

## Florida's Early Inhabitants

Florida's Early Archaic Period 7,500 – 5,000 BC:

Florida's climate was changing and the weather was becoming warmer with more rainfall. The Paleo Indians became less nomadic.

Florida's Paleo Indian Period 10,000 BC – 7,000 BC:

Florida had lower sea levels which increased the land area by twice its current size.

Florida was arid and cool.

Paleo Indians hunted and gathered anything edible and useful.

Hunted mammoths, bison, giant land tortoise, etc...

Florida's Middle Archaic Period 5,000 BC – 3,000 BC:

Florida became wetter, developing more wetlands, with abundant fish and shellfish.

Natives continued to hunt deer and other animals especially fish, oysters, snails, alligators etc...

Human settlements grew at this time developing into long term habitations.

Middle Archaic Indians of Florida lived during this time and they were known for developing a new type of stone point.

Florida Late Archaic Period 3,000 BC - 500 BC:

Increase in vegetation.

The Florida Indians built settlements, maintain their homes in villages along with camps for hunting or for collecting sea turtle eggs, shellfish, and acorns.

Late Archaic Indians created fired clay pottery for cooking and storage.

The Florida Indians on the St. John River became experts at catching fish, hunting, and collecting other animals.

Florida's Woodland and Mississippian Period:

Florida Indians made changes in their pottery, in their methods to gather food, and in their settlements.

Many villages would unite and form alliances.

Different Indian settlements developed and produced a variety of types of pottery.

Florida Indians became skilled at growing different crops.

Florida Major Indian Tribes:

Calusa: Lived on the southwestern coast of Florida from Charlotte Harbor to 10,000 Islands.

They did little farming and hunting, they preferred fishing and gathering shellfish from the Gulf of Mexico or the rivers.

Known for discarding their shells from shellfish onto mounds, some of these mounds reached 30 feet high and were used to build dwellings and for protection.

**Tequesta:**

Maintained ties with the Calusa on the Gulf Coast through marriage between the chief families.  
Hunted and fished for food using bows and arrows.  
Traded with other tribes

**Apalachee:**

50,000 Apalachee Indians lived in N. Florida.  
They were good farmers and warriors.  
Hunted bear, deer, fox, opossum, and raccoon

**Ais:**

Lived in Central Florida and Brevard County from Cape Canaveral south to Fort Pierce  
Relied on hunting and fishing for food, they did not farm.  
The Ais became wealthy from collecting gold and silver  
Main village was near the Indian River Inlet.

**Timucua:**

One of the largest groups of Native Americans in Florida  
Lived throughout northeast Florida from Tampa to Jacksonville  
Men would fish and hunt while the women planted and harvested crops of beans, corn, and squash.

**Objectives:**

**First Grade:**

Describe how Florida's early inhabitants relied on water.  
Compare life now with Florida's early inhabitant's lives.  
Create pictures with dictated words and phrases that tell a story about one of Florida's early inhabitants.  
Compare and order whole numbers at least to 100.

**Science:**

SC.1.E.6.2 Describe the need for water and how to be safe around water.  
How do you think Florida's early inhabitants relied on water? What precautions do you think they took to act safely around the water?

**Social Studies:**

SS.1.A.2.2 Compare life now with life in the past.  
Compare life now with the lives of Florida's early inhabitants.

**Reading and Language Arts:**

LA.1.4.1.In.a Create pictures that tell a story and will dictated words and phrases.  
Create pictures that tell a story with dictated words and phrases about one of Florida's early inhabitants.

**Mathematics:**

MA.1.A.2.1 Compare and order whole numbers at least to 100.

The Calusa Indians were known for their mounds which could reach up to 30 feet high.

Discarded shells and shellfish were tossed onto these mounds. Imagine that bundles of shells are tossed onto these mounds by different Calusa as shown below:

14 shells

20 shells

2 shells

46 shells

100 shells

81 shells

74 shells

90 shells

68 shells

10 shells

Order the shells from smallest to greatest.