

## Banana Plantations

- " 500,000 people depend on banana industry
- " 100,000 indirect jobs
- " 40,000 direct jobs
- " 1% of CR is banana plantations
- " most on Caribbean coast, in Limón province
- " plastic bags used to protect bananas from insects and help the growing process
- " Dole, Delmonte, Chiquita, Standard Fruit Company (American companies)
- " CR is 2<sup>nd</sup> largest producer of bananas (1<sup>st</sup> is Ecuador)
- " bananas originally from Asia, introduced to CR by Frank Gomez de Verlanka
- " started in 18<sup>th</sup> century
  - " Minor Cooper Cate
    - " built railroads in CR
    - " Americans great consumers - so he grows bananas and sells to America
    - " United Fruit Company - 1<sup>st</sup> fruit company owned by US
    - " started growing in Cent, Metina, Panama
      - " attacked by fungi - crops died
      - " moved to South Pacific, then moved back
- " called blue flame by guides
- " used to be rainforest
- " over 7,000 unemployed because banana plantations have been closing (many became poachers for the \$)
- " need to teach people that marine life is important
- " pollution - big problem
  - " leatherback turtles eat plastic bags
  - " chemicals on bags pollute water
  - " males are sterile and deformed babies because of pesticides
- " need to recycle
- " chemical fertilizers pollute because bananas deplete soil