

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:

Fifth Grade:

Describe how the changes in Florida's climate over the many time periods affected the early inhabitants.
Compare the cultural aspects of one Florida's Native American tribes with a tribe from another geographic region in North America.
Write an essay one of Florida's early inhabitants.
Essay should include a thesis, narrow focus, introduction, body, and concluding paragraph.
Use skip counting to identify multiples of 10.

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.

Florida's climate has changed drastically throughout the years, from the Early Archaic Period to today. How did this change in climate affect the early inhabitants of Florida. For example, the types of food they ate.

Social Studies:

SS.5.A.2.3 Compare cultural aspects of Native American tribes from different geographic regions of North America including but not limited to clothing, shelter, food, major beliefs and practices, music, art, and interactions with the environment.

Compare cultural aspects of one of Florida's Native American tribes with a tribe from a different geographic region of North America.

Reading and Language Arts:

LA.5.4.2.3 The student will write informational/expository essays that state a thesis with a narrow focus, contain introductory, body, and concluding paragraphs;

Write an essay about one of the early inhabitants of Florida. Include a thesis statement with a narrow focus, introductory, body, and concluding paragraphs.

Mathematics:

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

Imagine that a Timucua village has 100 huts. Use skip counting to identify multiples of 10 to 100.