

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:

Fourth Grade:

Understand how Cracker people and horses impacted the environment.

Have an understanding of pioneer life in Florida.

Write a narrative about life as a Cracker.

Include events, observations, setting, and plot and follow logical sequence of events in narrative.

Understand how to find the area of a rectangle using the area = base x height formula.

Science:

SC.4.L.17.4 Recognize ways plants and animals, including humans, can impact the environment.

Can you come up with some possible ways that the Cracker people or horses have impacted the environment?

Social Studies:

SS.4.A.4.2 Describe pioneer life in Florida.

Write a paragraph about what you think life as a Cracker in Florida must have been like.

Reading and Language Arts:

LA.4.4.1.1 The student will write narratives based on real or imagined ideas, events, or observations that include characters, setting, plot, sensory details, a logical sequence of events, and a context to enable the reader to imagine the world of the event or experience;

Using your imagination write a narrative about life as a Cracker. Imagine that you are a Cracker; discuss a day in your life starting with what you had for breakfast, what you did for the day etc., up until you go to bed that night. Be creative and be sure to include events, observations, setting, plot, and follow a logical sequence of events.

Mathematics:

MA.4.G.3.2 Justify the formula for the area of the rectangle "area = base x height".

Imagine that you a Cracker house sits on a rectangular piece of land with the following measurements, what is the area?

