

Creating a Balm Timeline

Grade:	4
Locale:	Balm/Ft. Lonesome
When:	19 th , 20 th , and 21 st Centuries
Spark of Interest:	Balm, over 175 years
Content Areas:	History/Math
Timeframe:	1 Hour
Sunshine State Standards:	SS.A.1.2 SS.A.6.2 MA.A.2.2

Abstract:

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

Materials:

- 8 sheets of 12" x 18" of construction paper per student
- Seven 12" strips of clear tape per student
- One copy of Scrambled Balm Events sheet per student
- One pair of scissors per student
- One pencil per student
- One ruler per student
- Glue
- One teacher copy of Balm Events (Teacher Copy) sheet
- One teacher copy of Pioneering Families of Balm, The Sweats and the Simmons.

Key Vocabulary:

- Timeline -Circa
- Sr. -Jr.

Lesson Outline:

1. Prior to lesson make 1 copy of Scrambled Balm Events sheet for each student.
2. Have teacher copy of Balm Events sheet on hand to check accuracy of student work.
3. Inform class they will be creating a timeline for Balm.
4. Read Pioneer Families of Balm, The Sweats and the Simmons aloud to students.
5. Place students in cooperative pairs.

6. Distribute 7 sheets of construction paper per student.
7. Distribute 6 pieces 12” clear tape to each student.
8. Students should lay each piece of construction paper end to end the long way.
9. 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.
10. Tape ends of paper together.
11. In the upper middle part of the first sheet of paper (very left sheet) students should write 1826-1850.
12. In the upper middle part of the second sheet of paper on the students should write 1851-1875.
13. In the upper middle part of the third sheet of paper on the students should write 1876-1900.
14. In the upper middle part of the fourth sheet of paper on the students should write 1901-1925.
15. In the upper middle part of the fifth sheet of paper on the students should write 1926-1950.
16. In the upper middle part of the sixth sheet of paper on the students should write 1951-1975.
17. In the upper middle part of the seventh sheet of paper on the students should write 1976-2000.
18. In the upper middle part of the eighth sheet of paper on the students should write 2001-2025.
19. Distribute Scrambled Balm 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.

Pioneer Families of Balm The Sweats and the Simmons

Much of the history of the Balm area can be told through the eyes of the brave and hardy pioneering families who first settled there and were instrumental in defining its growth and character. The Sweats have the honor of being the first permanent settlers in Balm and the Simmons were not far behind. Both families have countless stories passed down from generation to generation of the “Old Days” of living in a wilderness and providing everything they needed to survive on their own with no help from anyone! They hunted panther and wild hogs, raised and butchered their own livestock, grew their own crops, grubbed palmettos, made their own houses, barns, tools, soap, and more.

Many of the families were large with as many as 16 children in one family! They are a model of strength, energy, resourcefulness, community mindedness, and success. In the wilderness days of South Hillsborough County these families did more than survive. They thrived and used their hard work and resourcefulness to build up the community of Balm around them. They were instrumental in establishing schools, businesses, and infrastructure. They truly define what the American Dream is and they lead by example!

Scrambled Balm Events

- 1973 January 17th Artie M. Simmons died.
- 1937 The Florida Citrus Exchange packing house was torn down.
- 1831 May 5th Margaret Elizabeth Walker (Ellsworth Simmons Great-Grandmother) is born.
- 1948 Harley Sweat retired from the Balm post office.
- 1968 August 1st George M. Simmons died.
- 1853 James and Elizabeth Prine Sweat moved from Georgia to Ft. Lonesome. They were the first settlers there.
- 1981 Pooka Sweat retired from the post office.
- 1885 James D. (The son of James and Elizabeth Prine Sweat) Sweat married Georgia Carlton and they moved to Balm, they had 16 children.
- 1924 Elizabeth Prine Sweat died.
- 1862 January 27 James G. Simmons was born, he became known as Uncle Jim.
- 1990 Ellsworth Simmons was named "Man of the Year" by the Ruskin Chamber of Commerce.
- 1886 Etta Pringle was born. She would marry James G. Simmons. They would have 9 children.
- * Etta and James Simmons children were Jackson V., George M., Lela Blanche, Byrdie Clara, Herman Grady, Thomas Branch, Walter, Susan, and Margaret Jane.
- 1885 December 16th George (Doc) M. Simmons was born.
- 1934 Grady Sr. and Elizabeth "Pooka" Bradley were married. They had 2 children Joan and Grady Jr.
- 1889 Harley Sweat was born
- 1890 May 9th C. W. and Mary Sweat's daughter Artie was born. She would later become Mrs. George M. Simmons.
- * Artie and George Simmons had 5 children. They were Wilhelmina, Ellsworth, Kathryn, Royce, and Winnifred.

- 1905 Harley Sweat bought the general store in Balm.
- 1936 March 20th Etta Simmons Died
- 1953 Ellsworth Simmons was elected chairman of the County Commissioners.
- 1893 Leona Albritton was born
- 1898 Mr. Hicks provided land for a railroad to be built in Balm.
- 1905 Leona Albritton and Harley Sweat were married. They had 5 children Leola, Georgia, Tommy, Pickney, and Grady Sr.
- 1941 (Circa) Ellsworth and Carolyn Simmons move back to the family farm on Simmons Loop.
- 1878 James D. Sweat died.
- 1907 Grady Sweat Sr. father began running the Balm post office.
- 1916 April 5th Grady Sweat Sr. was born.
- 1905 Georgia Sweat died.
- 1919 May 28th Elizabeth "Pooka" Bradley was born.
- 1849 December 24th Marshall V. Simmons and Margaret Elizabeth Walker are married. They originally lived in the Georgia-North Carolina area.
- * Marshal and Elizabeth Simmons had 14 children. They were all born in the Hopewell/Brandon area. Their names are Elizabeth J., Susan E., Julie C., James G., William C., Lee, Margaret, Helen, Emmet Ed, Henry Byrd, Emma Lessie, Ida Virginia, Solomon Walter, and Lilla Ruth.
- 1932 Ellsworth G. Simmons marries Carolyn Eason.
- 1937 George "Doc" Sweat died.
- 1936 Ellsworth and Carolyn Simmons have their second child George Simmons Jr.
- 1906 Marshall D. Simmons Died.
- 1948 Ellsworth Simmons won reelection to the School Board unopposed.
- 1934 Ellsworth and Carolyn Eason's first child is born.

- 1951 Ellsworth Simmons was asked by Governor Warren to serve on Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners.
- 1962 Harley Sweat died.
- 1826 March 17th Marshall V. Simmons (Great-Grandfather of Ellsworth Simmons) is born.
- 1935 Ellsworth and Carolyn Simmons move to the community of Willow so Ellsworth could work for the Robbins Manufacturing Company which was McGowin Foshee Lumber Company then.
- 1890 N. L. Clark built what was probably the first general store in Balm.
- 1964 Grady Sweat Sr. began growing peaches in Balm and became the President of Peaches of Florida Incorporated. He had 40 acres of them.
- 1977 Grady Sr. and Pooka Sweat purchased a historic zigzag fence. It belonged to the famous Doc Holiday who had the 1881 shootout at the OK corral in Tombstone Arizona with Wyatt Morgan and Virgil Earp.
- 1981 Leona Sweat died.
- 1915 Ellsworth Simmons was born. He was a 4th generation Floridian.
- 1905 The Florida Citrus Exchange packing house was built in Balm.
- 1969 Grady Sweat Sr. pulled together several businesses and landowners to create the largest, privately financed man made lake in Florida and perhaps the South. The lake is named Grady Lake.
- 1944 Ellsworth won the election to be on the School Board.
- 1962 Commission Chairman Ellsworth Simmons authorized money for the building of a new Balm Road.
- 1929 The Florida Citrus Exchange packing house was closed.
- 1936 October 23rd J. G. "Uncle Jim" Simmons died.
- 1978 Grady Sweat Sr. developed a drip irrigation system for groves that saves water and electricity.
- 1948 Pooka Sweat took over the Balm post office when her father in law retired.

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