

Historical Museum of Southern Florida

# History



## Mysteries

Student Activity Booklet

Soon you will be taking a field trip to the [Historical Museum of Southern Florida](#).  
A museum is a place where a collection of objects is kept and displayed in exhibits.

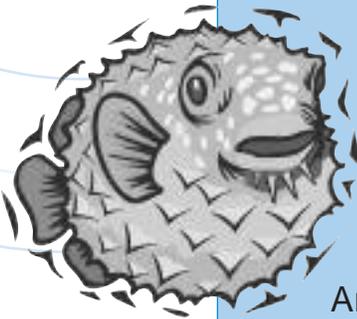
Do you collect anything? \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you like to collect these things? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been to a museum? \_\_\_\_\_

What did you see there? \_\_\_\_\_

# What is a Museum?



There are many different types of museums.

Match the words on the left with the correct item(s) on the right.

Type of museum	What will I learn about?
Zoo	flowers and plants
Botanical garden	paintings and sculpture
Science museum	prehistoric tools
Art museum	fish
History museum	stars and planets
Aquarium	lions and elephants
Planetarium	gravity and magnets

Circle what you think you will see at the Historical Museum of Southern Florida.

live animals

Seminole beads

sculpture

cannon

plants

lighthouse lens

## List 3 things you know about the history of South Florida.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

A historical museum is a place where objects from the past are collected, cared for and exhibited so that you can explore and learn from them. At the Historical Museum of Southern Florida you can investigate objects from 10,000 years of South Florida and Caribbean history.

At the museum, keep in mind these three important words: **artifact**, **document** and **replica**.

An **ARTIFACT** is anything made or used by humans. A canoe made by a Seminole crafter is an artifact.

A **DOCUMENT** is something that is written or printed. A photograph is a document and even your report card is a document.

A **REPLICA** is an exact copy of something. Sometimes people who work in a museum use a replica when the original artifact is too fragile for visitors to touch or hold.

### Look around your classroom.

What is real?

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

What is a replica?

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_



Label these  
Document or  
Artifact.



# Who were the first Floridians?

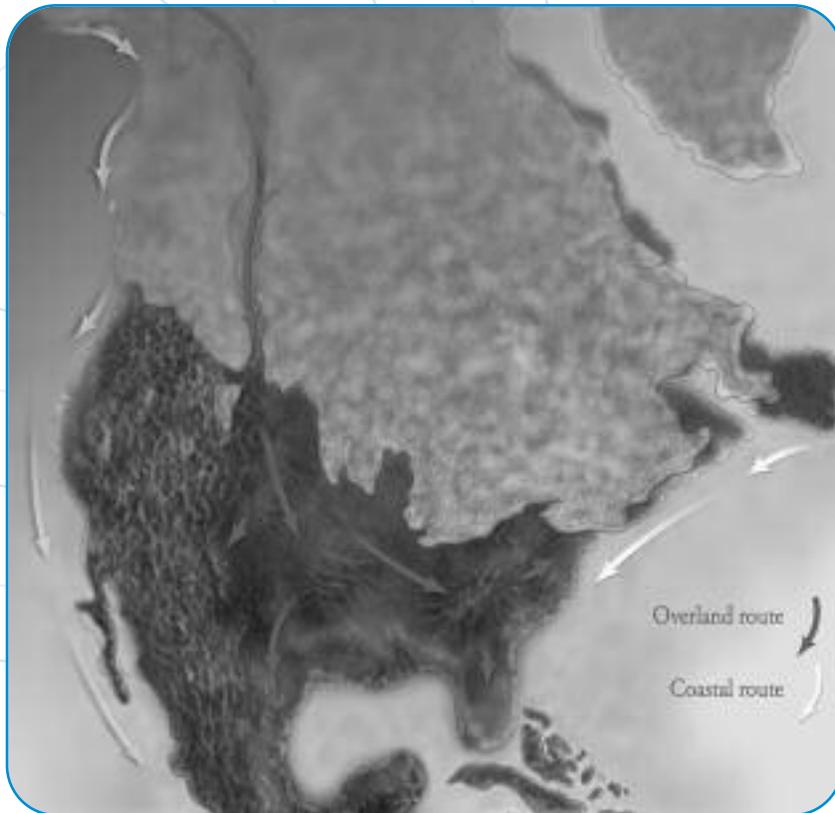
## Where did they come from?

## How did they get here?

The first inhabitants of America migrated from Asia 25,000 years ago, crossing a land bridge between Siberia and Alaska. These prehistoric people settled across

North, Central and South America and became the first Native Americans. 10,000 years ago, some of them reached the peninsula that would one day be called Florida. They were the first Floridians!

As these Native Americans settled into their new environment in South Florida, they became expert hunters, fishers and crafters. The Calusa Indians lived along the west coast of South Florida. They were great engineers who constructed buildings and dug canals for transportation. Another group, the

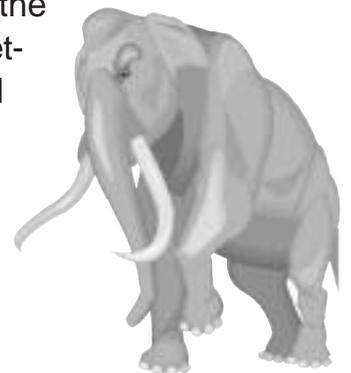


Migration map

Tequesta settled in the area we call Miami. They lived in small settlements along Biscayne Bay and the Miami River, where they hunted, fished and made tools and jewelry out of shells.



By the 1760s, European diseases and warfare destroyed the Calusa, Tequesta and other Native Americans.



How do we know about these first settlers?

**ARCHAEOLOGISTS** use the artifacts people leave behind to learn about their history. The artifacts you leave behind today will help future archaeologists learn about life during the 21st century.



### What is the Miami Circle?

In 1998 at a construction site on the Miami River in downtown Miami, archaeologists discovered the “Miami Circle.” They found a circle of deep holes in the bedrock spanning 38 feet that dated back over 2,000 years ago. Based on artifacts found during



the excavation, archaeologists believe the Tequesta built the structure for ceremonial or political purposes. The State of Florida and Miami-Dade County purchased the land, and archaeologists are still working to piece together the puzzle of the mysterious civilization that once called South Florida home.



Top—Miami Circle excavation. Above—Tequesta Indians at the Miami Circle site.

You be the Archaeologist!

Make a list of the items on top of your dresser or bedside table.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_

If archaeologists find these items a thousand years from now, what could they learn about you and your life today?

Over the past 500 years, five flags have flown over Florida.

## SPANISH FLAG

During the 1500s the Spanish controlled large parts of North, South and Central America, where they found treasures. In 1513, Ponce de Leon landed in Florida and claimed the land for the king of Spain. He named it "La Florida" since it was around the time of the Spanish "Feast of Flowers." In 1521, he returned to Florida to start a colony, but was killed by native Calusa who did not want to give up their land.

## FRENCH FLAG

About 50 years after the Spanish claimed Florida, the French set up a colony along the St. Johns River. As a result, the Spanish king sent Pedro Menendez de Aviles to explore, colonize and rid Florida of the French. In 1565, Menendez founded St. Augustine, the oldest city in the United States. Spain defeat-

ed the French and continued to control Florida for almost 200 years.

## BRITISH FLAG

In 1763 the British took over Florida and divided it into two colonies, East and West Florida. Twenty years later the British returned Florida to the Spanish, who kept control until 1821.

## UNITED STATES FLAG

When the second Spanish period ended, the United States flag flew over Florida. In 1845, Florida became the 27th state in the Union.

## CONFEDERATE FLAG

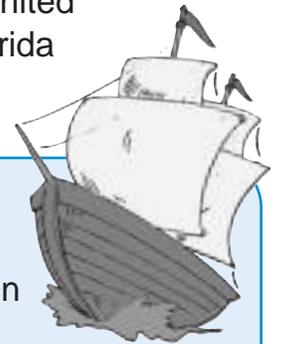
Florida became a Confederate state in 1861 and flew the Confederate flag during the American Civil War, fought between the northern and southern states from 1861 to 1865. After the North won the Civil War, the United States flag flew over Florida once again.



Route of the Spanish Treasure Fleets

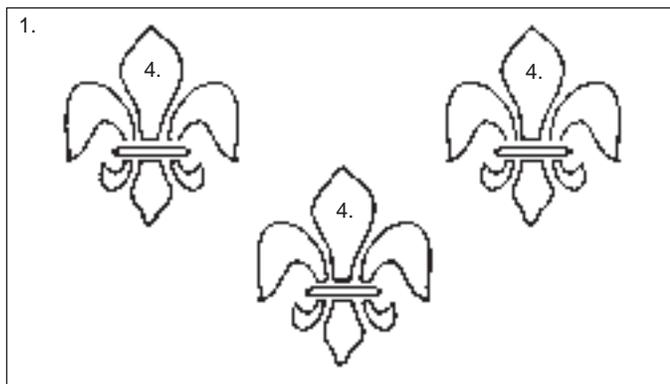
### What is the Gulf Stream?

The Gulf Stream, a circular current of water similar to a river in the ocean, carried ships powered by wind along the treasure routes. On the map, use your finger to follow this route. Why do you think so many countries fought for control of Florida?

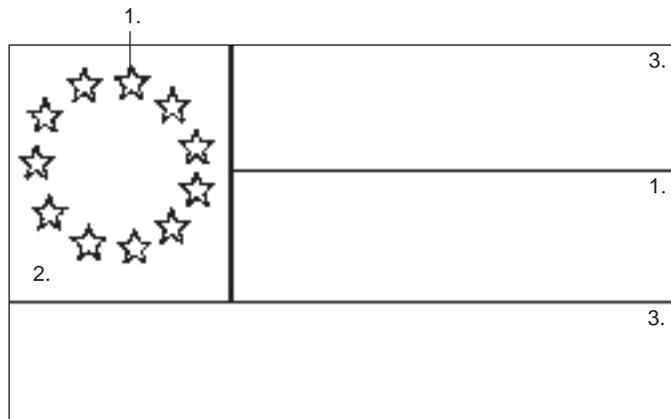


Color the flags using the color key.

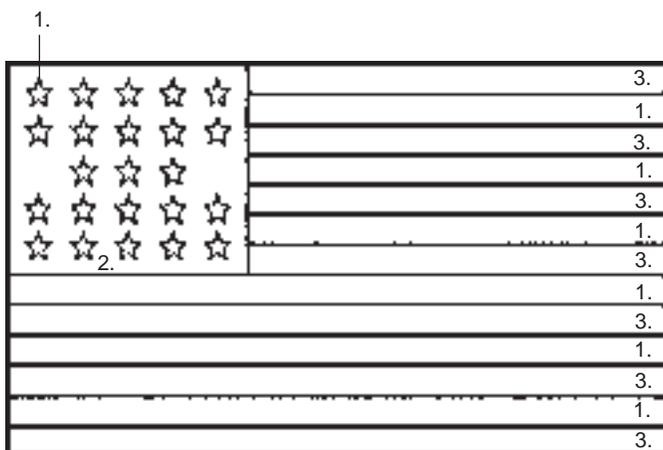
Number each flag from 1 to 5 in the order that they first flew over Florida.



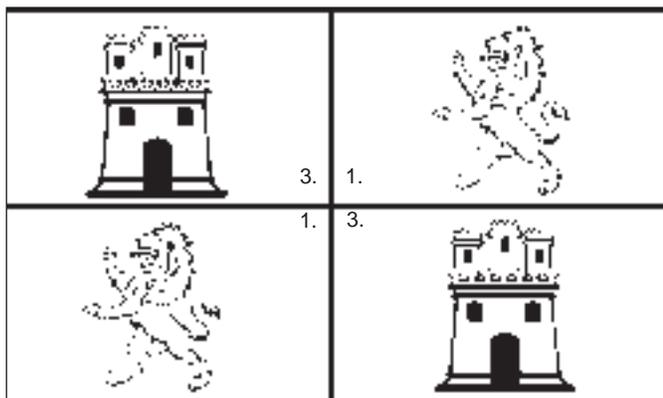
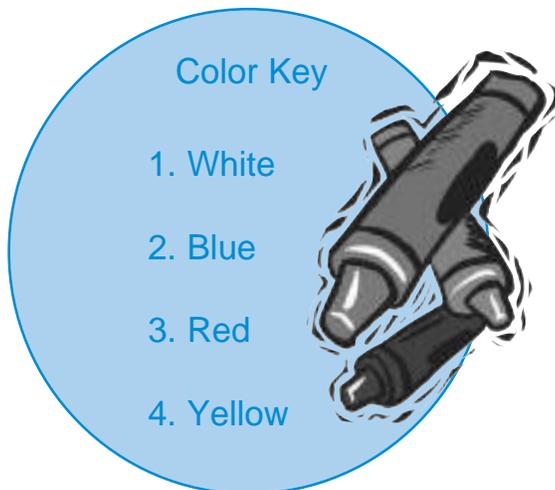
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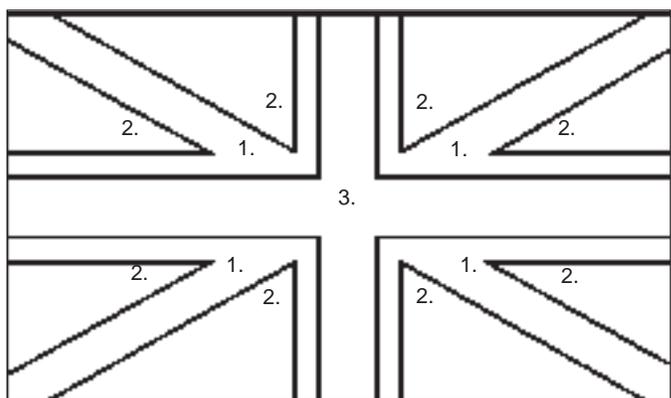
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nUtideS atet sIFga



pSnasi hIFga



rBtisi hIFga

When Florida became a US territory in 1821, few people lived in the southern half of the peninsula. It was dangerous to travel in this region because pirates and smugglers used Key West as a base of operation. In 1822 the US Navy's Anti-Piracy force protected Key West's harbor, making it safe for ships and sailors.

As the population in Key West grew, its industry did too.

**SHIPWRECKS** were big business in Key West! Few lighthouses made it difficult to see at night, and ships wrecked on the

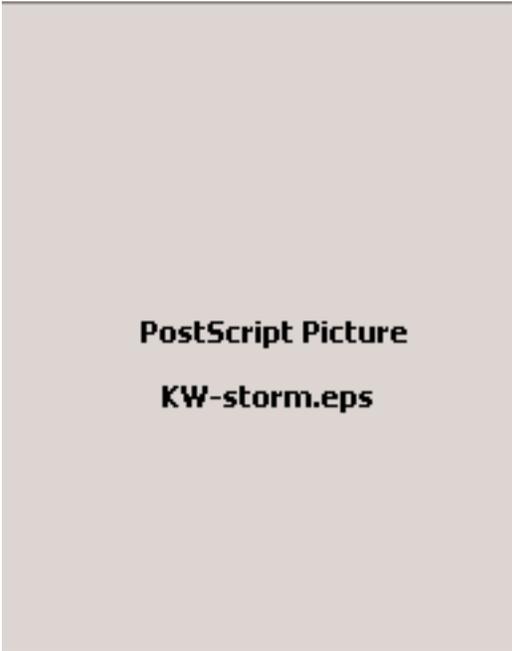


sharp coral reefs. **WRECKERS** sailed out to rescue wrecked ships and save their cargo. Wreckers received a portion of the salvaged cargo, which they sold for profit in Key West.

**SPONGING** was one of Key West's largest industries. In small boats, spongers used glass bottom buckets and long poles with fingered hooks, to grab sponges beneath the water. Once the sponges were washed and dried out, they were sold.

**MAKING CIGARS** was a profitable business in Key West. The warm and humid climate kept tobacco leaves soft and flexible. Thousands of Cubans came to Key West to roll cigars, and by 1875, Spanish was frequently spoken.

Cigar rollers hired **LECTORS** to entertain them while they worked by reading books and newspapers aloud.



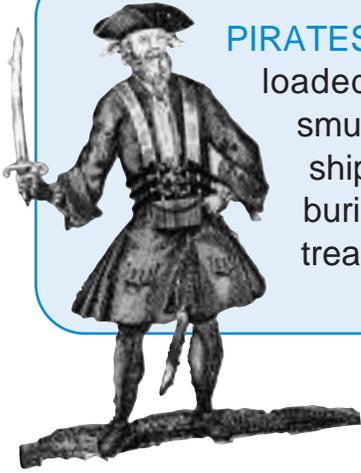
PostScript Picture

KW-storm.eps

List 3 important industries in South Florida today.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

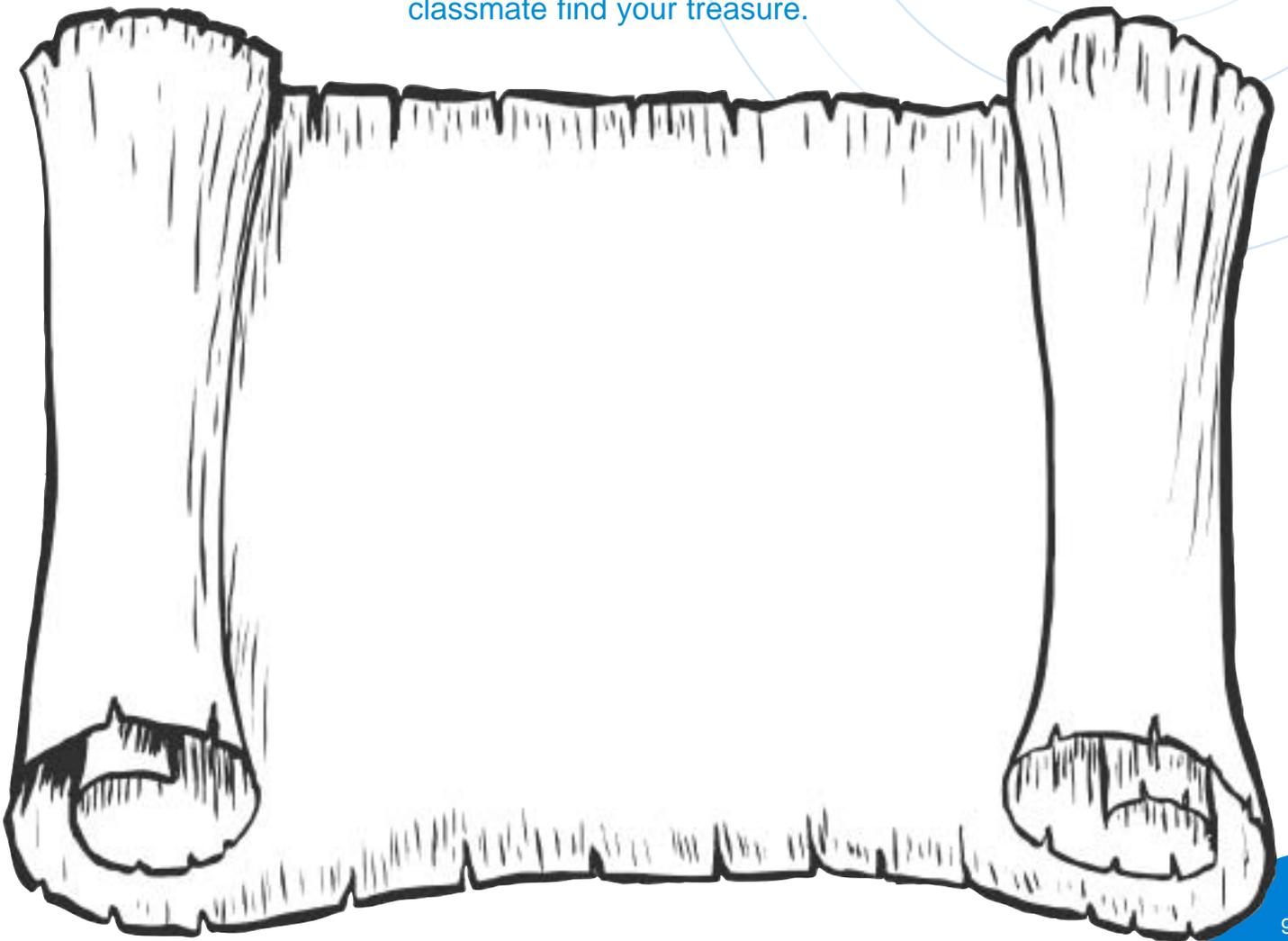
3. \_\_\_\_\_



**PIRATES** once patrolled the ship routes around Florida, preying on galleons loaded with riches bound for Europe. In legends and stories, pirates smuggled slaves, kidnapped important people and raided treasures from shipwrecks. They hid their “booty,” or riches, in treasure chests, which they buried. Pirates created detailed maps and directions to help find their treasures years later.

### Create Your Own Treasure Map!

1. Identify an object in your classroom to be your treasure.
2. Pretend to bury your treasure somewhere in your classroom.
3. Use symbols, clues and written directions to help a classmate find your treasure.





Chickee Hut

In the early 1700s, groups of Native Americans began leaving their homelands in Georgia and Alabama to settle in northern Florida. The Spanish, who ruled Florida at the time, welcomed the Native Americans and called them Seminoles. Some African-American slaves who escaped from plantations joined the Seminoles.

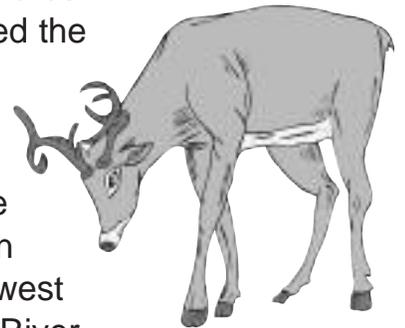


During Spanish and British reign in Florida, the Seminoles were cattle ranchers, farmers, hunters and traders.

They kept their customs and way of life separate from the settlers, who wanted their land.

When the United States purchased

Florida from Spain, Americans moved south and wanted the Seminoles' land. In 1830 the United States government passed the Indian Removal Act—a law which required all Native Americans living in the east to move west of the Mississippi River. Although three Seminole Wars were fought over the land, many Seminoles were still forced to move west to Oklahoma.



A few hundred Seminoles escaped and hid in the Everglades. Their new environment was wet and dangerous, but they adapted, building chickee homes on small wooded islands called hammocks. They raised crops such as corn, pumpkin and beans, and hunted fish, deer and alligators for food.

## What would it be like to live in the Everglades?

Have you ever been to the Everglades? Can you imagine living there?

What tasks do you think a young Seminole girl or boy had to do on a daily basis?

In the chart below compare your daily activities to those of a Seminole living in the Everglades in the 1800s.

Time	My life—today	Seminole—1800s
Morning	Ride the bus to school.	Take the canoe to go fishing.
Noon		
Afternoon		
Evening		
Night		



# South Florida's Pioneers

In 1876 there were fewer than 100 people living on South Florida's mainland. To encourage people to spread out across the United States, Congress passed the [Homestead Act](#) in 1862. This law gave 160 acres of land to any person who would live on the property for five years and improve it. The free land encouraged people to travel to the wilderness of South Florida and prepare the way for others to follow.

Circle what you think the homesteaders might have seen when they arrived in South Florida.



- mosquitoes
- alligators
- snow
- electricity
- cars
- grocery stores
- snakes
- forest
- shopping mall
- school

What do you think daily life was like for a South Florida homesteader? In the late 1800s, a young homesteader your age might have the following chores to do on an average day.

### Girl

- Make candles
- Sew
- Help mom take care of the baby

### Boy

- Chop wood
- Hunt for food
- Help dad repair the house

Compare your daily chores with those of a young homesteader. List the chores that each of your family members does daily.

How are they similar? How are they different?

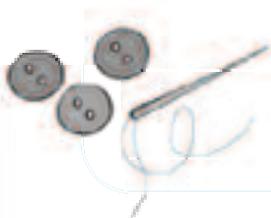
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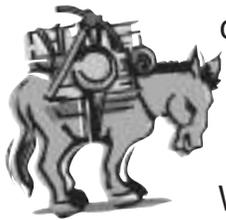
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At this time the only way to reach South Florida was by boat. There were no major highways or roads connecting to South Florida. Once a week a ship from Key West made its way to Miami for settlers to send their crops to market or travel to Key West for supplies.



This painting shows a Homesteader's house. How have things changed between the 1860s and today?



One of the cash crops the settlers sent to Key West was starch. The Seminoles taught the settlers how to extract the starch from the **COMPTIE** plant and sell it or use it for food. Many homesteaders had their own mule or hand powered comptie starch mill.

Create a story about what is happening in the painting.

(Find a larger picture of the painting at [www.historical-museum.org/exhibits/td/area\\_4/homestead.htm](http://www.historical-museum.org/exhibits/td/area_4/homestead.htm))

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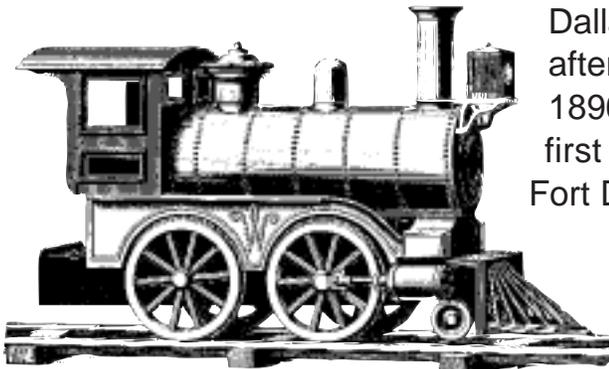
**H**enry Flagler began developing the east coast of Florida in the 1880s. He owned the Florida East Coast Railway that ran from New York to West Palm Beach and built several luxury hotels. The railway and hotels encouraged people to visit and move to Florida.

At this time few people lived in Miami, which was called Fort Dallas. Early pioneers Julia Tuttle and William and Mary Brickell owned a lot of land along Biscayne Bay. They wanted Flagler to extend his railroad south and develop Fort Dallas. Mrs. Tuttle wrote several letters asking him to extend his railroad, even offering half her land as an incentive.



Top left— Henry Flagler. Above—Julia Tuttle.

In the winter of 1894–1895 severe freezes killed much of Florida’s citrus crop, but Fort Dallas was not affected. Mrs. Tuttle sent Flagler another letter, this time containing live citrus blossoms to prove that Fort Dallas was better for growing citrus crops. Soon after, Flagler extended his railway, and on April 15, 1896, the first Florida East Coast Railway train traveled to Fort Dallas.



How did the railroad contribute to the development of Miami?

Imagine you are Julia Tuttle and it is 1894. Write a letter to Henry Flagler persuading him to extend his railroad to Fort Dallas.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Mr. Flagler,

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Sincerely,

Mrs. Julia Tuttle

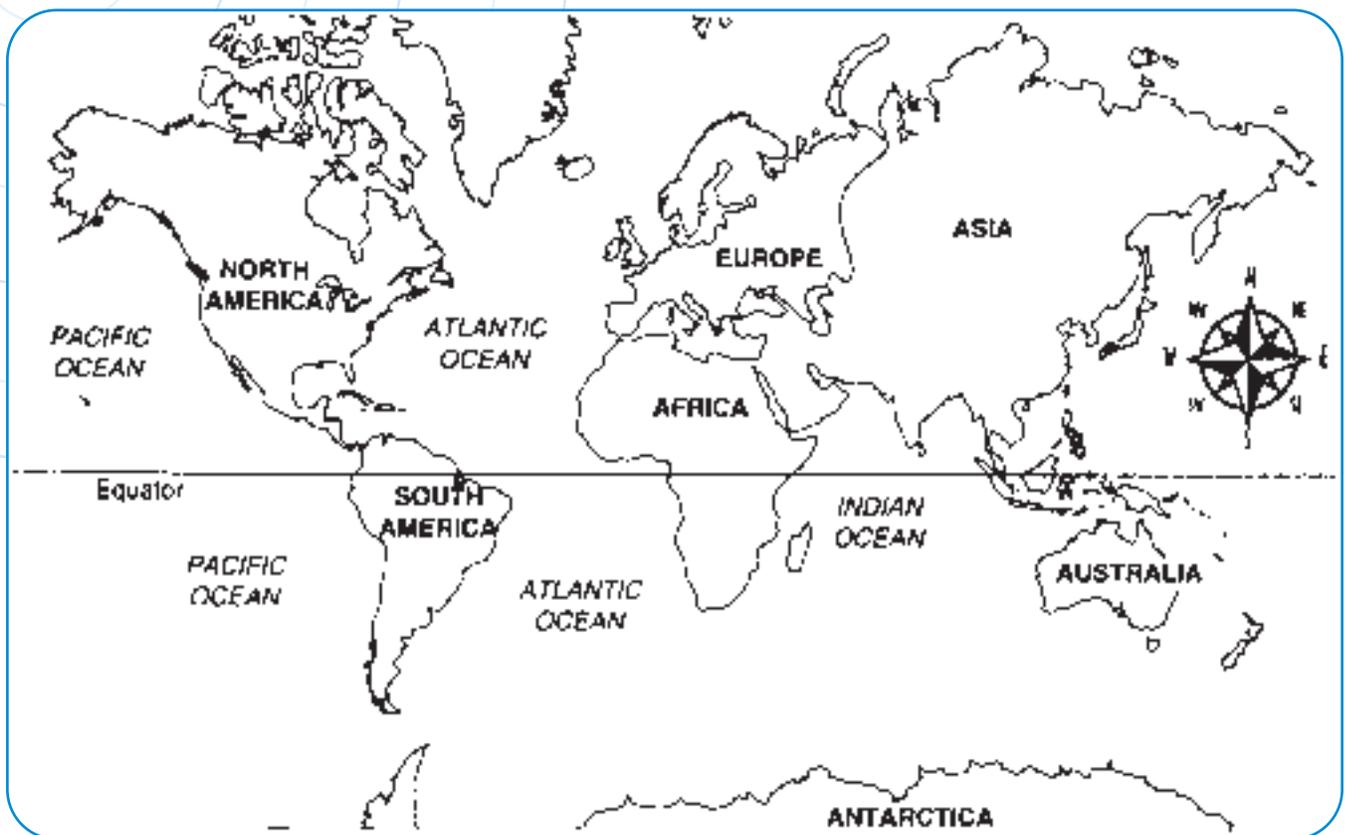


Have you ever tasted an empanada, Arepa or Jamaican beef patty? Where did you have it? Was it in your house or at a restaurant? It is not hard to find these different types of food in Miami. This is because Miami is a “gateway city.” Many people coming from other countries to live in the United States pass through Miami. Any person who moves to a new country is called an **IMMIGRANT**. You are most likely an immigrant too. You either

came to this country yourself, or a parent or ancestor came to this country a long time ago. The United States, especially Miami, is a land made up mostly of immigrants. When people immigrate to Miami they bring with them their customs and beliefs as well as their food, music and dance. These cultures blend together to form Miami’s diverse society.



Survey your class, ask each person where their family originally migrated from and color in the continents on the map below.



Try to imagine what life is like for these new Americans: new language, new schools, and new jobs. What day-to-day problems might they face? How did their lifestyles change?



Use the interview form on the next page to find out more about someone who has migrated to Miami and share it with your classmates.

Interview Worksheet

Person's name \_\_\_\_\_

Native country \_\_\_\_\_

Immigration date \_\_\_\_\_

Special events of trip \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Reasons immigrated \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival place in USA and first impression \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How USA is different from native land \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Circle the correct answer.

- The Homestead Act of 1862 gave anyone \_\_\_\_\_ acres of land if they promised to live on the property for five years and improve it.
  - 50
  - 10
  - 160
- A zoo is a type of museum.
  - True
  - False
- A chickee is a \_\_\_\_\_.
  - baby chicken
  - home built by Seminole or Miccosukee Indians
  - young Miccosukee girl
- Henry Flagler brought the railroad to Miami in \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 1896
  - 1986
  - 1968
- How long ago were the first people living in Florida?
  - 100 years ago
  - 1,000 years ago
  - 10,000 years ago
- Ponce de Leon landed in Florida in 1513 and claimed the land for France.
  - True
  - False
- All of the following were large industries in Key West in the 1800s except \_\_\_\_\_.
  - cigar making
  - wrecking
  - sponging
  - citrus

Answers

1. c    2. a    3. b    4. a    5. c    6. b    7. d

Put the following events in chronological order.

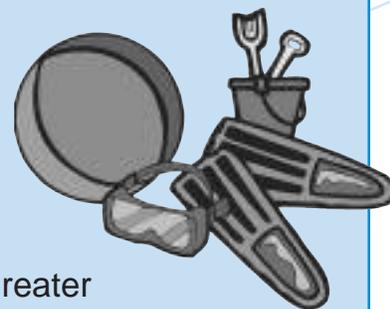
- a. \_\_\_\_\_ The Homestead Act is passed.
- b. \_\_\_\_\_ Ponce de Leon lands in Florida and claims the land for Spain.
- c. \_\_\_\_\_ Henry Flagler extends his railroad to Miami.
- d. \_\_\_\_\_ The Tequesta Indians settle along the Miami River.
- e. \_\_\_\_\_ The Navy's Anti-Piracy force makes Key West a safe place for ships.
- f. \_\_\_\_\_ Archaeologists discover the Miami Circle.
- g. \_\_\_\_\_ Florida becomes a state.

Answers

a. 5   b. 2   c. 6   d. 1   e. 3   f. 7   g. 4

## Florida Fun Facts

- State flower: orange blossom
- State motto: The Sunshine State
- State bird: mockingbird
- Total area: 58,560 square feet
- Total land area: 54,252 square miles
- Total water area: 4,308 square miles
- Beaches: 663 miles
- Longest river: St. Johns, 273 miles
- Largest lake: Lake Okeechobee, 700 square miles
- Number of islands (greater than 10 acres): about 4,500
- First permanent European settlement: 1565, St. Augustine, by Spain
- U.S. territory: 1821
- U.S. state: March 3, 1845 (27th state)
- Capital: Tallahassee



**Hours**

Mon.–Sat. 10 am to 5 pm  
Sun. and Holidays noon to 5 pm  
Third Thurs. 10 am to 9 pm

**General Admission**

\$5 adults; \$4 seniors and students with ID; \$2 children 6-12; free for Historical Museum members and children under 6. Sundays are Contribution Day.

**To learn more**

305.375.1492  
www.historical-museum.org

**Directions**

The Historical Museum is located in the Miami-Dade Cultural Center, 101 West Flagler St., downtown Miami.

If traveling north on I-95, exit onto NW 2nd St. Turn right onto NW 2nd St. and then right onto NW 2nd Ave. for one block.

If traveling south on I-95, exit at Orange Bowl/NW 8th St. Turn left onto NW 2nd St. and then turn right onto NW 2nd Ave.

Parking is available at the Miami-Dade Cultural Center Parking Garage, 50 NW 2nd Ave. For discounted parking, tickets can be validated at the front desk in the lobby.

**Buses**—Buses can drop off/pick up visitors on the Flagler Street side of the Cultural Plaza.

**Metrorail**—Exit at Government Center Station, walk south across NW 1st St. and go up the stairs on the north side of the Miami-Dade Cultural Plaza, or use the ramp on the south side.

For more fun activities, check out our Kids'

Page at [www.historical-museum.org](http://www.historical-museum.org)



**Family Fun Days**

Every Second Saturday  
1 to 4 pm Free

Music, art,  
storytelling and more!



The Historical Museum never takes a break...check out our spring and summer

**Tropical  
Explorers  
Camps!**

Cut out the coupon below.  
Bring your family and get in FREE!

**Kids Free**

With paid adult admission  
(Limit three children per adult)



HM 03-04

