



AMERICAN ALLIGATORS



FLORIDA CITRUS



◦ THE GOOD AND THE BEAUTIFUL ◦

FLORIDA

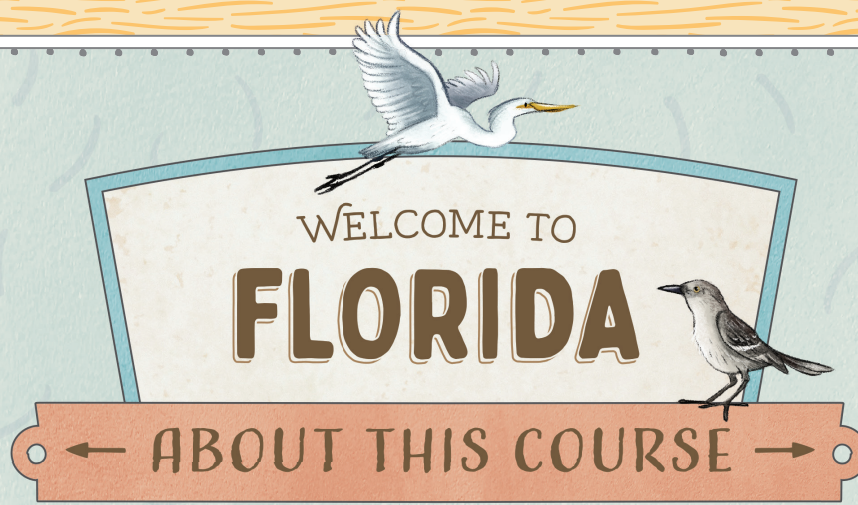
← STATE STUDY →

CAPITOL BUILDING



WEST INDIAN MANATEE





Course Overview

Florida State Study consists of twenty lessons designed to foster a true love of learning through engaging lessons and activities, visually rich maps and illustrations, and stories of the people and events that have shaped the state. The course is designed to be completed by the student independently, but parents/guardians can choose to be as involved in the lessons as they would like to be.

Lesson Overview

Most lessons will take 20-25 minutes to complete. To keep the student focused and engaged with the material, activities and knowledge checks appear on most pages.

Getting Started

Simply open the course book and begin reading. Each lesson begins with a supply list showing what is needed for that specific lesson. Most lessons require only basic school supplies such as pencils, colored pencils, and highlighters. A complete list of supplies needed for the course can be found on the following page. Students will read each lesson and complete the activities directly in the course book.

Christian Worldview

The Good and the Beautiful curriculum takes a Christian worldview. With input from people with diverse ethnic, racial, and religious backgrounds on both our staff and our review panels, this course is built on the common ground and basic biblical principles that apply to all Christians. Rather than focusing on doctrine, the curriculum teaches Christlike character and principles of liberty.



SUPPLIES

Items to Always Have on Hand

- pencils
- highlighters
- colored pencils

Additional Supplies Needed

Lesson 1: orange pencil or marker

Lesson 2: ruler

Lesson 3: none

Lesson 4: none

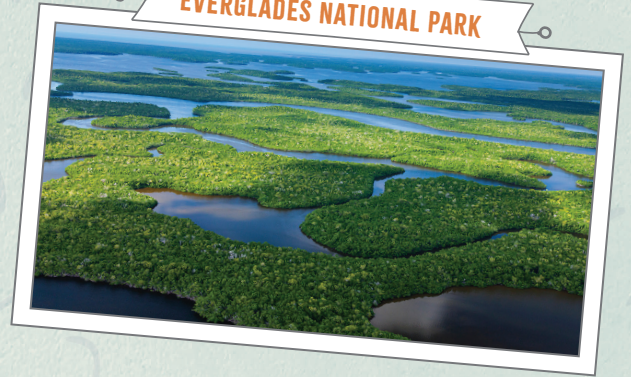
Lesson 5:

- several personal items such as photos, letters, or trinkets
- small container such as a shoebox or plastic zipper bag
- items for time capsule (newspaper articles, books, photos, drawings, small toys, clothing, etc.)

Lesson 6: none

Lesson 7: none

EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK



Lesson 8: none

Lesson 9: none

Lesson 10: none

Lesson 11: ruler

Lesson 12: ruler

Lesson 13: none

Lesson 14: Bible

Lesson 15: none

Lesson 16: laptop or computer (optional)

Lesson 17: none

Lesson 18: none

Lesson 19: none

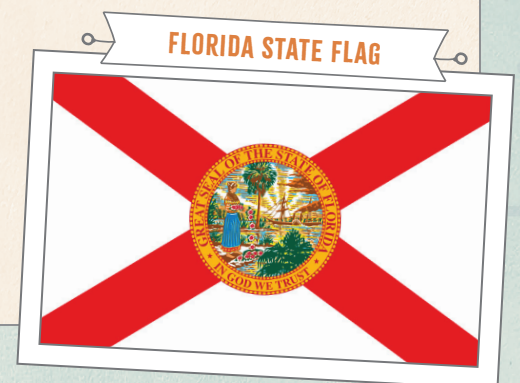
Lesson 20: laptop or computer (optional)

MIAMI BEACH



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THE SUNSHINE STATE



SUPPLIES: orange pencil or marker

Introduction

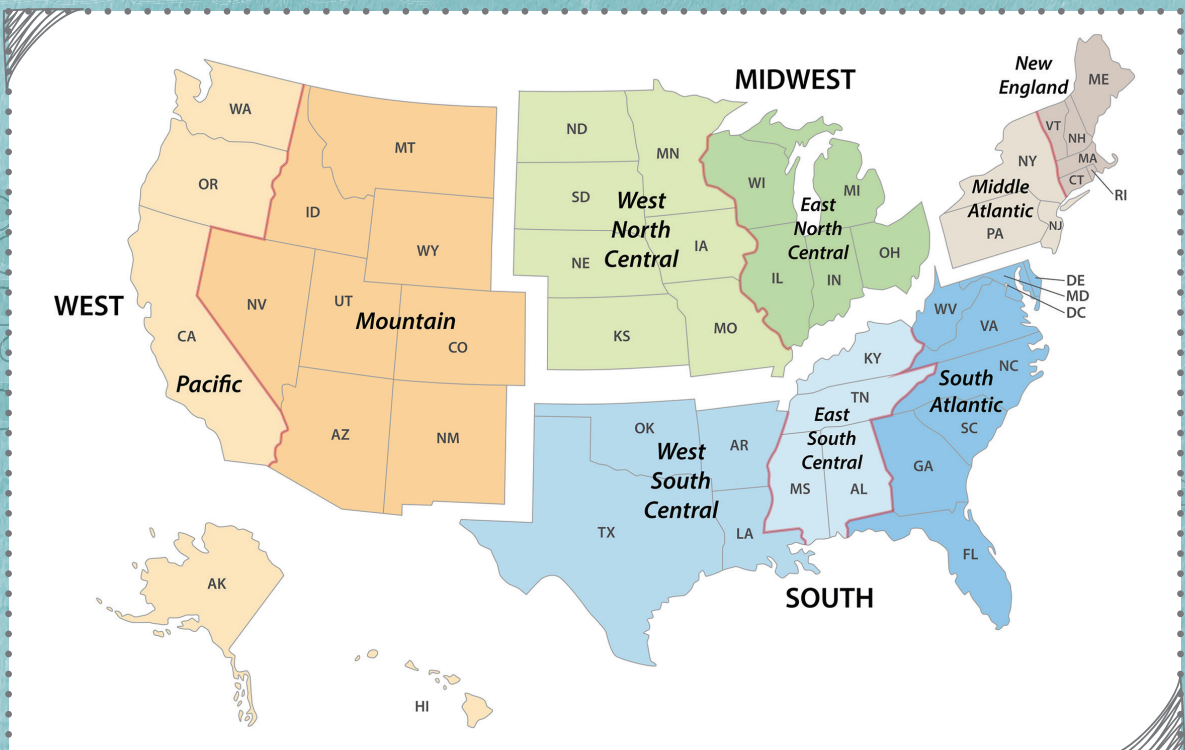
From the stunning, pristine beaches boasting white sand and glittering waters to the murky inland swamps canopied by moss-draped cypress trees, Florida is a state full of wondrous discoveries. Regardless of what part of the state you're exploring, you're bound to find adventure and some of North America's most unique animal species.

In 1845 Florida became the 27th state to join the United States. The name Florida comes from the Spanish words for Palm Sunday, *Pascua Florida*, which means "flowering Easter." It's a fitting name, as Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de León landed on the **peninsula** on or near Palm Sunday in 1513. In fact, Florida annually celebrates Pascua Florida Day on April 2. On this symbolic day that represents a piece of Florida's history, Floridians and visitors celebrate with feasts, crafts, and appreciation of the state's rich history.



peninsula [puh-NIN-suh-luh]

a piece of land that is surrounded by water on three sides and extends into the body of water



- Study the map above. Then follow the prompts on the next page.



- On the map on page 1, trace the border of Florida with an orange pencil or marker.
- Look at the map and compare Florida to the sizes of the other states. Name three states you think are about the same size as Florida.

Florida's state code is FL. Its projection away from the mainland between the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean makes it easily recognizable on a map—somewhat resembling America's foot sticking into the ocean.

Florida is one of very few peninsula states. It is bordered by the Gulf of Mexico to the west and the Atlantic Ocean to the east. If you wanted, you could visit the Atlantic Ocean, take a two-hour car trip westward, and be at the Gulf of Mexico!

- On the map on page 1, label the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean.

Tallahassee, the state capital, is located in the **panhandle**, a thin strip of land that stretches into another region. Look at the image of Florida again and locate the panhandle.

- On the small map to the right, locate Florida's capital city, Tallahassee, and circle it.
- Close your eyes and spell *Tallahassee*. How many sets of double letters does the name have?

The name Tallahassee comes from a Muskogean word meaning "old town." While Tallahassee has been an official city for over 200 years, it was home to several **Indigenous** tribes for hundreds of years before, truly making it live up to its "old town" name!



FUN FACT

Florida's nickname is the Sunshine State.



FUN FACT

Driving from Spring Hill, FL, a city on the west coast, to Titusville, FL, a city on the east coast, would only take two and a half hours. But driving from Tallahassee (north of state) to Miami (south of state) would take seven hours.



Indigenous [in-DI-jin-us]

plants, animals, or people that live natively in a particular region

TALLAHASSEE SKYLINE





FLORIDA STATE SYMBOLS MATCHING

Every state designates state symbols, which celebrate the state's identity and can offer a sense of unity and pride for the state's citizens. These symbols can include things such as a state **motto** (a short sentence or phrase that stands for something), a state animal, or a state flower.

- Match each state symbol in the center box to its correct image.



Mockingbird



Zebra Longwing



Florida Panther



Manatee



Orange Blossom

STATE REPTILE

STATE BIRD

STATE SHELL

STATE FLOWER

STATE BUTTERFLY

STATE MARINE ANIMAL

STATE BEVERAGE

STATE TREE

STATE ANIMAL

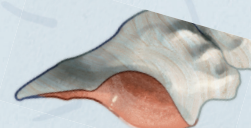
STATE MOTTO



Sabal Palm



Orange Juice



Horse Conch



American Alligator



"In God We Trust"

Florida State Symbols

The Florida state flag is another symbol of the state's identity as well as its rich history. The flag has a white background with a red cross behind the state seal. The red cross was added to avoid the appearance of flying a white flag of surrender.

Let's look more closely at the state seal. Can you find one of the state symbols from your matching activity on the seal?

- Read about the following four elements on the seal. Then find and label them on the seal. Use the KEY for help.

- A **Seminole** woman honors the Native American heritage that began long before European settlers arrived.
- A sabal palm is the state tree.
- A steamboat acknowledges Florida's trade industry.
- Flowers represent Florida's name.

FLORIDA STATE FLAG



Seminole [SEH-mih-nole]

relating to the people or language of a Native American tribe called the Seminoles



KEY:

Seminole woman

Sabal palm

Steamboat

Flowers

Florida's Climate

The **weather** and **climate** of a region can greatly impact how people live. In the next lesson, you will learn more about Florida's location and how that affects its weather and climate. For now, read the following three facts about Florida:

weather

the conditions of the atmosphere at a particular time

climate

the weather patterns over a long period of time

- Florida is the fifth-wettest state, with most of the rain falling in the summer months.
- Florida is famous for its hurricanes. Hurricane season tends to fall between June 1 and November 30.
- While the winter months are drier with mild temperatures, Florida's balmy summers are hot and humid.

- Circle which of the following weather conditions could describe Florida's climate. Hint: There are three.

Warm and
sunny

Possible
hurricanes

Dry desert

Blizzards

Below-freezing
temperatures

Intermittent
summer storms



The Pledge of Allegiance



I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.



These words likely feel familiar to you. This is the Pledge of Allegiance, a promise of loyalty to our country that is often recited at schools and sports games. Baptist minister Francis Bellamy penned the original pledge in 1892, after which it was the subject of much debate and went through several rewordings.

In 1942 President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Flag Code, which included an official version of the pledge for people to recite. President Dwight D. Eisenhower asked Congress to add "under God" to the pledge in 1954, and thus the version people say today was finalized.

The Flag Code also included guidelines for how to display and treat the United States flag and state

flags respectfully. Have you ever seen someone take a flag down from a flagpole? If so, you may have noticed that they were careful to not let the flag touch the ground and folded it neatly to store it. A few other ways we show respect for these great symbols of our state and nation are making sure the flag is properly illuminated at night and disposing of a worn-out or damaged flag properly by burning it rather than throwing it away.

To show devotion to our country, we recite the pledge respectfully by standing, facing the flag, removing any hats, and placing our right hands over our hearts.

Think about the words "indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." What does that mean to you?



NATIVE AMERICANS

SUPPLIES: highlighter

"We were all made by the same great Father and are alike his children," said Holata Micco [ho-LA-tuh MEE-koh], a mighty Seminole leader. Over the centuries, various groups of God's children have dwelled upon the land long before it bore the name of Florida. Today, you will learn more about the Indigenous peoples, or people who are native to a particular region, who settled in the area and called it home before the bustling cities of Miami, Jacksonville, and Tampa ever existed.

What town do you call home? Take a look out the window. Imagine if, in an instant, the buildings, telephone poles, homes, and roads disappeared, transporting you back in time. What do you think the land and homes looked like long ago? The map on the next page shows where some of the Indigenous people of Florida lived for centuries before Europeans stepped foot on the land, overlaid with names of Florida cities and rivers of today.

Native Americans of Florida

As the first people of this continent began to spread out, they formed close-knit groups called clans and nations. Each nation held its own beliefs, customs, diets, clothing, and language. Archaeologists have uncovered artifacts that help us learn more about their unique way of life.

Can you think of foods that are unique to your town? People often eat foods that grow naturally in their areas and fit their way of life. Similarly, each group of Indigenous people ate foods based on the area in which they lived. Without grocery stores or restaurants, each family had to collect food based on what they could find on the land. Let's learn more about the people of these nations, their homes, and their primary methods for obtaining food: farming and trading, or hunting, fishing, and gathering.

HOLATA MICCO



HOW DID YOU GET YOUR NAME?

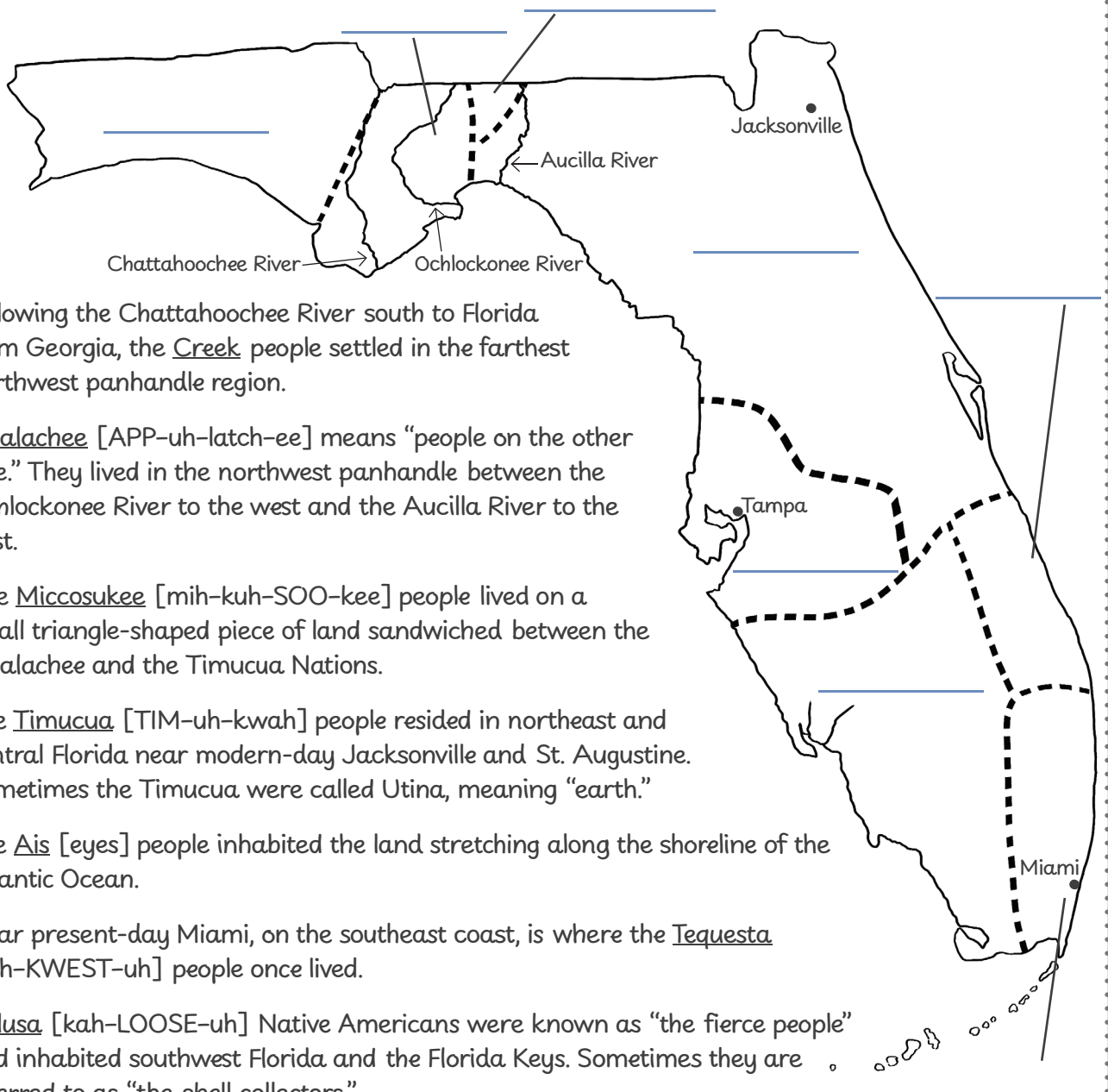
You may be named after a grandparent or family member. Does your name have a special meaning? Names are very important to Native Americans. Each name has significance and represents their unique cultures and communities.

Throughout history many names of native groups have been put upon them and changed by outsiders. Christopher Columbus referred to Native people of the Americas by the name "Indians," which has persisted for hundreds of years. Today, we recognize the use of more respectful terms such as "Indigenous people of America" or "Native Americans." By referring to the first people of this land by the names they prefer, we honor their descendants who continue to live across North America.



MAP IT OUT: NATIVE AMERICAN NATIONS OF FLORIDA

Although we don't know the exact boundaries and locations of each of the Native American nations of Florida, historians have researched Native oral histories and early explorer accounts to map out general boundaries of each nation. Read each homeland description, locate the region on the map, and write the name of the group that inhabited the area on the line provided.



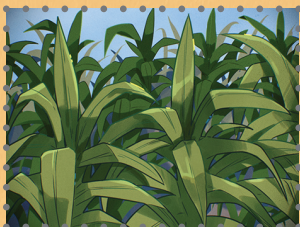
- Following the Chattahoochee River south to Florida from Georgia, the Creek people settled in the farthest northwest panhandle region.
- Apalachee [APP-uh-latch-ee] means "people on the other side." They lived in the northwest panhandle between the Ochlockonee River to the west and the Aucilla River to the east.
- The Miccosukee [mih-kuh-SOO-kee] people lived on a small triangle-shaped piece of land sandwiched between the Apalachee and the Timucua Nations.
- The Timucua [TIM-uh-kwah] people resided in northeast and central Florida near modern-day Jacksonville and St. Augustine. Sometimes the Timucua were called Utina, meaning "earth."
- The Ais [eyes] people inhabited the land stretching along the shoreline of the Atlantic Ocean.
- Near present-day Miami, on the southeast coast, is where the Tequesta [tuh-KWEST-uh] people once lived.
- Calusa [kah-LOOSE-uh] Native Americans were known as "the fierce people" and inhabited southwest Florida and the Florida Keys. Sometimes they are referred to as "the shell collectors."
- Near what is now Tampa, the western Gulf Coast was home to the Tocobaga [toh-koh-BAH-guh] Nation.

Farming and Trading

The Indigenous people of northern Florida were excellent farmers due in part to their permanent homes and fertile soil. Although they also hunted, farming was their primary source of food production. Using your map, follow us back in time on our journey through the northern panhandle, down and around the peninsula, to learn about the Indigenous people of these regions and how they lived. Highlight one interesting fact from each section. Check the box when you're done reading each section.

Apalachee

Can you imagine finding your way through a vast cornfield? If you stood in a field of corn grown by the Apalachee, you might be walking for days to find your way out as cornfields stretched for miles and miles. When ripe, the corn was harvested, stored in large storehouses, and often traded away. The men prepared the fields by burning away weeds, and the women planted and tended corn, beans, pumpkins, and squash.



Small, low homes were built nestled together to form a town. Roofs were constructed from palm thatches, or palm leaves and fronds that were woven together.

FUN FACT

If you travel to Tallahassee, you might have a chance to see an Apalachee palm-thatched roof. In the late 1990s, specialized craftsmen skilled in the art of roof thatching reconstructed a model of the Apalachee chief's house. The crew, including Native Americans and South African Zulus, thatched together 36,000 palm fronds to complete the cone-shaped roof, which extended 21 meters (70 feet) in diameter!

To complete the even larger 37-meter (121-foot) council house, the craftsmen thatched 56,000 palm fronds! The council house is one of the largest Native American structures in the Southeast. Historians and archaeologists worked together to ensure the structures were built on the exact locations where they were hundreds of years ago.



Timucua

Similar to the Apalachee, the Timucua planted crops, with corn being the most important. Women took care of the crops and gathered nuts and berries. Men wore deerskins while hunting for deer. They roasted the deer over an open fire in a method they called *barbacoa*. Does this remind you of the word "barbecue"? Some historians believe this is how the word "barbecue" began.



What shape are most houses? Houses in a Timucua village were actually round, not rectangular, and were made using natural materials. Timucua people made poles out of wood and packed them with clay. Palm fronds, or leaves, were thatched together for the roof. For protection, the houses were built close together in a circular shape and surrounded by a high fence. Chiefs were highly respected, and they followed the female line, so when a chief died, his sister's son would be the next chief, not his own son. Since the chief was so important, his home was built in the center of the village.

THE 27TH STATE

 **SUPPLIES:** colored pencils

The Spanish light-house stands in haze:

The keeper trims his light;

No sail he sees through the long, long days,

No sail through the still, still night;

—Constance Fenimore Woolson

You might imagine old Florida, with its 2,172 kilometers (1,350 miles) of vast shoreline, as being filled with lighthouses. But before Florida became a territory of the United States in 1821, an old Spanish watchtower in St. Augustine, erected in 1589, acted as the state's only lighthouse for hundreds of years. Problems with hurricanes, soft sands, and remote, treacherous seas made it difficult to construct and maintain lighthouses.



Lighthouses were hard to build, and Florida's statehood didn't come any easier. Although it was the first state with a European settlement, it was the 27th state to enter the Union. Let's explore some of Florida's difficulties on its path to becoming a state.

How a Territory Becomes a State

It took nearly 30 years for Florida to become a state. A territory can't simply ask to join the nation; specific requirements must be met. A territory has to **petition**, or formally request, for statehood showing that people want the area to become a state. Congress has to consent to the request, and the president of the United States must sign approval for it to become official.

When it came time for Florida to become a state, Congress implemented some additional conditions. First the territory had to reach a population of 60,000 people. Then it had to have a completed constitution. Additionally, slavery was a dividing issue. Florida applied to enter the Union as a state that supported slavery. To keep the balance of power equal between "slave states" and "free states," Congress wouldn't allow Florida to enter until a free state was also ready, which took nearly seven years.





TERRITORIES OF THE UNITED STATES

- Today there are more than 14 territories of the United States. Solve the mystery puzzle to find the names of three of the territories.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
★	⊛	▩	⋈	×	■	●	◀	☺	⊗	⚡	♪	◻

N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
◊	◯	💧	♥	⚙	⬢	◇	✱	◐	▣	▽	↓	↑

- ★ ◻ × ⚙ ☺ ▩ ★ ◊ ⬢ ★ ◻ ◯ ★
- 💧 ✱ × ⚙ ◇ ◯ ⚙ ☺ ▩ ◯
- ✱ ★ ◻



Florida's Path to Statehood

THINK
ABOUT IT!

Think back to Lesson 3 when you learned about Florida's state boundaries. Do you recall which countries controlled Florida in the past? That's right—Spain, England, and then Spain again. Let's travel through time and highlight important events in Florida history. Native people lived on this land for thousands of years before the time line below begins in 1565, when Spain created a settlement in St. Augustine. Continue reading the events of each year on the time line leading up to Florida's statehood. Figure out how many years fall between each item on the time line by subtracting the earlier year from the later year (if there is a range of years, use the first year). Write these numbers in the boxes.

- **1565** The first Spanish settlement is established at St. Augustine.



- **1763** England takes ownership, splitting the land into East and West Florida.

- **1783** England gives Florida back to Spain after the Revolutionary War.

- **1810** West Florida citizens rebel against Spain and declare independence.

- **1817–1818** In the First Seminole War, the US government seeks to clear the land of the Seminole Native Americans.



Seminole Leader
Holata Micco

- **1819** The Adams-Onís Treaty is written, which suggests Florida be given to the US.

- **1821** Florida is now part of the US.

- **1835–1842** The Second Seminole War

- **1838** The territory of Florida petitions for statehood.

- **1845** On March 3, President John Tyler signs the bill to admit Florida as a state.

- **1855–1858** The Third Seminole War



CIVIL WAR AND RECONSTRUCTION

SUPPLIES: colored pencils

The Battle Lines

The year was 1861. Florida had unanimously voted to leave the United States to join the Confederate States of America. By the time the first shots of the Civil War were fired early in the morning on April 12, 1861, the battle lines had been drawn.

The Union

The Union, the side that did not secede, was made up of 25 Northern states, 20 of which did not allow slavery:

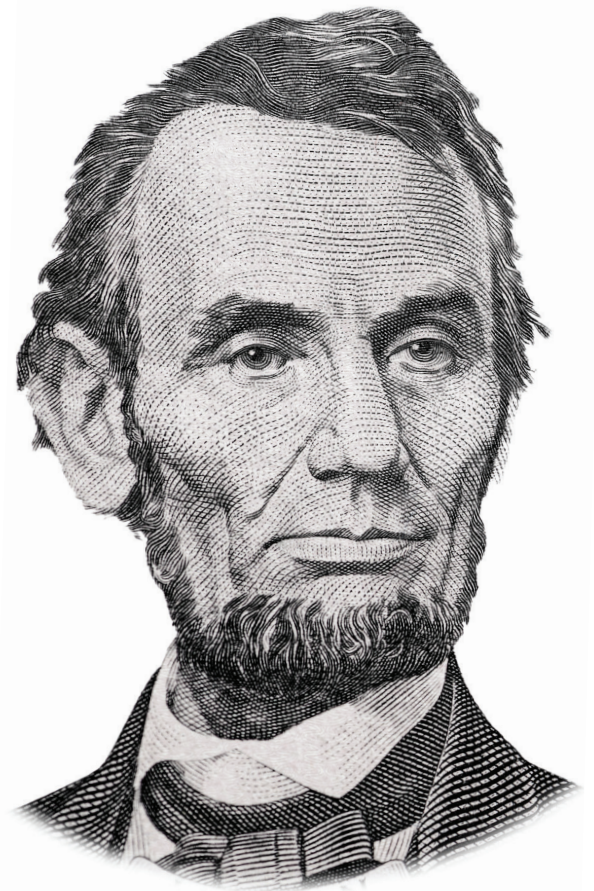
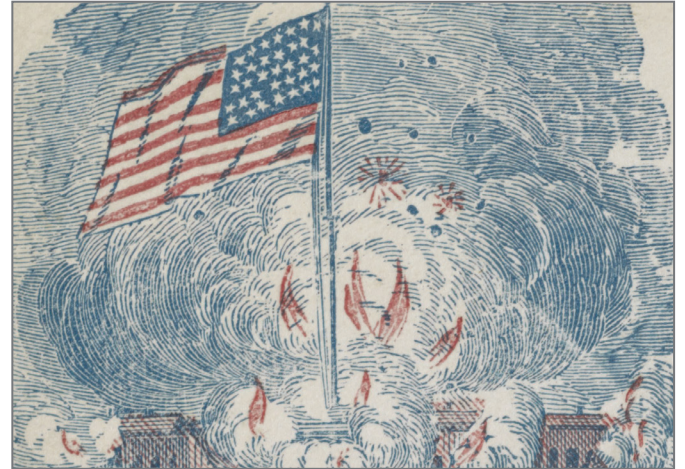
- California
- Connecticut
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Iowa
- Kansas
- Maine
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Nevada
- New Hampshire
- New Jersey
- New York
- Ohio
- Oregon
- Pennsylvania
- Rhode Island
- Vermont
- Wisconsin

Five more states in the Union, considered border states, chose to stay with the Union but still allowed slavery and had mixed views on secession:

- Delaware
- Kentucky
- Maryland
- Missouri
- West Virginia
(separated from Virginia in 1863)

The Union still claimed Abraham Lincoln as its president.

UNION FLAG AMID WAR, ILLUSTRATION C. 1861





DRAWING BATTLE LINES

Use the map below to identify the battle lines of the Civil War.

- First, identify and color the five border states red. Label them "Border States."
- Next, identify and color the remaining 20 Northern states blue. Label them "Union States."
- Record the name of the president of the Union in the provided space below. On the next page, you will read how to finish the activity.



PRESIDENT OF THE UNION:

PRESIDENT OF THE CONFEDERACY:

The Confederacy

In the South, the Confederacy involved these states:

- Alabama
- North Carolina
- Arkansas
- South Carolina
- Florida
- Tennessee
- Georgia
- Texas
- Louisiana
- Virginia
- Mississippi

They voted to elect a new president, Jefferson Davis, a soldier and Mississippi senator.

STARS AND BARS FLAG



THE CONFEDERATE FLAG

Today, the most widely recognized flag of the Civil War isn't the official "Stars and Bars" flag of the Confederate States, but rather one that first flew as the battle flag of General Robert E. Lee's Northern Virginia army. Over the years since the Civil War, the "Confederate Flag" has become one of the most controversial symbols in American history.



Continue identifying the battle lines of the Civil War.

- Identify and color the 11 Southern states gray. Label them "Confederate States."
- Record the name of the president of the Confederacy.
- Put a bookmark on this page so you can easily flip back throughout this lesson if needed.

CULTURE AND ART

✦ **SUPPLIES:** colored pencils

Understanding Culture

Picture a young girl sitting at a wooden table in the heart of the Everglades, among towering palm trees and tall green grasses. She selects a dark blue bead, threads it on a string, and then chooses another, until she has a long string of brightly colored pea-sized glass beads. The ends are tied together to form a necklace.



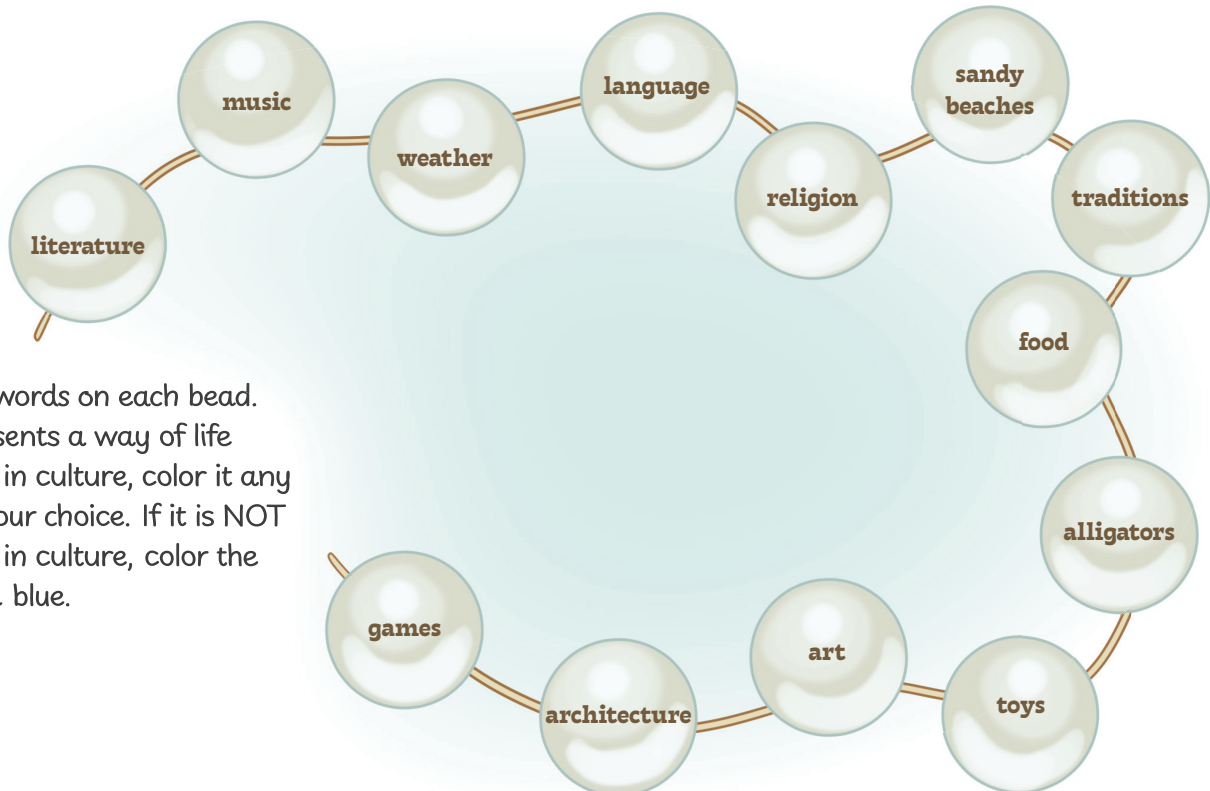
Every morning, Native American Seminole women pick up the chains from a basket, wind several beaded necklaces around their necks, then set about sewing clothing, tending to animals, and cooking over a fire. Some women wear beads that weigh 12–18 pounds combined—that's a lot of beads! These beaded strings are more than just a necklace; they are a symbol of beauty, artwork, and **culture** to Seminole women.

Just as the Seminole girl placed each bead on the string to

create this symbol of beauty, individuals and groups of people from around the world have combined to create a vibrant and diverse culture in Florida today.

culture

a pattern of behaviors, traditions, and beliefs practiced by a group of people, such as language, celebrations, religious practice, or types of foods eaten



- Read the words on each bead. If it represents a way of life expressed in culture, color it any color of your choice. If it is NOT expressed in culture, color the bead dark blue.



FLORIDA CULTURES

Each group of people creates its own culture, and then cultures mix and learn from one another. Florida has welcomed displaced people from around the world, Native Americans being the first. Let's travel around Florida and learn more about various groups and their expressions of culture.

- As you read through each section, you will be prompted to return to this page to mark the map.



Hair led a group of 26 talented African American artists called the Florida Highwaymen, who sold their landscape paintings door-to-door and from their car trunks right alongside the highway to make a living. Today, many of these highly sought-after paintings and artists are displayed at the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture.

- Find Fort Pierce on the map on page 91 and circle it with an orange pencil.

Caribbean Culture: Architecture

We've traveled around the state and learned about a variety of cultures. Florida has a history of welcoming others from every corner of the world. Many came from the Caribbean Islands, including Haiti, Jamaica, the Bahamas, and Trinidad and Tobago. Let's venture back to Miami and the vibrant neighborhood of Little Haiti nestled in the city. Walking down the street, you will hear a language different from English or Spanish! It's called Haitian Creole. *Byenvini nan Ti Ayiti*, or welcome to Little Haiti!



Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava and Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas speak at the Little Haiti Cultural Center in Miami, 2023.

Keep walking and you will see vibrant yellow, teal, green, maroon, or red homes. These buildings resemble gingerbread houses, with steep-pitched roofs, elegant balconies, intricately patterned woodwork, and large shaded porches to protect from the tropical weather. The gingerbread-style architecture abounds in Haiti and is replicated in Little Haiti and Key West, Florida.

The island of Haiti has suffered from severe earthquakes over the centuries, devastating the people. Some Haitians immigrated to Florida for refuge, and others remained. Many gingerbread-style homes and buildings withstood the damage of the earthquakes

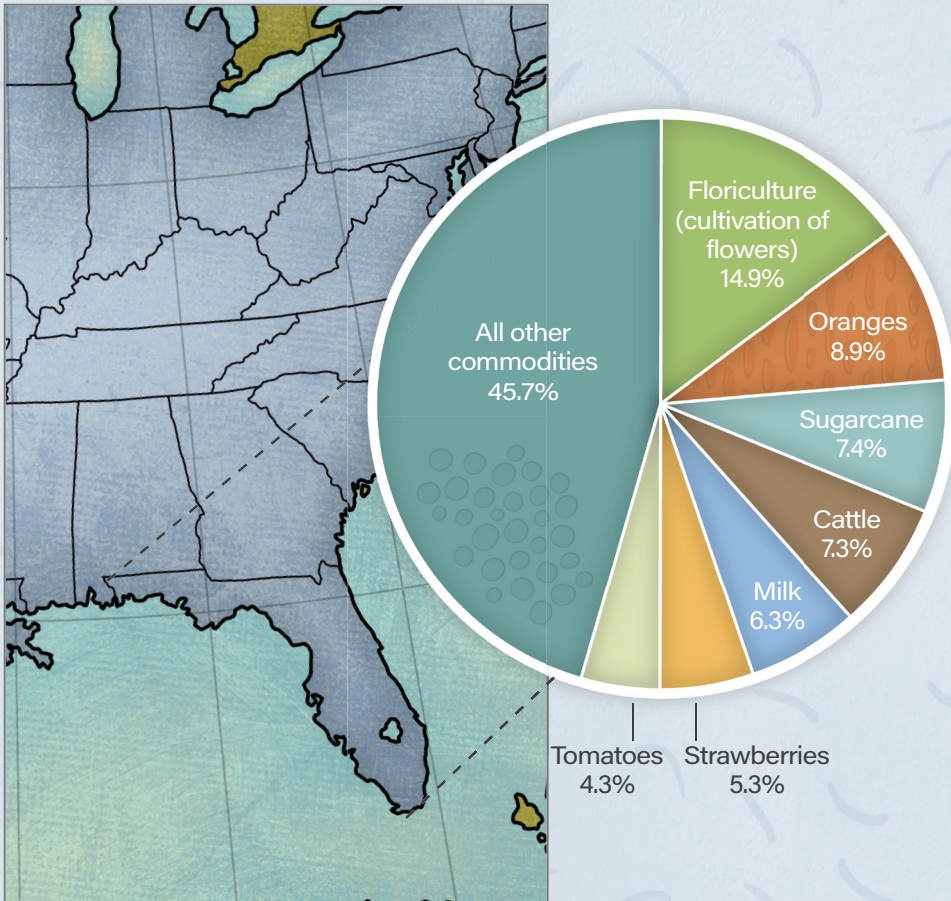
GINGERBREAD STYLE





FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES

- Use the pie chart below to answer the questions.



What items on the chart are products of plants?

What is the second-highest-producing commodity?

What percentage is sugarcane?

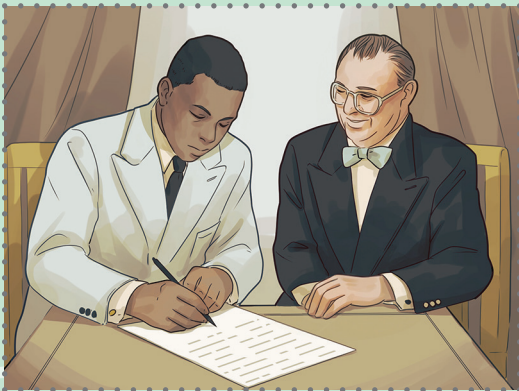
What agricultural commodities from Florida do you use the most?

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service, U.S. and State-Level Farm Income and Wealth Statistics data product.
Note: Figures may not add to 100 because of rounding.



RUN THE BASES TO END SEGREGATION

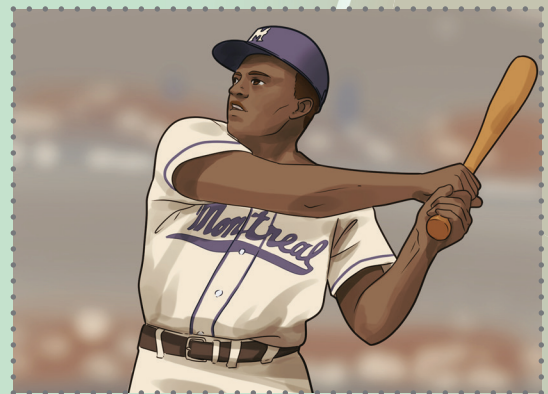
In baseball, players get closer to scoring a run with each base they pass, starting at first base, then second, third, and finally reaching home plate, where they earn a point. Similarly, overcoming segregation in baseball was a challenging step-by-step process. As you learn how the color barrier was broken, mark each base with key milestone dates.



1ST BASE: In 1945 Branch Rickey signed African American players Jackie Robinson and John Wright to the Montreal Royals, an all-White, Canada-based feeder team for the Brooklyn Dodgers. Rickey, a man full of faith, told Robinson he would need a lot of courage to withstand persecution and had him promise not to fight back, no matter how hard things got. Signing Robinson was the first step to an equal playing field. Write "1945" on first base.

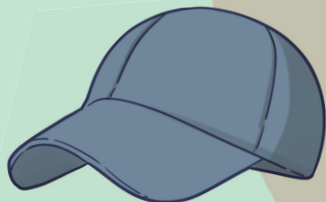
**1ST
BASE**

2ND BASE: The fans in Canada cheered Robinson on, but he didn't find as much success in the United States. Unwritten segregation rules prohibited African Americans from playing on teams with White players, especially in the South. On March 17, 1946, the Montreal Royals played a spring training game against the Brooklyn Dodgers in Daytona Beach, Florida. Here, Robinson, a soon-to-be American hero, first appeared with the all-White team in the United States. Other cities refused to allow Robinson in their stadiums and canceled games if Robinson played, but Daytona Beach did not. Things were different there because of the efforts of an African American woman named Mary McLeod Bethune. You will learn more about her in a later lesson, but her legacy was instrumental in city officials challenging the segregation rules, allowing Robinson to play. Bethune even met with Robinson and his wife to give them encouragement.

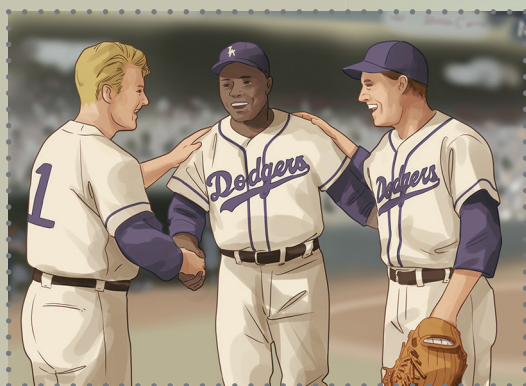
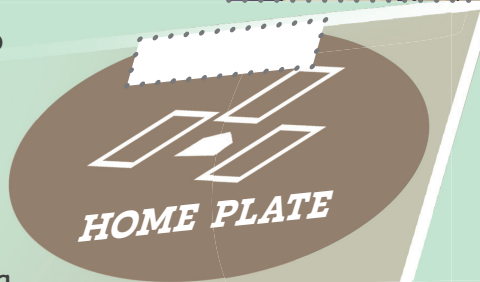


Although he didn't get a hit during the match, and not everyone was on his side, some fans cheered as Robinson went up to bat. The second step toward integrated baseball was Robinson playing his first game in Daytona Beach, defying the segregation laws of the time. Write "1946" on second base.

**2ND
BASE**



HOME PLATE: Robinson was fast. Some fans cheered as he sprinted around the bases and slid into home, but others treated him unfairly—teammates, opposing players, and spectators yelled and called him names. Sometimes, opposing players in the infield dug the spikes of their cleats into Robinson as he slid into a base, but he never fought back. One day in 1948, his teammate Pee Wee Reese was being heckled by opposing players for playing on the same team as Robinson. Robinson recalled, “Pee Wee didn’t answer them. Without a glance in their direction, he left his position and walked over to me. He put his hand on my shoulder and began talking to me. His words weren’t important. I don’t even remember what he said. It was the gesture of comradeship and support that counted. As he stood talking with me with a friendly arm around my shoulder, he was saying loud and clear, ‘Yell. Heckle. Do anything you want. We came here to play baseball.’ . . . The jeering stopped, and a close and lasting friendship began between Reese and me.”



3RD BASE: Robinson played for the Montreal Royals for one season and did so well that Branch Rickey promoted him to the Brooklyn Dodgers Major League Baseball team for the National League. April 15, 1947, will long be remembered as the day Jackie Robinson played his first game and broke the color barrier in the Major League, paving the way to end segregation. Soon afterward, the African American leagues were disbanded, and eventually, more players were invited to play for minor and major league teams. Write “1947” on third base.

**3RD
BASE**

Jesus taught us to love God and to love our neighbors. The real win in life comes when people choose to love others and not hate them because of their differences. Write “1948” on home plate next to the image of Robinson and Pee Wee Reese.

Today, Florida is home to two Major League Baseball teams, the Miami Marlins and the Tampa Bay Rays.