## **CITRUS IN ARIZONA**



Citrus was first domesticated (grown on purpose for human use) about 4000 years ago in Asia. From there, the knowledge of how to grow citrus trees—and a love of the delicious fruit—spread across Europe and Africa. Spanish conquistadors and missionaries brought citrus to the Americas in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

The orange in your lunchbox is the product of thousands of years of cultivation, trade, and exploration!

What other kinds of citrus can you name?

## Match the words on the left to the definitions on the right

- 1. acre A. a network of tracks for train cars; a company that owns and operates trains
- 2. agriculture B. an area of lowland between ranges of hills or mountains
- 3. canal C. a measure of land area (1 square mile = 640 \_\_\_\_s)
- 4. irrigate D. a person who has been sent to a foreign country to teach people about Christianity
- 5. missionary E. the science or occupation of farming, which includes preparing soil, producing
  - crops, and raising livestock
- 6. railroad F. a person who moves into a new region
- 7. Salt River G. in the United States, a geographical area that is not part of a state but has its
  - own government
- 8. settler H. an artificial (manmade) waterway for boats or to bring water to land
- 9. territory I. to supply land with water by artificial means
- 10. valley

  J. flows westward 200 miles through mountains, dams, and cities before it empties into the Gila River 15 miles west-southwest of Phoenix

Digging an irrigation canal is hard work! While **W.J. Murphy** traveled across the country in the 1880s to raise money for the construction of the Arizona Canal, his wife, **Laura Fulwiler Murphy**, lived in a canvas tent with dirt floors at the building site. There Laura helped supervise the canal's construction, persuaded workers not to quit (even though they hadn't been paid), and took care of her three young children.

It wasn't easy. After one rainstorm, Laura wrote, "the ground was covered with thousand-leg worms in the tent and everywhere," and during another storm a few days later, she and her children were nearly crushed when their tent collapsed on top of them!



Find out more about the tenacious people who weren't afraid to farm in the Sonoran Desert by researching the **Hohokam**, **Father Eusebio Kino**, and **Jack Swilling**.



Image Sources: Flickr/wiless/Medley Citrus Label Archives, Library of Congre