

# 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:**

**Sixth Grade:**

Explain the different landforms of Florida and how they may have changed over time.  
Explain how the physical characteristics, natural resources, climate, and absolute and relative location impacted the settlement and interaction of Florida's early inhabitants.  
Write an essay on one of Florida's early inhabitants.  
Essay should include a thesis, supporting details, introduction, body, and concluding paragraph.  
Compare and order decimals and find their approximate location on a number line.

**Science:**

SC.6.E.6.2 Recognize that there are a variety of different landforms on Earth's surface such as coastlines, dunes, rivers, mountains, glaciers, deltas, and lakes and relate these landforms as they apply to Florida.  
How do the different landforms apply to Florida? Have these landforms changed over time?

**Social Studies:**

SS.6.G.2.1 Explain how major physical characteristics, natural resources, climate, and absolute and relative locations have influenced settlement, interactions, and the economies of ancient civilizations of the world.  
Explain how major physical characteristics, natural resources, climate, and absolute and relative locations impacted the settlement & interactions of some of Florida's early inhabitants.

**Reading and Language Arts:**

LA.6.4.2.3 The student will write informational/expository essays (e.g., process, description, explanation, comparison/contrast, problem/solution) that include a thesis statement, supporting details, and introductory, body, and concluding paragraphs;  
Write an essay about one of the early inhabitants of Florida. Include a thesis statement, supporting details, and introductory, body, and concluding paragraphs.

**Mathematics:**

MA.6.A.5.2 Compare and order fractions, decimals, and percents, including finding their approximate location on a number line.

Imagine that a Timucua village has 100 huts that are all different distances from the center hut each as shown below.

24.2 feet  
14.1 feet  
94.2 feet  
84.7 feet  
61.9 feet  
2.8 feet  
31.3 feet  
54.5 feet  
46.8 feet  
74.6 feet

Put the huts in order from closest to farthest on a number line.