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Florida Fights For Spring Training

Friday, March 8, 2013 | Seana Smith, Fox Business

Major League Baseball training camps are springing into action as players and coaches hit the fields to



kickoff the 2013 season. Pre-season games in the Florida-based Grapefruit League and the Arizona-based Cactus League attract millions of fans each year, driving tourism and boosting revenue for local economies. A study conducted by FMR Associates estimated out-of-area fans added \$422 million in direct economic benefit to the state of Arizona, up \$112 million from 2007, while the Bonn Marketing Research Group released a study showing the Grapefruit League added \$753 million to Florida's economy.

Spring training's lucrative economic impact is sparking a battle between Florida and Arizona to keep teams from relocating. In less than 10 years, six teams have left the "Sunshine State" in favor of "The Grand Canyon State."

After playing spring ball in Florida for decades, the Texas Rangers and Kansas City Royals triggered the migration from the Grapefruit League nine years ago. Both teams relocated to Surprise, AZ, where a new \$48.3 million Surprise Stadium ballpark was built. The Reds, Indians, Dodgers and White Sox each followed suit and the Cactus League is now home to half of the Major League's 30 teams. And leases for five more teams will be up for renewal in Florida over the next few years, prompting the state to campaign for teams to stay. Florida Governor Rick Scott spent the day at the spring training home of the Detroit Tigers, proposing a \$5 million annual fund to be used for team facilities. "Teams want to have great stadiums. They want to be able to make sure their players can train well here and can rehab well here," said Gov. Scott. "They know that Florida with its 89 million tourists per year is a great place for their fans. That's why we have such a history of spring training." Florida State Senator Jack Latvala added the funding will help maintain a quality spring training season while creating and supporting jobs.

Also, the Florida Sports Foundation is pledging its commitment to keep spring training in Florida. "It's a very important part of Florida's community and economy," said John Webb, Florida Sports Foundation President. "About 1.6 million fans attended spring training games in Florida last year and 61% were out-of-state visitors. It's a huge economic driver for the state." The FSF is currently working on creating a trust fund for counties with spring training teams to assist with ground upkeep, stadium renovations and other construction. This year marks the 125th anniversary of MLB's spring training in Florida.

1. In appropriate paragraph form, compare and contrast the pros and cons synonymous with maintaining a professional baseball organization facility in Florida? What actions might one employ to ensure any additional organizations refrain from migrating to Arizona? Thoroughly explain your reasoning and provide specific artifacts and evidence not limited solely to passage above to support your response. Create and illustrate Venn Diagrams to effectively explore relationships and patterns and to make arguments about relationships between sets. **(LA.910.3.2.2; LA.910.1.6.2; MA.912.D.7.2; MA.912.A.10.1)**
2. In 1930, the average annual income was approximately \$1970 whereas the annual income for 2012 is approximately 2832% greater. A premier ticket in Lakeland to see a Detroit Tigers game in 1930 was about \$4. Proportionately, what would that ticket equate to in 2012? On March 8, 1930 - Babe Ruth signed a two-year contract valued at \$160,000. In an effort to assure posterity, Yankees General Manager Ed Barrow said, "No one in baseball will ever be paid more than Ruth." Yankees third baseman Alex Rodriguez earned \$32 million in 2009 as part of a ten-year \$275 million deal. Proportionately, how much more did Rodriguez earn annually than Ruth? **(MA.912.A.10.1; MA.912.A.5.4; MA.912.A.2.13; MA.912.A.5.1)**
3. Ed Smith Stadium in Sarasota, Florida recently underwent at \$31.2 million renovation under a 30-year Spring Training agreement with the Baltimore Orioles beginning in 2010. A HD LED video board in the outfield measures 17 ft and casts a shadow of 7.5 ft. 26-year-old Baltimore Orioles outfielder, Adam Jones, is 75 inches tall. Use proportions to determine the dimensions of Jones' shadow. Explain your reasoning. **(MA.912.A.10.1; MA.912.A.5.4; MA.912.A.2.13; MA.912.A.5.1)**
4. On May 22, 1963 - Yankee slugger Mickey Mantle hit a prodigious home run, which allegedly struck the stadium roof at 102 ft high, 363 ft from home plate or 1 ft vertically for every 3.56 ft horizontally. Make a table showing the height of the ball at every 73 ft it moves horizontally. Write a fraction that represents the height for each foot it moves horizontally. Graph the results. What does the numerator represent? Explain your reasoning. **(MA.912.G.8.2; MA.912.G.8.3)**
5. Using contextual clues only, define the following italicized terms: *lucrative*, *migration*, *campaign*, and *renovations* as obtained from the passage above. Additionally, use each word in a complete sentence to demonstrate further comprehension. **(LA.910.1.6.3; LA.910.1.6.1)**
6. **SARASOTA MILITARY ACADEMY WORD-OF-THE-WEEK** Create a concluding paragraph aligned with the passage above using the following italicized word: *gregarious* (GAIR ee us) (adj.) Seeking and enjoying the company of others. Sociable. **(LA.910.1.6.1; LA.910.1.6.5)**

Next Generation Sunshine State Standards adapted from floridastandards.org. Standards specifically addressed in this edition are strategically aligned with state standards and annotated adjacent to the respective inquiry.

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