, 'Florida East Coast Railway Key West Extension, Express Train Crossing Famous Long Key Viaduct, Florida'.

Photo: Key West Art & Historical Society



Postcard depicting the Overseas Railway at the entrance to a bridge. The caption reads, 'Florida East Coast Railway, Key West, Extension, end of the land, railroad entering over sea embankment, Florida'.

Photo: Key West Art & Historical Society

Images of the Florida Keys



Aerial View of Marathon Key, Florida.

Photo: Key West Art & Historical Society



Black and white photograph of a Florida East Coast Railway train crossing the Seven Mile Bridge. Photograph taken from Pigeon Key.

Photo: Key West Art & Historical Society

Images of the Florida Keys



Postcard depicting the Overseas Highway above Pigeon Key. The caption reads, 'Overseas Highway spanning Pigeon Key and Fishing Camp'. The description on the verso reads, 'The longest span of the Overseas Highway is the seven mile portion which spans Pigeon Key. On this small island about midway between Miami and Key West, is located a popular fishing camp.'

Photo: Key West Art & Historical Society

Bibliography:

*Information is in the order that it appears in the document

- The Matthews-Northrup Works Buffalo, N.Y. *Map of Florida East Coast Railway*. Circa 1917. Key West Art & Historical Society, Florida. kwahs.pastperfectonline.com/webobject/255FD84A-8976-4EE3-97CE-354071993920.
- Florida East Coast Railway. *Key West extension, Florida East Coast Railway, opened January 22, 1912*. Matthews Northrop Works, 1912. doi: www.doi.org/10.5479/sil.56485.39088001792985.
- Florida East Coast Railway. *Florida East Coast Railway diesel locomotive #420 in advertisement*. 1925. Florida Memory, Florida. www.floridamemory.com/items/show/35357.
- Florida East Coast Railway. *Advertisement for excursions to Havana via the F.E.C. and Peninsular & Occidental Steamship Co.* Circa 1900s. Florida Memory, Florida. <https://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/258486>.
- Plant System. *Advertisement of the Plant System including the Tampa Bay Hotel - Tampa, Florida*. Florida Memory, Florida. www.floridamemory.com/items/show/33374.
- Plant System. *Map of the plant system of railway, steamer, and steamship lines and connections*. Circa 1900s. Florida Memory, Florida. <https://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/36519>.
- S.n. *Inside a Florida East Coast Railway Clubcar*. April, 1930. Key West Art & Historical Society, Florida. <https://kwahs.pastperfectonline.com/photo/2F36AB81-2575-483A-BD68-521774914518>.
- S.n. *Florida East Coast Railway Portrait*. N.d. Key West Art & Historical Society, Florida. <https://kwahs.pastperfectonline.com/webobject/8271AF21-98E5-45FD-9F64-264632971618>.
- S.n. *Florida East Coast Railway Florida Special Train*. 1928. Key West Art & Historical Society, Florida. <https://kwahs.pastperfectonline.com/photo/A31D2D92-CF51-47EF-8CD2-640043356433>.
- Frank Johnson, Key West, Florida. *Train on Long Key Viaduct*. Circa 1915. Key West Art & Historical Society, Florida. <https://kwahs.pastperfectonline.com/webobject/3825FEFA-D297-4DA7-883A-801893822410>.
- H & W.B. Drew Company, Jacksonville, Florida. *Florida East Coast Railway, Key West, Extension, End of the Land, Railroad Entering Over Sea Embankment, Florida*. Circa 1920s. Key West Art & Historical Society, Florida. <https://kwahs.pastperfectonline.com/webobject/86A988BD-87AA-494C-A931-179540503453>.
- Swift, Edwin. *Aerial View of Marathon Key, Florida*. Circa 1970s. Key West Art & Historical Society, Florida. <https://kwahs.pastperfectonline.com/webobject/7484E2A2-117B-4D38-B2A8-151799440779>.
- S.n. *Florida East Coast Railway on the Seven Mile Bridge*. Circa 1920s. Key West Art & Historical Society, Florida. <https://kwahs.pastperfectonline.com/photo/65769836-C160-4BC9-BF33-615343703717>.
- Aero-Graphic Corporation. *Overseas Highway Spanning Pigeon Key and Fishing Camp*. Circa 1940s. Key West Art & Historical Society, Florida. <https://kwahs.pastperfectonline.com/webobject/B4167F61-6384-4575-8C06-328262254073>.