

Summary: The Seminole

Seminole Daily Life

In 1715, colonists in Georgia and Alabama fought with the Creek Indians. The Creeks moved to Florida to avoid more fighting. By the late 1700s, descendants of the Creek people were called the Seminole. The Seminole settled in towns near fresh water. Over time, some of these Seminole settlements grew very large.

Men hunted and defended the town. Women fished and took care of the crops. They also prepared food and made clothes and pottery. Children helped with many of these jobs.

The Seminole found much of what they needed to live in nature. They also traded with British and Spanish settlers when they wanted things such as axes, blankets, and guns.

Conflict and War

After the American Revolution, Americans wanted the United States government to take control of Florida.

American citizens wanted to settle there. Southern planters were angry that Spanish laws allowed slaves to become free. Planters wanted to stop enslaved Africans from running away to Florida.

In 1795, the United States claimed land in northern Florida. Spain gave up the land without a fight. A few years later, the United States claimed more land.

The settlers often fought with the Seminole. They raided Seminole towns to capture and enslave Africans and Indians. The Seminole fought back in raids on settlers.

In 1817, the First Seminole War began. Andrew Jackson led American soldiers to attack the Seminole. The Seminole lost. Jackson took control of Pensacola. This showed Spain how powerful the United States had become. Spain surrendered Florida to the United States.

Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

descendant *noun*, a person who comes from a group or family in the past

citizen *noun*, an official member of a country

government *noun*, a group of people who make and enforce the laws of a region, such as a country

After You Read

REVIEW How did the Seminole use trade to help themselves? Underline the sentence that tells the answer.

REVIEW Why did the United States want to take control of Florida? Why did American citizens want the U.S. government to take control of Florida? Why did planters want control of Florida? Highlight two sentences that tell the answers.