

Florida Studies Weekly

State History



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GRADE
4

Across the Icy Bridge

Scientists think the first people in Florida came as early as 12,000 B.C., more than 14,000 years ago. They came to North America during the last ice age, probably following traveling herds of animals in search of food. During that time, because the oceans were lower, there was a huge land bridge between Siberia and Alaska, about as long as the distance between Disney World and the Statue of Liberty. Look at a map, and you'll see how that's all water now. We don't know what those ancient people called each other, but we call them "Paleo Indians." When they arrived in Florida, they found huge sloths, saber-toothed tigers and even huge woolly mammoths. It must have been an adventure just to stay alive! A person in those days could hunt by throwing a stone-tipped spear. Later, they used a cool device called an "atlatl," which worked like a lever for throwing light spears hundreds of feet, with deadly accuracy. Much later, natives learned super high-tech tricks like how to make baskets to store things in and how to launch sharp arrows from

springy bows.

Those first Paleo Indians traveled around a great deal. They could only stay in one place until the food was gone, and then they had to move on. People who live in many different places, following where the food goes, are called nomads. Most Paleo Indian tribes lived that way. But as the centuries wore on, tribes figured out how to build sturdy buildings and grow their own food. In fact, when European explorers got around to showing up in this neck of the woods, that's what they found: organized villages full of farming families. Want to find out more about the early people of our great state? Be a good nomad and travel to where the answers are—on the next page!



Connections

Go See a Re-enactment



Senior Seminole
chief at an
American Indian
festival

If only you could go back in time ... the things you would do differently. Maybe you'd go for the cheeseburger instead of the meatloaf for school lunch that one day. Maybe you wouldn't have gone on that roller coaster

that one last time.

But what if you could go back further? What if you could fire muzzle-loading rifles or watch battles that happened nearly 200 years ago? What if you could chat with American Indians and pirates? Guess what—

you can!

There's no time machine, sadly. What you can find, though, are people who "re-enact" Florida's history as if it were happening for the first time.

In January, go to the Alafia River

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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.2.1: Compare Native American tribes in Florida. SS.4.A.3.1: Identify explorers who came to Florida and the motivations for their expeditions. SS.4.A.3.2: Describe causes and effects of European colonization on the Native American tribes of Florida. SS.4.A.3.3: Explain how the Seminole tribe formed and the purpose for their migration. SS.4.A.6.2: Summarize contributions immigrant groups made to Florida. SS.4.FL.1.1: People have many different types of jobs from which to choose. Identify different jobs requiring people to have different skills. SS.4.FL.1.2: People earn an income when they are hired by an employer to work at a job. Explain why employers are willing to pay people to do their work. 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.1.3: Explain how weather impacts Florida. 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 NATIVES

There were many tribes in Florida before Columbus discovered America. Most of these tribes were peaceful and had cultures similar to other tribes. Sometimes, they would meet together for a powwow (a large American Indian gathering). They liked to hunt, fish and farm.

The Apalachee

Between the Aucilla and Ochlockonee rivers in northwestern Florida lived a peaceful tribe called the Apalachee. Most of them lived near present-day Tallahassee, surrounded by rich, fertile farmland. They grew pumpkins, corn, beans and fruits long before their European neighbors ever did!

But they weren't vegetarians. The meat they ate consisted partly of a wide variety of fancy birds. Of course, they spent time fishing the nearby rivers and hunting in the woods as well.

Drawing the Timucua

With no cameras or video recorders, how did the first European explorers record and organize the things they learned about the natives of Florida? People like Jaques LeMoyne had all the technology they needed in a pencil and a piece of paper. LeMoyne's drawings, as well as his written descriptions, have left us a world of information about the Timucua tribe. They were Florida's biggest native group, with villages stretching from today's Cape Canaveral all the way up to Georgia. They valued physical strength and worked hard to become tall and strong. The Timucua exercised by playing difficult outdoor games and by farming. They always

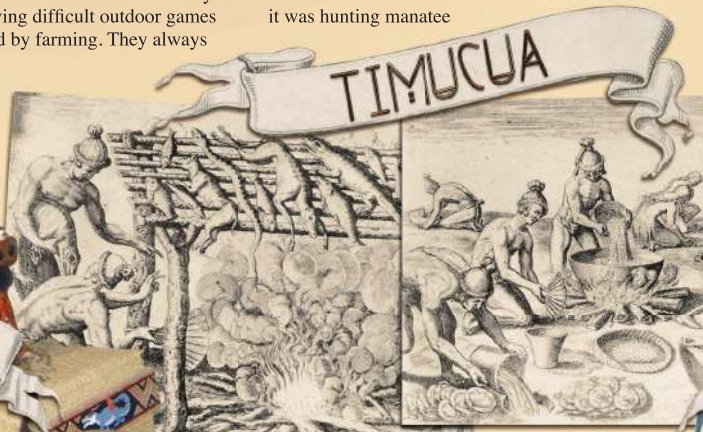
seemed to have plenty of food, probably because they were good at storing it away for later. They didn't like to trade with other tribes, and when European colonizers asked for food during cold winters, the Timucua tribe usually sent them away hungry!

The Calusa

Do you like to camp outdoors, maybe near a lake? Do you like fresh-picked berries, plums or wild figs? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, you just might have enjoyed living among the Calusa tribe. The Calusa once controlled most of southern Florida. Sometimes, they hung around the smaller "Tequesta" tribe, because they had a great deal in common. Unlike most other tribes, these tribes never did settle down and farm the land. Instead, they hunted and gathered wild fruits and berries. They were also terrific fishermen. Whether it was hunting manatee

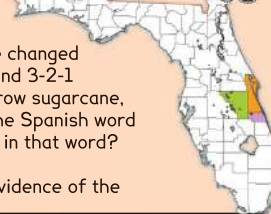


Tattoos were common in many North American tribes, including the Timucua tribe (above and right).



Brevard, Indian River and Osceola Counties

Florida Counties



Brevard County: In 1999, this county got its area code changed to 321. Can you guess why? Think Cape Canaveral and 3-2-1 blastoff! Since this area was the perfect place to grow sugarcane, the Spanish who discovered it called it Cañaveral, the Spanish word for a sugarcane plantation. Do you see part of cane in that word? Titusville is the county seat.

Indian River County: The name Indian River gives us evidence of the American Indian history of Florida. Indian River Lagoon goes right through the county seat, Vero Beach. How many kinds of citrus fruit can you name? They probably grow them all here. Indian River fruit is world famous. We bet your relatives up north have heard of it and would love for you to send them some!

Osceola County: This is another county with a famous name. You remember the Seminole chief, right? Osceola's county seat is Kissimmee. If you visit (or live there), you can cruise the Chain of Lakes on a pontoon boat or have a jousting good dinner adventure at Medieval Times. Moooooove over, people, cows comin' through. Osceola is the biggest cattle-producing county in the state. Better watch where you step!



Financial Literacy

Help Wanted!

Help wanted signs show us when a business has a job open. There are many different types of jobs. When people want a job, they must show they have the correct skills to be hired. You can gain different skills through school and experience.

If you want to work in construction, you need to be able to work well with tools and follow plans. You have to learn about the human body in college if you want to become a doctor. If you want to work for a video game company, you should learn about programming and computer graphics.

Look at different careers and think about the skills you will need to be hired. When you grow up, you could be the perfect match for a business' help wanted sign!



Chased Rabbit Goes Hunting

Florida Adventures

The following story is written with facts about the Calusa Indians you are studying. Although the people are fictional, the events could very well have happened just as you read them.

Chased Rabbit was a Calusa boy. He lived in the Everglades area of what is now Southern Florida. This was a long time before white settlers came. There were more deer in Florida then.

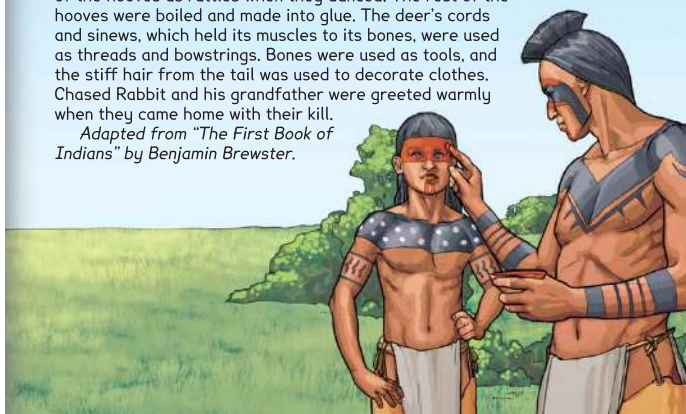
When he was 4 years old, he could run very quickly. The chief said that he should be called "Chased Rabbit." Before this, his name had been "Handsome Baby." As the years pass, an American Indian might change his or her name many times.

The Calusa men were known to hunt well. The boys learned to use the bow and arrow when they were quite young. Chased Rabbit practiced every day. At last, he was ready to go on a hunt. He went to the woods with his grandfather, Man-Who-Likes-Berries. The bow that his grandfather had was as tall as Chased Rabbit, and it was stiff. Chased Rabbit could not bend it, but his grandfather was strong. He could shoot arrows far and straight. Before Chased Rabbit and his grandfather started to hunt, they washed themselves. The American Indians had learned to take baths before a hunt, because wild beasts have a sharp sense of smell. When they smell people, they might run off, so hunters washed off as much of their human smell as they could.

Chased Rabbit brought his lunch with him. His food was called pemmican. It was a mixture of dried venison and dried berries. It was delicious and gave him the energy he needed. Deep in the marshy woods, Chased Rabbit and his grandfather hid near a path made by deer. They were quiet and patient. At last, a deer came. Silently, the old man took aim. The arrow struck the deer. For the first time, Chased Rabbit helped bring meat home for his family.

Deer were important to Chased Rabbit and his people. Sometimes, men ate as much as 4 pounds of meat each day. The Calusa used deer for other things, too. They made shoes and clothes from the hide. The antlers were used for tools and arrowheads. Some of the men used part of the hooves as rattles when they danced. The rest of the hooves were boiled and made into glue. The deer's cords and sinews, which held its muscles to its bones, were used as threads and bowstrings. Bones were used as tools, and the stiff hair from the tail was used to decorate clothes. Chased Rabbit and his grandfather were greeted warmly when they came home with their kill.

Adapted from "The First Book of Indians" by Benjamin Brewster.



on the seashore or pulling up nets full of fish from Lake Okeechobee (of course, they called the lake "Mayaimi" back then), there was always plenty to eat. Their diet also included shellfish, and they left behind huge piles of empty shells for scientists to find. They made wooden canoes and painted everything from bowls to fancy ceremonial masks.

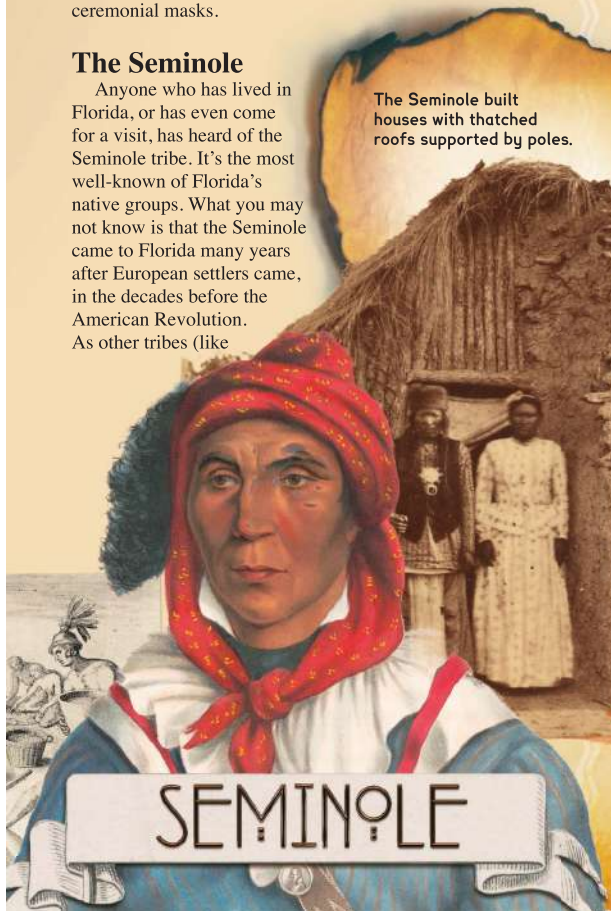
the Timucua and the Calusa) were driven from their homes or just moved on, the Seminole were happy to move right in and make themselves at home. The Seminole thrived in Florida until the Seminole Wars, but that's another story for another issue of Florida Studies Weekly.

The Seminole

Anyone who has lived in Florida, or has even come for a visit, has heard of the Seminole tribe. It's the most well-known of Florida's native groups. What you may not know is that the Seminole came to Florida many years after European settlers came, in the decades before the American Revolution.

As other tribes (like

The Seminole built houses with thatched roofs supported by poles.



The Tequesta and Tocobaga Tribes

While many of Florida's tribes were large and powerful, American Indian tribes came in all sizes. Two smaller tribes were the Tequesta and Tocobaga. They may not have been powerful, but they are still a part of Florida's history.

The Tequesta Indians lived by Biscayne Bay, near present-day Miami. The 800-person tribe got most of its food from fishing. They caught and ate sharks, porpoises, clams, oysters and turtle eggs. Sea cows, also known as manatees, were a special treat. Whenever one was caught, it was usually prepared for the chief and other leaders.

The Tocobaga tribe lived in villages at the northern end of the Tampa Bay area. Tocobaga villages were built around large earth mounds. Important buildings, such as the temple or the chief's home, were usually on top of these mounds. These people fished, hunted and gathered for food. They also had corn to eat, even though it did not grow in the area. Historians think they got the corn through trade with tribes to the north.

Both tribes used stones, shells and bones to make useful tools. The Tocobaga often tied a shell or pointed stone to the end of a curved stick to make a digging tool called an adz. They also made holes in seashells and hung them on small branches. The branches would grow into the shells, forming strong tools for digging. The Tequesta used shark teeth to carve out the logs they used to make canoes.

Both tribes met with European explorers who arrived during the 1500s. The explorers brought gifts of colored cloths and metal knives that the Tequesta enjoyed. Europeans also brought diseases with them. Over the next few hundred years, each tribe faced battles, illness and slavery. By the 1800s, both tribes had almost entirely died out.

Florida Facts



Name _____

Sign Language

Activity

Below you will find some authentic American Indian Sign Language. Nearly all of the American Indian tribes could communicate using this sign language. It enabled them to have councils together, and many times, they could work out their problems. Notice that several signs were used to stand for one word or concept. Try putting some words together and sending messages to your friends across the room.



Man
Hold your hand pointing up in front of your chin.



Woman
Pretend to comb your hair with curved fingers from the tip of your head to your shoulder.



I, Me
Point to yourself with your thumb.



You
Point to the person with your index finger.



Girl
Make the sign for "woman" and show the girl's height with your pointing index finger.



Boy
Make the sign for "man" and then show the boy's height with your pointing index finger.



All
Starting at your right shoulder, move your hand, palm down, in a level circle.



Possession
Bring your fist from in front of your neck forward and down. This means "holding in your hand."



Question
Use this sign before all questions. Hold your hand at your right shoulder, facing out. Bend it to the left and right several times.



**Winter—
(year, cold)**
Shake both fists as though you were shivering with cold.



Night
Start with your flat hands several inches apart, with your palms down and your fingers pointing front. Bring them together until the right wrist is crossed over the left.



**Moon—
(month)**
Make the sign for "night," and then hold a half moon, made with your thumb and index finger, up in the sky.

Go See a Re-enactment

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Rendezvous to experience muzzle loading, archery, knife throwing and a walk with Florida frontiersmen.

Visit the Fort Chokonikla event at the Paynes Creek Historic State Park. There you'll find a real fort defended by cannons, soldiers and mountain men.

Want more? Visit the Dade Battlefield re-enactment, where you'll see the Second Seminole War begin when 107 soldiers get attacked by the Seminole Indians.

Going to see a re-enactment is a great way to learn your state's history and keep traditions alive. Unlike your roller coaster decision, you won't regret it!

There were many native American Indian tribes in Florida

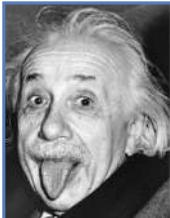
Let's Write

before Ponce de Leon came. You have been transported back into time, and you are now a part of the Calusa Indian Tribe. Your life would have been very different. Before you begin writing, imagine what your life would be like if you lived in Florida before Ponce de Leon discovered Florida. Now write to tell what your life would be like in Florida before Ponce de Leon came and discovered it.

1. What was the name of the first group of American Indians who traveled to Florida during the ice age?
2. Which tribe was the largest and controlled the northeastern part of Florida?
3. Which two tribes became the farmers?
4. Which tribe controlled most of the southern part of Florida?
5. Which tribe controlled northwestern Florida?
6. Compare and contrast the Florida counties of Indian River, Brevard and Osceola.

Think & Review

7. What was the author's purpose in writing the realistic fiction story, "Chased Rabbit Goes Hunting?"
8. What did the Tequesta and Tocobaga tribes have in common?



As a student,
he was
no Einstein.

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Language Arts Connection

Choose one article from this week's magazine and read it again. Circle or highlight the main idea of the article in yellow. Circle or highlight three or more key details in green. (LAFS.4.RI.1.2)