

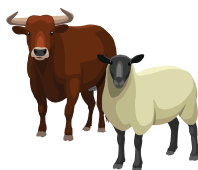
# THE FIVE FS OF FLAGSTAFF

The Five Cs, Copper, Cattle, Cotton, Citrus and Climate, brought many Anglo settlers to Arizona starting in the 1850s and 1860s. These early industries provided jobs and began to change the landscape of the Arizona Territory. Flagstaff's unique climate and topography meant some of the Cs looked different in the mountain town. The Five Fs of Flagstaff will help you understand industries specific to early Flagstaff in the 1870s, 1880s, and early 20th century.

## FARMING

### Related to Citrus and Cattle.

In Flagstaff people grew pinto beans, potatoes, hay and small grains. We had Cattle, but we also had sheep ranches. Many Basque Shepherds immigrated from Spain to herd sheep in Northern Arizona. People from the east sometimes came to Arizona because of the Homestead Act of 1862. This encouraged Anglo families to move west and gave them large homesteads, 160 acres or more, if they built a house on the land. At this time, Indigenous peoples, who had previously lived in Northern Arizona, were forcibly moved to Reservations.



established in 1926. The path of Route 66 (which aligns with the railroad) was based on the Old Trails Highway which was created by linking ancient Indigenous footpaths and trade routes.



## FEMALES

### Sometimes left out of discussions of early history and industry.

Northern Arizona University opened in 1899 as a Normal School, a college that trained teachers. The first four graduates from the Northern Arizona Normal School were all women. The school trained many teachers (both male and female) over the years and still does today! Some women in Flagstaff worked as maids or domestic help for wealthy families. Other women owned or worked in businesses and/or raised families in town. Dew Yu Wong was a Chinese immigrant who owned and operated the American Laundry with her husband. Women in the west wanted equal rights. In Arizona women fought for and won full suffrage in 1912—the same year we became a state. It wasn't until 1920, when all women were officially allowed to vote in America.



## FORESTS

### Related to Copper, Cotton and Climate.

Flagstaff is home to the largest contiguous ponderosa pine forest in the whole world! Lumber Mills in town cut down the big, old-growth trees and sold the lumber all over the country. Many people came to Flagstaff to work in the lumber industry, including Mexican workers during the Mexican Revolution, Mexican-American workers, and African American. During the Great Migration, African-Americans left the south to find better jobs and living conditions in the north and west. Today we also use our forests for recreation including: hunting, camping, hiking, cycling, and skiing.



## FAMILIES

### Without people, industries couldn't exist.

Many families contributed to our early industry, and some of their descendants still live here today! A few of these families became very wealthy by investing in the 5Cs and the 5Fs, like the Riordan brothers and the Babbitt brothers. Other families opened smaller businesses like grocery stores, restaurants, and saloons. Many of these families immigrated, or moved here, from other places like Europe, China, and Mexico. Workers are a very important part of our history. They built the railroad, felled the trees, served the food, cleaned the houses, taught the children, and kept the town running!



## FREIGHT TRAINS

### Used to transport the Copper, Cotton, Cattle and Citrus.

The Santa Fe Railroad connected the Midwest (Chicago) to the West Coast (Los Angeles). The rail line crossed northern Arizona bringing visitors and moving goods in and out of our state. Previously people had to ride in wagons pulled by horses or oxen to cross Arizona. The trains also allowed tourists to visit the Grand Canyon. Tourism would become another major industry in northern Arizona, especially once Route 66 was



ARIZONA  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

For more learning and educational activities, visit the [Arizona History Digital Hub](https://azhs.org) at [azhs.org](https://azhs.org).

Flagstaff | Tempe | Tucson | Yuma