

Summary: A New Territory

Florida Becomes a Territory

In 1819, Spain and the United States signed a treaty that made Florida a U.S. territory. Andrew Jackson became Florida's governor. Jackson divided Florida into two counties. West Florida became Escambia County. East Florida became St. Johns County.

After Florida became a territory, some people in Florida had the same rights as U.S. citizens. The United States also gave money to Florida's government and promised protection in time of war.

Some people did not want to live under U.S. rule. Many free blacks left because they were afraid they would be forced into slavery by new laws. Many Spanish people also left.

Many people from the northern states settled in Jacksonville and Tallahassee. Florida's economy grew. Forests provided trees for lumber. Florida's farms and plantations produced cotton, rice, and sugar. Plantations depended on the work of enslaved Africans.

The Second Seminole War

Many new settlers lived near Tallahassee. They asked the government to move the Seminole who lived there. In 1823, the U.S. government and the Seminole agreed to the Treaty of Moultrie Creek. It promised the Seminole money and food. In return, the Seminole agreed to live on a reservation in central Florida.

The government did not keep its part of the treaty. They delivered very little food. Many settlers also wanted the Seminole to leave Florida completely.

In 1833, the U.S. government and Seminole leaders signed the Treaty of Fort Gibson. It set up a reservation in Oklahoma. Many Seminole refused to leave Florida. Osceola and King Phillip led the Seminole in the second Seminole War. The Seminole grew weak when their leaders were captured. Many were deported to Oklahoma. Others hid in the Everglades. The Second Seminole War ended in 1842.



Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

territory *noun*, a part of the United States that is not a state

county *noun*, a section of a state or territory that contains several cities or towns

economy *noun*, the way in which people choose to use the resources of a region to produce goods and services

reservation *noun*, land that Indians keep for themselves

deport *verb*, to remove people by force



After You Read

REVIEW In what ways did people's lives change after Florida became a territory?

Circle two sentences that tell about changes after Florida became a territory.

REVIEW Why did the Treaty of Moultrie Creek fail to solve the problems between American settlers and the Seminole? Draw a box around the paragraph that tells why this treaty was not a success.