

Florida Studies Weekly

State History



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GRADE
4

A Playground of Florida Culture

Jerome, Michael and Maria were bouncing a ball back and forth on the playground during the first recess on the first day of school. A young boy whom they had never met walked toward them and watched them play. Jerome and Maria pretended that they did not see him. They did not want to talk to him because he sounded different when he spoke.

The little boy walked closer to Jerome. "Hi," he said quietly to Jerome. Jerome just glanced at him and continued to throw the ball to Maria and Michael. The little boy sighed a little and walked to Maria. "Good day," he said to her, quietly. Maria did not even look at him but continued to play with Jerome and Michael. The little boy looked down and walked away from them, hanging his head.

After continuing to play for a while, Maria stopped and looked over at where the boy was sitting. "Maybe we should just go and talk to him," Maria said. "He seems nice enough." Jerome and Michael nodded in agreement, and they walked over to the little boy.

Maria sat down on the ground on one side while Jerome and Michael stood on his other side. "Hi," Michael said to the boy. The boy looked up at him and said, "What's up?"

"My name's Maria. What is yours?" Maria asked him.

"Renauld," the little boy replied.

"That is a nice name," Maria said, smiling at him.

"Where are you from?"

"I am from Haiti."

"Haiti? That's a strange name! Where is that?"

Jerome asked him.

"It is an island in the Caribbean Sea. My parents came here to give me a good education and to have their own business. They are very good at selling things, but they came here in hopes of a better life in America."

"Wow, that is cool!" Jerome told him. "I had early relatives who came over from Africa on ships as slaves."

"Really?" Maria said. "I didn't know that. My family used to live in Cuba, but they decided to move to America for freedom and a better life. It sounds like we have some things in common."

Michael smiled at everyone. "I'm from Florida. I didn't realize that this state had so many different cultures. It's great to get to meet different kinds of people who have come to America to live. I am glad that we decided to come over here. You seem like a great guy, Renauld."

"Thank you," Renauld said, smiling at them.

"It is great to finally make some friends."



Connections

Walking for a Cause

Have you ever walked a long way? How far? Why did you do it? Some people walk because they don't have any other way to get where they're going. Throughout American history, people have made long walks: exploring the West, cutting new roads, looking for a new place to settle. But have you ever met someone who walked more than a thousand miles just to make a point? You're about to.

Gaby Pacheco recently walked clear from Miami, Florida, to the White House in Washington,

D.C.—more than 1,000 miles! Why? Pacheco wanted to call attention to some laws that were about to be passed that didn't seem very fair to her. Pacheco came to America when she was 7 years old. She and her parents came from Ecuador looking for a better life. Unfortunately, her family didn't have the right papers, and she never "officially" became an American.

Even though Pacheco has lived here twenty years, did well in school, played in the orchestra, ran

track and played basketball, she could be deported at any time. Deported means sent back to the country you're a citizen of, even if you have no home, family or job there.

Throughout Pacheco's walk, she collected stories of other immigrants like herself and was able to share those stories with a top official in the White House.

What do you think about Pacheco's long walk? Will it make a difference?

Florida Next Generation Sunshine State Standards: SS.4.A.1.1: Analyze primary and secondary resources to identify significant individuals and events throughout Florida history. SS.4.A.1.2: Synthesize information related to Florida history through print and electronic media. SS.4.A.6.2: Summarize contributions immigrant groups made to Florida. SS.4.A.6.3: Describe the contributions of significant individuals to Florida. SS.4.A.9.1: Utilize timelines to sequence key events in Florida history. SS.4.C.2.2: Identify ways citizens work together to influence government and help solve community and state problems. SS.4.E.1.1: Identify entrepreneurs from various social and ethnic backgrounds who have influenced Florida and local economy. SS.4.FL.4.1: Discuss that interest is the price the borrower pays for using someone else's money. SS.4.FL.4.2: Identify instances when people use credit, that they receive something of value now and agree to repay the lender over time, or at some date in the future, with interest. SS.4.G.1.1: Identify physical features of Florida. SS.4.G.1.2: Locate and label cultural features on a Florida map. SS.4.G.1.4: Interpret political and physical maps using map elements (title, compass rose, cardinal directions, intermediate directions, symbols, legend, scale, longitude, latitude).

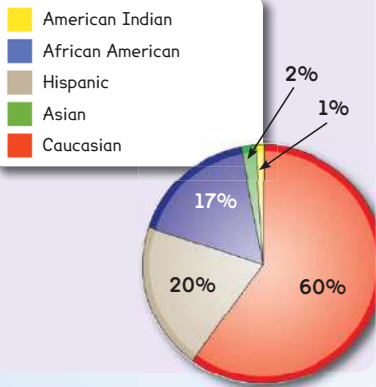


Florida's Heritage and Culture

Check Out the Main Ingredients

Florida is made up of groups of people from all over the world. These people brought new languages, foods, customs and ideas to our state. Every 10 years, the government counts all the people who live in our country. This count is called the census. The government also records how many people there are of each race and where they live.

Florida's Heritage



A recent census shows that about 60 percent of Floridians are Caucasian, or white. About 20 percent of Floridians identify as Hispanic, 17 percent are African American, just over 2 percent are Asian and about 1 percent of Florida's population is American Indian.

What a Difference a Century Makes!

In 1860, Florida had a population of 140,000 people. There were about 78,000 with European descent (white/Caucasian), about 61,000 with African descent (who were also slaves at the time)

and about 1,000 free African. Most of these residents were clustered along the northern part of the state, also known as the panhandle. Florida had very little immigration. The government gave away free land and offered all sorts of ways to entice new people, but Florida's population didn't grow until the early 1900s. You learned about that back in Week 24.

Florida's population is now over 20 million (20,000,000), more than 100 times what it was 150 years ago. When new refugees and immigrants come from the Caribbean and Latin America, they create new costs for Florida. The mixture of cultures sometimes causes social tension. The state of Florida no longer worries about attracting newcomers. And now the government of Florida is trying to find ways to curtail (limit) the growth.

Florida's African American Community

Some of the very first African Americans in Florida had escaped slavery and came to Fort Mose. They lived there as free men and women. Others who escaped slavery found freedom with the Seminole Indians and actually became part of their tribe.

However, there were some African Americans who lived in Florida who had been enslaved before the Civil War. Even when slavery was not allowed, there were many obstacles to civil liberty. But great leaders like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. have led our country toward equal rights for all people.

From 1955 to 1968, King's efforts changed the laws of our country, giving equal rights to all races. In 1964, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize at age 35. Then, in 1968, an angry escaped convict named James Earl Ray killed King.

Florida's Greek Community

Greek people first came to Florida to collect sponges from the Gulf of Mexico. They settled in Tarpon Springs, where visitors can still see the brightly colored sponge boats in the Anclote River.

Family is very important in Greek culture. Weddings, funerals and special occasions are celebrated with large parties and a lot of music, dancing and food. Greek food is popular in Florida,

and meals using feta cheese, yogurt, honey, olives and olive oil are common. Baklava is another popular Greek food that is usually made with nuts and honey.

Florida's Seminole and Miccosukee Community

The Florida Seminole community is another important part of our multi-cultural society. After all, it is the oldest community, or group of people, in Florida. Unfortunately, most of the Seminole were killed or driven out during the Seminole Wars. After the last Seminole War, there were only 150 Seminole left in Florida. Since then, they've avoided attention and solved their own problems. Today, there are thousands of Seminole in Florida. One modern Seminole leader, Joe Dan Osceola, said, "There are good white man things, and there are good Indian things. We want the best of both."

Florida's Cuban Community

Bernardino Gargol and Gavino Guitérrez were two of the first Cubans to move to Florida. They came here looking for a place to grow guava for their business. They also decided to start making and selling cigars. The business was so successful that many more Cubans moved to Florida to work for them.

Today, Cubans are an important part of many Florida communities. Cubans have brought salsa music and mambo dancing to our state. Cuba has also brought us musicians like Enrique Jorrín and authors like Carmen Agra Deedy.

Italy and China of the South

The Florida government wanted Italians to come to Florida because they were familiar with growing citrus. In 1873, Henry S. Sanford tried to recruit Italians by advertising Florida's warm climate.

Florida also tried recruiting the Chinese because of their industriousness and skill in gardening. This recruitment failed because Florida residents wanted to treat the Chinese as the slaves were treated prior to the Civil War. So, you can bet the Italians and Chinese decided to forget that offer.

American Civics

Civil Disobedience

During the 1950s and 1960s, a lot of states had laws that separated people based on race. African American citizens had to eat in different restaurants, shop in different stores and go to different schools than everyone else. A lot of people did not agree with those laws. To protest, they used civil disobedience. Civil disobedience is when a person or a group of people refuses to follow a law they think is wrong. Civil disobedience works best when people stay peaceful.

Protests, boycotts and sit-ins are common ways people protest peacefully. During the civil rights movement, boycotts in Montgomery, Alabama, and Tallahassee, Florida, changed rules about where people were allowed to sit on buses. Sit-ins changed the rules about who could eat at different restaurants, and protests helped convince leaders in Washington, D.C., to write new laws that treated everyone the same.

Miami-Dade, Hardee and Monroe Counties

Miami-Dade County: Where can you see a bunch of primates running around acting crazy? Not your classroom. It's Monkey Jungle, where 400 of the animals roam free. In the county seat of Miami, you can swim with dolphins at Miami Seaquarium. See a real liger (half lion, half tiger) at Jungle Island or visit world-famous Zoo Miami. Head west to Miccosukee Indian Village for some delicious fry bread. It helps to *habla español* in South Florida because this part of the state is bilingual.

Hardee County: Pickles, anyone? Once known as the Cucumber Capital of the World, Hardee County is a good place to find one. Look for fried pickles at Pioneer Park Days, an annual event since 1921. The county seat is Wauchula, which is Miccosukee for "call of the sandhill crane."

Monroe County: This county is home to part of the "River of Grass," Everglades National Park. If 'skeeters and 'gators aren't your style, go south to the Florida Keys. Key West is the county seat. Try your hand at lobstering or fish from a charter boat. This county has a true coral reef. The snorkeling at Looe Key is spectacular. Bring your underwater camera!

Florida Counties



Florida's Asian Americans

Did you know that immigrants and pioneers are still coming to our state? The first immigrants and pioneers came to Florida in the colonial days. Most were from somewhere in Europe. Nowadays, most of our immigrants are Hispanic and Asian.

Asian Americans are Florida's second-largest group of immigrants. There are about 451,000 Asian Americans in our state. Now, you might think of just Japanese or Chinese people when you hear about Asian Americans. These two groups do make up a big part of the Asian American population in Florida, but there are many others because Asia includes more than just China and Japan. Chinese, Japanese, Koreans, Asian Indians, Vietnamese, Filipinos and many others live right here in Florida.

Florida's Hispanic Community

The word "Hispanic" is a name for people with a Spanish or Latin background. When England was running the show here in North America, Spain was doing the same thing in South and Central America. That's why almost everyone there speaks Spanish, and most people in North America speak English.

The Hispanic part of our population is the fastest growing group overall. Currently about 4,305,000 Hispanic people live in Florida. The city of Hialeah is 95 percent Hispanic.

Experts believe that there are many more Hispanic people living here who are illegal immigrants. What do we mean by illegal? Well, many people sneak into our country because there is so much opportunity to earn money here compared to many other countries. Most of them work very hard and send almost all the money they earn back home to help their poor families in Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras or another South or Central American country. Because they don't get permission before they come, it's hard to know how many are here.

What a Mix of Cultures!

Cubans, Italians and Spaniards came to Key West and Tampa in the early 1900s to work in the cigar industry. V. M. Martínez Ybor, a Spanish industrialist, made the city of Tampa into a leading center of hand-rolled cigars. The community of Ybor City was a rich area of Latinos and their culture.



Bahamian Influence

In the early 1900s, 20 percent of both black and white Bahamians left the Bahamas and came to Key West and Miami to fish, salvage shipwrecks and trade goods. The cities offered great opportunities to make money. Most of the Bahamians have built ethnic communities in Coconut Grove, Overtown and Key West. Often, you can hear Bahamian drum rhythms, dance, song and folklore and smell the Bahamian dishes cooking in these communities. Their presence has had a major influence on African American communities in southern Florida.

Jamaicans

Jamaicans cluster in South Florida in places called Jamaica Hill, Beat Street and Little Jamaica in North Dade, Miramar, Lauderdale Lakes, Lauderdale, West Palm Beach and Boynton Beach.

Nicaraguans of Southern Florida

By the mid-1980s, 75,000 opponents of the leftist Sandinistas had established an exile base in Dade County. In 1990, a loosening of U.S. immigration policy toward Central Americans resulted in a mass exodus of Nicaraguan exiles who traveled through Mexico to Texas to Miami by bus. Several hundred came each day. A peaceful transfer of power took place in 1990, and the migration of Nicaraguans has slowed down. Most of these Nicaraguan immigrants live in Miami in an area called Little Nicaragua. They have a strong cultural identity. They have their own radio programs and newspapers. Musical activities and religious festivals celebrate patron saints from Nicaragua. La Purísima is a major religious holiday among the Nicaraguans living here today.

TIMELINE

President John F. Kennedy is assassinated.
Nov. 22, 1963



The United States fights in the Vietnam War.
1964-1973

Martin Luther King Jr. is assassinated.
April 4, 1968



Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin walk on the moon.
July 20, 1969

Disney World opens in Florida.
1970

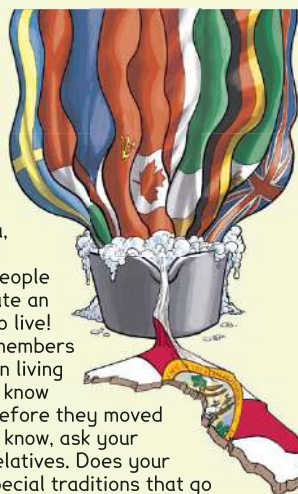


Where does your family come from?

This Week's Question

One great thing about Florida is how our people have come together from so many different places. Florida is full of families from Central and South America, Europe, Africa and Asia. This mix of people helps make our state an interesting place to live!

How long have members of your family been living in Florida? Do you know where they lived before they moved here? If you don't know, ask your parents or older relatives. Does your family have any special traditions that go back to where you first came from? Find out and share what you learn with your class.



Using Credit

Financial Literacy

Sometimes we do not have enough money to buy the things we need. When that happens, many people choose to borrow money. Bank loans and credit cards are two ways to borrow that money.

Bank loans are usually for major purchases, like cars or houses. People can use a credit card for almost anything. In both cases, the customer agrees to pay the money back, plus interest. Interest is a fee for borrowing money. The faster someone pays the money back, the less the interest is.

Customers usually use credit cards for smaller purchases like groceries or visits to the doctor. Most credit cards have a limit on how much money can be used. Credit cards also have high interest rates, so it's a good idea to pay those back as quickly as possible.



Name _____

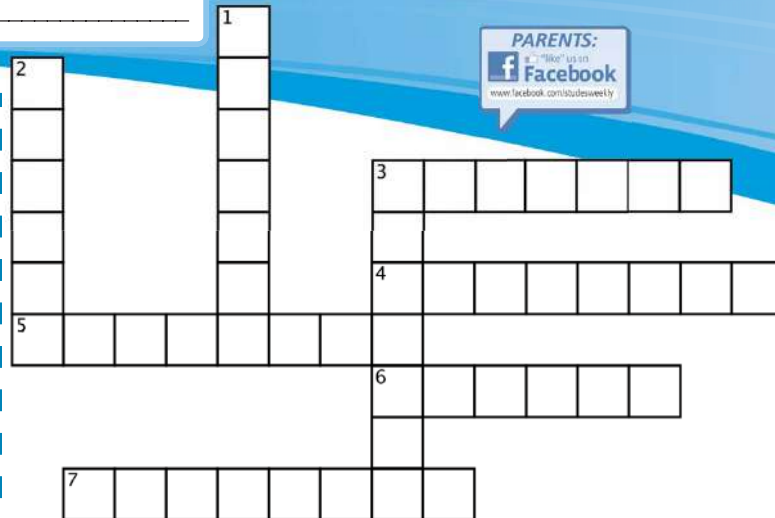


ACROSS

3. Greek food made with nuts and honey
4. word that describes people with a Spanish or Latin American background
5. the county seat of Hardee County
6. county where you can visit the Everglades National Park
7. one of Florida's earliest African American communities

DOWN

1. Florida city that is 95 percent Hispanic
2. Banks and credit cards are two ways people can _____ money.
3. In the 1900s, 20 percent of people left the _____ to live in Florida.



Do You Remember?

Last week you read about many important men and women of Florida. See if you can find the heritage of each person listed below. You may have to do some extra research.

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Lenore Carrero Nesbitt | • Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings |
| _____ | _____ |
| • Jimmy Buffet | • Mary McLeod Bethune |
| _____ | _____ |
| • M. Athalie Range | • Frank Kuncir |
| _____ | _____ |
| • Ernest Hemingway | • Don Shula |
| _____ | _____ |
| • Janet Reno | • Paula Hawkins |
| _____ | _____ |
| • Rosemary Barkett | • Gloria Estefan |
| _____ | _____ |



As you read this week's lesson, circle or highlight all proper nouns with any color pen or highlighter. This will help you find some of the crossword answers and get ready for this week's test.

Learn More About Cultures

You have read about some of the cultures that make up Florida. Choose three cultural groups that you think are interesting. Write the names of those groups on the lines. Think about something else you would like to learn about each group and write it in the form of a question. If you have time, see if you can do some research to find the answers to your questions!

Culture: _____

Question: _____

Culture: _____

Question: _____

Culture: _____

Question: _____

Pretend you were kidnapped by aliens and taken to another planet. You lived there for five Earth years. While there, you learned about different cultures from all over the galaxy. Some aliens looked very different from others.

Let's Write

When you return to Earth, an editor of a magazine asks you to write an article about your experience. Before you begin, think about your experience on another planet. Now write to tell about your experience on another planet.

1. What nation did your ancestors come from?
2. Do you know how long ago they came to the United States?
3. How does inviting immigrants from all over the world help America?
4. Name at least five major groups of people who live in Florida.
5. Can you name any other groups?
6. From what Floridian community of people does baklava come?
7. What community of people includes descendants of slaves from the early South?
8. What community is actually made up of at least six nationalities?
9. What is the oldest group of people living in our state? How did they survive?
10. Describe one advantage and one disadvantage of using a credit card.

Think & Review

Use any color to circle or highlight three relative pronouns (who, whose, whom, which, that, etc.) in this week's magazine. Underline the related noun. (LAFS.4.L.1.1)



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HARD WORK

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