

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:

Fourth Grade:

List what types of resources you think Florida's early inhabitants might have used and whether they were renewable or nonrenewable.
Analyze primary and secondary sources to gather information about one of Florida's early inhabitants.
List your sources as primary or secondary.
Record your observation about the exhibit.
List the different early inhabitants of Florida and write down one characteristic of each.
Understand how to find the area of a rectangle using the base x height = formula.

Science:

SC.4.E.6.3 Recognize that humans need resources found on Earth and that these are either renewable or nonrenewable.
What types of resources found on Earth do you think the early inhabitants of Florida used?
Label the resources renewable or nonrenewable.

Social Studies:

SS.4.A.1.1 Analyze primary and secondary resources to identify significant individuals and events throughout Florida history.

Analyze primary and secondary resources to identify some of Florida's early inhabitants. List your sources and identify as either primary or secondary.

Reading and Language Arts:

LA.4.4.2.2 The student will record information (e.g., observations, notes, lists, charts, map labels, legends) related to a topic, including visual aids as appropriate;

Record your observations the Early Inhabitants Exhibit. List the different early inhabitants of Florida and write down one characteristic of each.

Mathematics:

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

Imagine that a Timucua village has 200 round wooden huts in a rectangular area with the given dimensions. What is the area of the village using the formula area = base x height?

12.6 miles

6.1 miles

