

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:

Fifth Grade:

Understand how environmental changes impacted the Cracker people and horses.

Use latitude and longitude to locate places.

Write a narrative about Cracker cowmen including plot, rising action, conflict, and resolution.

Use skip counting to identify multiples of 2 to 100.

Science:

SC.5.L.15.1 Describe how, when the environment changes, differences between individuals allow some plants and animals to survive and reproduce while others die or move to new locations.

How do you think the different environments in Florida impacted the Cracker people and Cracker horses?

Social Studies:

SS.5.G.1.2 Use latitude and longitude to locate places.

Using latitude and longitude locate St. Augustine, Florida. What was significant about St. Augustine in the Cracker exhibit?

Reading and Language Arts:

LA.5.4.1.1 The student will write narratives that establish a situation and plot with rising action, conflict, and resolution; and

Cracker cowman did not have an easy life. Write a narrative that has a plot, rising action, conflict, and resolution discussing Cracker cowman and a hard or difficult situation they may have faced. Use your imagination; this does not have to be a real event.

Mathematics:

MA.5.A.6.In.a Use skip counting to identify multiples of 2, 5, and 10 for numbers to 100.

Imagine that you have 100 Cracker horses, use skip counting to identify multiples of 2 to 100.