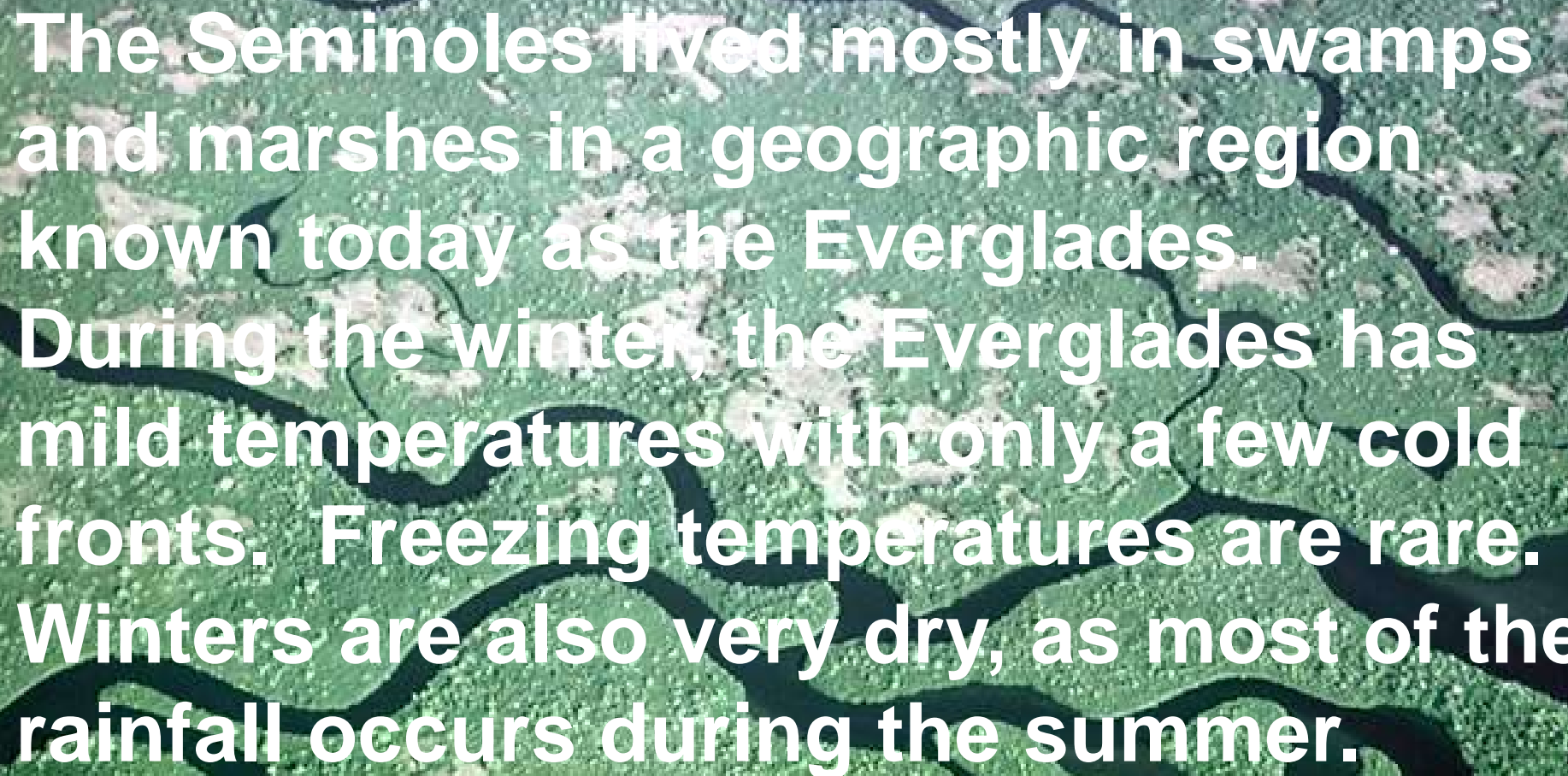


The Seminole

Of the Southeast

An aerial photograph of the Everglades wetlands. The landscape is a mosaic of vibrant green marsh grasses and dark, winding water channels. The waterways meander through the marsh, creating a complex, organic pattern. The overall scene depicts a vast, flat, and water-saturated environment.

The Seminoles lived mostly in swamps and marshes in a geographic region known today as the Everglades. During the winter, the Everglades has mild temperatures with only a few cold fronts. Freezing temperatures are rare. Winters are also very dry, as most of the rainfall occurs during the summer.



During the summer, the Everglades is extremely hot and wet. The Everglades area is wetlands, or a swamp, which means the land is almost always covered with water. A large portion of the Everglades is a sawgrass marsh. Sawgrass is a plant that has long narrow leaves with a sharp, serrated edge – like a saw.



A large portion of the Everglades is a sawgrass marsh. Sawgrass is a plant that has long narrow leaves with a sharp, serrated edge – like a saw. The swamp environment sometimes forced the Seminole to wear clothing that was unusual for the extremely warm climate. Even in the summer, the Seminole would wear leggings made from animal skins, or cloth clothing that covered their body. These clothes protected them from the __mosquitoes and the razor sharp blades of sawgrass.



The Seminole house was a covered platform that was open on all sides. The open sides allowed air to flow through the house during the hot summers. The platform was raised so some animals could not come into the house and so the floor would be protected from the water in the swamp

The Seminole houses were called chickees.





The Seminole Indians were originally part of the Creek Indian Nation_. When European settlers forced the Creeks from their homes, some Indians moved south into Florida rather than being forced west. These Indians banded together to form a new tribe, the Seminoles.

They adapted their homes and way of life to fit the marshlands of the Everglades because at that time, European settlers did not see the marshlands as desirable lands.

Corn was the most important crop to the Seminole. They believed the Corn Mother was the goddess of farming.

Every summer the Seminole held a Green Corn Festival to celebrate the ripened corn and to thank the Corn Goddess. This ceremony took place during the full moon after the corn had ripened.

The Seminole had a large selection of food resources. From the water, they ate fish, oysters, and turtles . They hunted deer, bears, rabbits, squirrel, and different birds. The Seminole were also farmers. They grew corn, pumpkins, melons, and sweet potatoes. The Seminole gathered roots, berries, and peanuts. The subtropical climate allowed the Seminole to grow and hunt foods almost year round.

<http://www.nps.gov/history/worldheritage/images/EVER1.jpg>

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/19155/19155-h/19155-h.htm#plateXIX>

. <http://www.seminoletribe.com/>

. <http://greencornceremony.blogspot.com/2008/11/green-corn-ceremony.html>

<http://www.floridasnature.com/images/fresh%20marsh3.jpg>