Florida Land Rush

Trace the causes and effects of Florida's 1920s land boom and bust.

SS.4.A.7.1 "Describe the causes and effects of the 1920's Florida land boom and bust."

NAME ______________________ DATE ____________

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline causes that helped start or weaken the land boom. Circle effects of the boom or bust, then write 1, 2, and 3 beside events that show the order from boom to bust.

Boom, Then Bust

1 During the 1920s, many people saw Florida as a place to vacation, work, or retire. Developers advertised sunny weather and new neighborhoods to people across the United States. Improved roads and rail service helped visitors arrive. Some buyers used savings, but others borrowed money or made small down payments. They hoped the price of a lot would quickly rise.

2 Investors rushed to buy land and then sell it to another buyer for more money. This guessing that prices would keep rising is called speculation. Demand made prices climb, and construction spread quickly. Yet many lots were sold for far more than they were worth. Railroads became crowded with building supplies, and some potential buyers could not easily reach Florida.

3 By 1925, fewer new buyers were arriving, so sellers could not find people to pay the high prices. The land boom began to collapse. Hurricanes in 1926 and 1928 damaged communities and made recovery harder. Many people lost money, unfinished projects remained, and banks faced unpaid loans. Florida entered an economic slump years before the nationwide Great Depression began in 1929.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What are two reasons people came to Florida or bought land during the boom?

2. How did speculation affect land prices and construction?

3. Why did the land boom begin to collapse by 1925?

4. Name two effects of the land bust on Florida's people or economy.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write exactly four sentences that explain a cause-and-effect chain from the land boom to the bust. Include at least two causes and two effects, and use the words *because* and *so*.

ANSWER KEY # Florida Land Rush

GRADE 4 · SS.4.A.7.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline causes that helped start or weaken the land boom. Circle effects of the boom or bust, then write 1, 2, and 3 beside events that show the order from boom to bust. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What are two reasons people came to Florida or bought land during the boom?	**Accept two: Florida seemed like a place to vacation, work, or retire; developers advertised it; improved roads and rail service helped visitors arrive; buyers could borrow money or make small down payments.**
2	How did speculation affect land prices and construction?	**Speculation increased demand, which made land prices climb and caused construction to spread quickly.**
3	Why did the land boom begin to collapse by 1925?	**Fewer new buyers were arriving, so sellers could not find people willing to pay the high prices.**
4	Name two effects of the land bust on Florida's people or economy.	**Accept two: people lost money, unfinished projects remained, banks had unpaid loans, and Florida entered an economic slump.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Advertisements and easy payment choices brought many buyers to Florida because people expected land prices to rise. Speculation pushed prices higher, so construction spread quickly. When fewer buyers arrived, sellers could not get the high prices they wanted. The boom collapsed, and people lost money while banks had unpaid loans.

Accept accurate cause-and-effect chains supported by the passage. Students may organize the causes and effects in different orders if the relationships are clear and historically accurate.