PART FIVE

REFERENCES
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**BREAK THE CODE**

Calusa People lived and fished on Florida’s Gulf Coast long before the first pyramids in Egypt.
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BREAK THE CODE
The chunky stone was used as a trade item and to teach life skills through a game.
Seminole and Miccosukee women wear rattles on their legs during traditional dances.
Agriculture - the practice of raising crops, farming

Apalachee - the people of early Florida who lived in an area bounded by the Ocklawhaha River on the west, the Aucilla River on the east, the Georgia state line on the north, and the Gulf of Mexico on the south

Archaic Period people – early native people who lived on the Florida peninsula from 6,000 BCE to about 1,200 BCE

Artifact – an object used by people. It usually refers to an object found by an archaeologist.

Ball stick – a tennis racket-like stick that was used by players in a traditional game played by Seminoles and other southeastern native people. The stick was used to catch and throw a hard, tennis-sized ball at one or two tall poles in a field.

Bartram, William – an American botanist who traveled widely in the southeast during the 1770s. He published one of the few early accounts of the natural and native life in Florida. His book contains “an account of the soil and natural productions of those regions, together with observations on the manners of Indians.” He was known to the Seminole as “Puc Puggy” (the Flower Hunter).

Berm – an embankment next to a building

Calusa – a group of early native people who lived along the southwestern coast of Florida. They were among the first native Floridians to have contact with Spaniards.

Camp – a housing area for a Seminole clan or family. It would include both sleeping and cooking chickees. A campfire served as the heart of the camp. Camps were sometimes moved seasonally for food or weather reasons.

Canoe – a long, wooden, floatable vessel that is large enough to hold one or more people. It was made of pine or cypress in Florida. The canoe was a major means of transportation for Florida native people.

Cattle – domesticated animals introduced to La Florida by Spaniards. They were raised on ranches and farms for food and hides.

Celt – usually a stone (or shell, especially in South Florida) tool shaped like a chisel; sometimes made from copper for ceremonial purposes

Chert – flint-like stone found in northern Florida. It was the hardest material early people in Florida had for making tools.

Chickee – a kind of house built by the Seminole. It has four open sides with supporting poles made from cypress logs and a roof of palm fronds. If used for sleeping, it has a raised log floor. Cooking chickees have no floors so that a fire can be built on the ground.

Chunkey stone – a round stone disk used in an Apalachee game

Clan – a group of people related through the mother’s bloodline. The clan includes a woman’s children and her maternal relatives. Each clan has a name, usually that of an animal or force of nature. There are currently eight Seminole clans in Florida: Bear, Wind, Panther, Bird, Otter, Deer, Snake, and Big Town.

Collection – objects acquired and organized for study

Contact – (as a verb) to touch; (as a noun) the interaction of one group with another

Context – the immediate situation and its surrounding elements

Coontie – a tropical plant named Zamia. The plant is poisonous unless processed. The root was used by the Seminole as a starch in their diet, especially when corn was not available.

Cordage – multiple plant fibers used for making ropes, cords, twine, etc. Cordage was used for fishing, house construction, clothing, and for other types of binding. Useful plants included sabal palm, saw palmetto, century plant, and Spanish moss.

Corn – a staple crop of the Apalachee and the Seminole; also grown by Timucuan groups. It is the traditional basis for Seminole sofkee.
VOCABULARY

Creeks – the name given to several Indian groups in Georgia and Alabama by Europeans. The name comes from the location of their villages near streams or rivers. The tribes were divided, based on geography, into Upper Creeks and Lower Creeks.

Disease – an illness that causes sickness or death. Europeans introduced illnesses such as smallpox, measles, influenza, plague, diphtheria, cholera, scarlet fever, yellow fever, and typhus into Florida. These diseases were among the main causes of native people’s deaths following European contact.

Dugout – a canoe or boat that was made by hollowing out a log. Small fires were built to burn holes in a log. Then the log was scraped out to create a dugout.

Environment – all the factors surrounding an organism, e.g., soil, climate, other organisms, etc.

Epidemic – when a disease is widespread and affects many people at the same time

Exhibit – the display of a collection, artifact, or specimen

Explorer – a person looking for new territory or information; e.g., Spaniards like Christopher Columbus, Juan Ponce de León, or Hernando de Soto or Frenchman like Jean Ribault, René de Laudonnière, or Pedro Menéndez de Avilés.

Export – sending locally made items to another location for trade

Extinct – no longer living or used; frequently applied to whole groups

Fiber – plant material that can be separated into thread-like parts for weaving

Green Corn Dance – a 4-day tribal ceremony held each June by the Seminoles. A fire, cleansing rites, a medicine bundle, dancing, and the traditional ball game are all elements of the ceremony.

Hammock – a small patch of raised land that forms an island within a swamp. Hammocks were used by Seminole clans in southern Florida as camp sites because of a limited amount of dry land in the Everglades.

Immunity – being safe or protected from a disease, especially because of antibody build-up

La Florida – the name given to this peninsula by Juan Ponce de León when he made his discovery during the Easter season, or the feast of flowers.

Mannequin – a sculpted human figure used for display purposes

Matrilineal – (matris – mother, plus lineal – line) the line of kinship descends through the mother; therefore young boys frequently were trained by their maternal uncles and not their fathers. One’s mother determined clan affiliations. The Apalachee, Calusa, and Timucua were all matrilineal societies, as is the Seminole.

Miccosukee – one of two federally recognized Indian tribes based in Florida. Its official name is “The Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida.” These people share the same cultural background as the Seminoles but are a separate tribe.

Midden – a trash heap. It is one of the most common types of mounds found in Florida.

Mission – a community built by religious groups to help spread their religion

Mound – an elevated geographical area. It may be a burial mound, a midden mound, or a platform mound. In South Florida, huge midden mounds were constructed. In North Florida, a platform mound was the base for either a house of an important person or a base for a religious building.

Museum – a building used for storing and exhibiting objects of historical, artistic, scientific, or cultural value

Natural resource – something found in nature that is usable by people
**Osceola** – probably the best known of the Seminole leaders. He was not a chief but a war leader. Osceola objected to the U.S. government’s policy of removal (sending Indians to alternate places—like Oklahoma) in the 1830s. Osceola was captured under a flag of truce, imprisoned, and died at Ft. Moultrie, South Carolina.

**Owl totem** – a carved wooden figure of an owl. The large figure found in the St. Johns River near Deland was 6 1/2 ft. high and made of pine.

**Paleoindians** – the name given to the oldest known people of Florida. They lived between 12,000 BCE and 6,000 BCE.

**Panhandle** – that portion of Florida from Taylor County and Madison County west. It is so named because its shape resembles the handle of a pan.

**Patchwork** – a detailed design made from strips of cloth. It is used in making Seminole clothing. The Seminoles wear patchwork for special occasions and sometimes daily. It is also sold to tourists.

**Pre-contact** – the time before early Florida people came into contact with Europeans

**Post-contact** – the time after early Florida people came into contact with Europeans

**Posthole** – a space where the base of a post once was buried. It is detectable by the discoloration of the earth that surrounded the post. It is the most common information that archaeologists find to indicate the location of a building.

**Refugee** – a person who runs from home, confinement, or captivity

**Replica** – an exact copy of something

**Reservation** – land held in trust by the federal government for a recognized Indian tribe. The tribe governs the land.

**Roadkill** – an animal that was killed, usually by a car

**Sinew** – an animal tendon, especially after it has been cleaned for use as a cord or tie

**Sofkee** – a thin corn soup made by the Seminole

**Spanish** – originating in Spain

**Specimen** – an example taken for scientific examination or investigation

**Timucua** – the name given to several groups of early people who shared a common language. They resided in northeastern Florida and southeastern Georgia.

**Trade** – the practice of exchanging goods of equal value. It is usually done to acquire items not available locally.

**Whelk** – a large, edible marine snail whose shell was used by Florida’s early native people to make a variety of tools
Bibliography

*indicates inclusion in an Inquiry Box


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