

Cracker Exhibit

The Cracker cowmen were known as America's first cowmen and in 1605 the first working ranches were established in St. Augustine or "La Florida." During the 1800's the Crackers were drawn to the cow hunter lifestyle and its rugged lonely existence. Some of the problems that Cracker cowmen faced were stealing or rustling cattle which often led to violence.

Cracker horses were very important to the Cracker cowmen and they have always been a tough low maintenance horse known for their ability as cow herders. Ponce de Leon brought the first horses to Florida in 1521. Cracker horses got their names from Cracker cowmen's whips that made a loud cracking sound.

Crackers ate a varied cuisine that includes tortoise, opossums, squirrels, raccoons, rattlesnakes, bears, fish, snails, frogs, crayfish and a variety of edible wild plants such as collards, turnip greens, and mustard.

Crackers built their houses out of logs and had different styles known as the Single Pen or Double Pen, Saddle, Dog Trot, and Shotgun.

Cracker music was described in the post civil war day as music played by Crackers and listened to by Crackers. Cracker music was not written down and was all sung from memory and each region of Florida had its own unique Cracker music.

Objectives:

Second Grade:

Be able to compare and contrast your needs with the needs of Crackers.

Recognize that limited resources impact people's choices.

Write a simple story, poem, or song lyric about the life of Cracker cowmen.

Recall basic addition and subtraction facts.

Science:

SC.2.L.17.1 Compare and contrast the basic needs that all living things, including humans, have for survival.

All living things need have basic needs that have to be met in order to survive. What were some of the basic needs of the Crackers? Compare and contrast these needs to yourself. Do you think it was harder for the Cracker people to meet their basic needs then it is for you? Why or why not?

Social Studies:

SS.2.E.1.1 Recognize that people make choices because of limited resources.

What was a choice a Cracker might have had to make as a result of limited resources? It does not have to be something that you actually learned today, use your imagination!

Reading and Language Arts:

LA.2.4.1.1 The student will write narratives based on real or imagined events that include a main idea, characters, a sequence of events and descriptive details; and

LA.2.4.1.2 The student will compose simple stories, poems, riddles, rhymes, or song lyrics.

Imagine what life as a Cracker cowman must have been like. Write a simple story, poem, or song lyrics and describe what you think a day in the life of a Cracker cowman must have been like.

Mathematics:

MA.2.A.2.1 Recall basic addition and related subtraction facts.

6 Cracker horses + 4 Cracker horses =

8 Cracker horses – 2 Cracker horses =

7 Cracker horses – 4 Cracker horses =

3 Cracker horses + 4 Cracker horses =