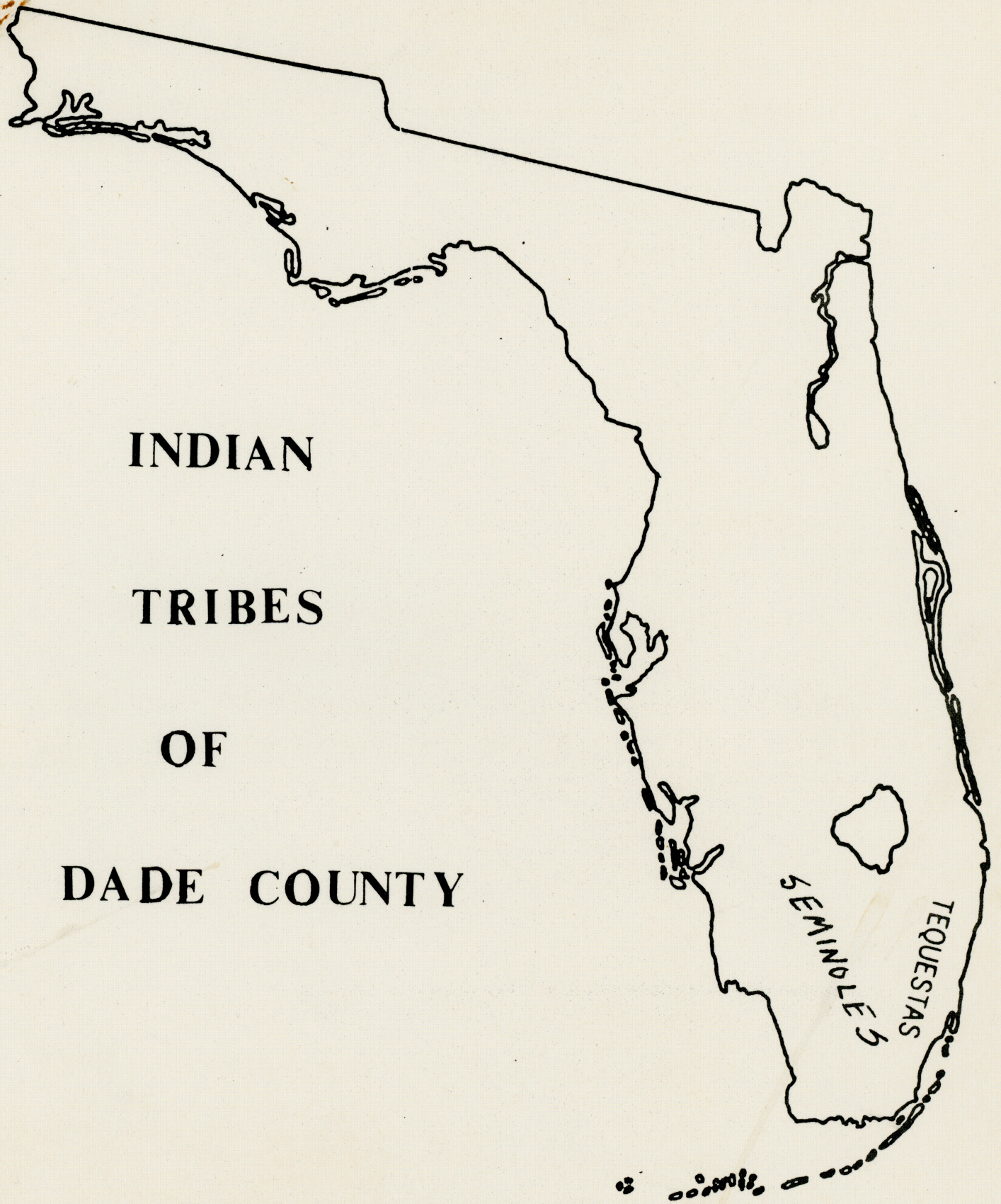


INDIAN
TRIBES
OF
DADE COUNTY



By
Patricia M. Cunningham & Carol Helene

ARCHAEOLOGY

Archaeologists are scientists who study the culture of how people lived in the past. They dig for artifacts, which are something made or used by man. By finding these artifacts it helps us to understand what life was like a long time ago. Archaeologists carefully remove each layer of soil, measuring to see how old the artifacts are. The deeper they dig in the soil at an archaeological site, the further back they are going in time.

Modern artifacts found near the top of the soil are of recent times, only 10-20 years old. Modern artifacts may be items made of plastic and styrofoam.

Deeper in the soil are historical artifacts, possibly 50-200 years old, such as old bottles, Seminole War bullets and pioneer farming tools. We know about history because it is written down for us to read about in books.

Prehistoric artifacts are from a long, long time ago, before people recorded things in books. These artifacts such as pottery sherds, stone and shell tools can be up to 2,000 years old or more. They are buried the deepest in the soil because they are the oldest.

What will archaeologists think about us in 1,000 years by the artifacts we are leaving behind today?

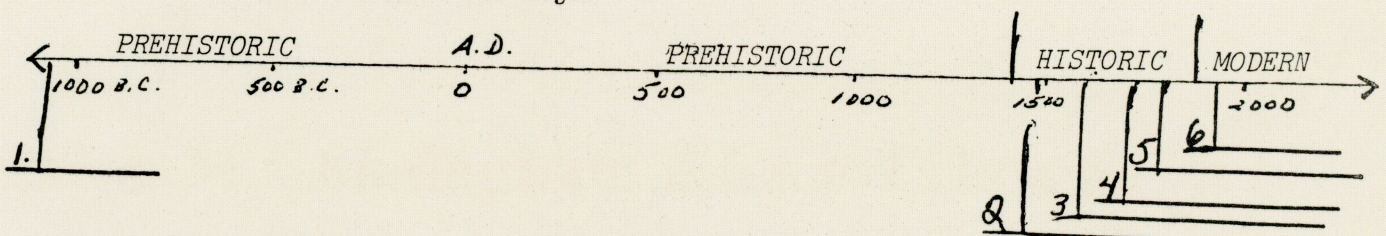
Why is it important to protect prehistoric and historic artifacts?

In this booklet we will learn more about the differences between a prehistoric Indian tribe of Dade County - the Tequestas and a historic tribe - the Seminoles.

CAN YOU TELL TIME?

Place the following events on a time line. Put the correct letter next to the number.

- A. 1620 - Pilgrims landed in America
- B. 1492 - Christopher Columbus discovered America
- C. 1100 B.C. - Tequesta Indians began to live in Dade County
- D. 1969 - Man landed on the moon
- E. 1789 - George Washington became the first president of the United States
- F. 1835 - Second Seminole War began



TEQUESTAS

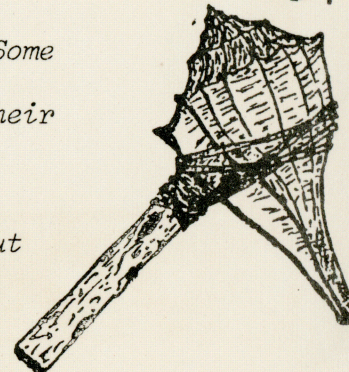
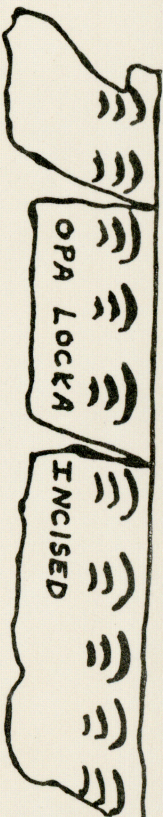
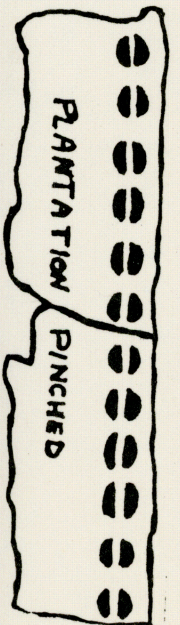
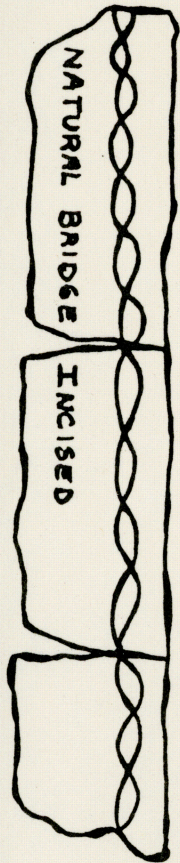
Tequestas were a prehistoric Indian tribe that lived in Dade County from 1100 B.C. to 1763 A.D. They lived in small family groups, usually near water. Tequestas were last seen by Spanish explorers in 1763. Their small tribe died out because of war with the white man and the diseases brought to America.

Tequesta Indians were not farmers, but depended on nature for their food, clothing and homes. They hunted animals and gathered roots and berries from nature to eat. Coontie, a plant with a large, starchy root, was their main source of food. Palm trees provided leaves for clothing and their small, round huts.

Living near the water allowed them to paddle their canoes down river to fish and gather oysters, clams and conch from the ocean. Conch, which is a shell animal, was a main part of their diet. The shells were used for many types of tools and weapons. Spearheads called points were made by sharpening the tips of shells. They also used the shells to make drills for holes, scrapers for animal hides and hammers and axe heads for cutting.

The artifacts left behind by the Tequestas are all we know about their lifestyle and culture. Tequesta Indians were a prehistoric tribe and left no written language. We can only guess what their lives were like. Archaeologists dig at their old campsites called middens to find artifacts to give us more clues about this little known tribe. Pieces of clay pottery called sherds contain the most important information. Stick designs on the pottery rim tell us how old the piece is, but little else. Some wooden and shell ornaments have also been found to show us their artwork.

It is unfortunate that the Tequesta Indian tribe died out before we could learn all its wonderful secrets.



SEMINOLES

The original Indian tribes that had inhabited Florida had died of disease, been killed in warfare or had fled to nearby islands. The Indians we call Seminoles were from various tribes that were called the Creek Confederation. They came south into Florida looking for better hunting grounds and to escape white settlers. These Indians sometimes were referred to as runaways. They cleared land and planted crops.

There followed 3 Seminole Wars. Government troops hunted the Indians, burned their chickees and destroyed their crops. Some of the Seminoles surrendered and were moved west. About 300 refused to go. They also refused to sign a peace treaty, the only Indian tribe that did so. Instead they moved in to the everglades.

To survive in this very wet environment they built chickees on higher ground or hammocks. Hunting and fishing provided much of their food. They also planted gardens, growing sweet potatoes, squash, pumpkins, bananas, sugar cane, guavas, melons and citrus. Cabbage Palms, our state tree, provided swamp cabbage. Cooking was done over open fires in iron pots.

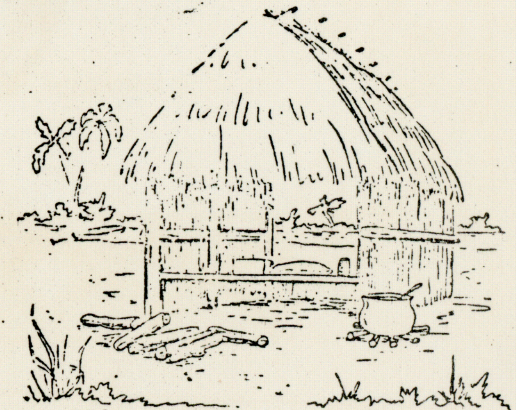
In 1894 the Federal Government began acquiring land for reservations. Much of this land was wet even during the dry season, so the Indians went hunting, fishing and frogging which helped them to survive.

A written language was developed by the Seminoles. In 1905 some sewing machines reached the Indians. The women began stitching their clothing from small pieces of cloth, making the colorful patchwork designs for which they are now famous.

Today many Seminoles continue to live on reservations. Most reservations are subject to federal law but not state law. The Indian tribes have their own police and courts of law.

Some Seminoles continue to live as their grandparents did, in chickees, making their living by frogging and fishing. Others live in modern houses and drive cars. The dugout canoe has been replaced by propeller driven air boats that move quickly over the shallow water of the Everglades. These air boats also provide income, as tourists enjoy viewing the vast Everglades from Indian air boats. Other sources of income for the Seminoles include cattle ranching and Bingo Games.

Many Indian children attend public schools. There they learn both English and their native language. Can they retain their own culture and also fit into a white man's society?



TEQUESTA vs. SEMINOLE

Let's pretend we are archaeologists and we have come upon clues and artifacts of two different Indian tribes of Dade County. Can you place the correct clues under the correct tribe heading?

conch shell and bone points and scrapers/ knives and rifles

coontie, wild berries/ squash, pumpkin, corn

animal hides/ patchwork dress and big shirt

glass beads/ wooden and shell ornaments

stick designs/ written language

historic/ prehistoric

chickees/ huts

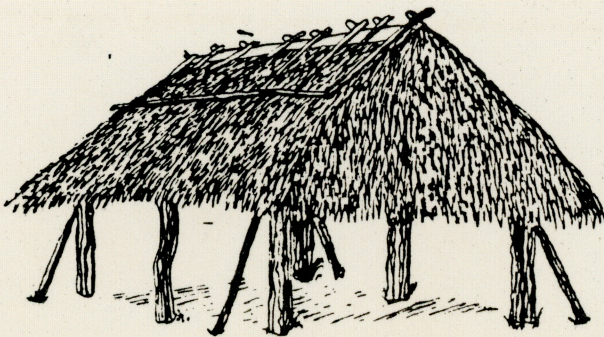
iron pots/ clay pottery

hunters and gatherers/ farmers

TEQUESTA

SEMINOLE

Write the correct tribal heading under these pictures.



hammer



pick



rubbing



scraper

WORD SEARCH

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* C R S R E R E H T A G I D P D P P U T D *
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* U E I H I T E M T N U M A U H R E T E I *
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* L A E A R C H E O L O G Y A E U S E Q U *
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* T M I T C O A O I A C G E H H R C A U C *
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* U N T M E S M C T T A T I D E I O L E T *
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* R S U P U E E U I R U S S T E H E E S E *
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* E E S Q R I M D A H T E N S T T I M T U *
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* T M U L E R H A A O E U T H H E R S A P *
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* N I P R T C H N R L H T S A H M C S Q H *
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* S N E E S T S I M A G M E L U E P C S U *
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* I O T H I M C I E E I R E T I S C H A M *
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* P L T R N O M R E H E N E T U K I P A U *
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Find the following list of words in this word search and then go back and find them in the readings.

ARCHEOLOGY
EVERGLADES
MIDDEN
SITE

ARCHAEOLOGIST
POTTERY
TEQUESTA
CULTURE

SEMINOLE
HISTORIC
HUNTERS

HAMMOCK
PREHISTORIC
GATHERERS

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

FILMS AVAILABLE THROUGH DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Archaeologists at Work
Anthropology: A Study of People
Boy of the Seminoles
Seminoles Indians

BOOKS

The Unconquered Seminole Indians by Irvin M. Peithmann
Seminoles of Florida by Wyatt Blassingame
Museum of Archaeology Tequesta Indian Fact Sheet - available through Arch Creek Park

FIELD TRIP SITES

Arch Creek Park - Live Oak Hammock, Pioneer Museum with Prehistoric & Historic artifacts. 1855 N.E. 135th Street, North Miami, Florida 33181 (305) 944-6111. Patricia M. Cunningham Programs - Indian Pow Wow, Archaeological Dig, Trail Walk, Indian Pottery & Edible Plants, Nature Studies, State of Florida Presentation, School Slide & Mock Dig Program.

Charles Deering Estate - Old Historical Home, Pinelands, Hammock & Mangrove Area. 16701 S.W. 72nd Ave. Miami, Florida 33157 (305) 235-1668, Rob Line
Programs- Trail Walk, Historical House Tour, Archaeological Dig, Artifact Displays.

Historical Association of Southern Florida - Historical Museum
101 W. Flagler Street, Miami, FLA. 33130 (305) 375-1492.
Historical Sites Tour - Barnacle, Cape Florida, Everglades Air Boat Ride, Indian Studies.

LIST OF OTHER CLASSROOM ACTIVITY IDEAS

1. Do a Indian Play. Make the costumes and design the Set.
2. Design your own Seminole patchwork design.
3. Design a patchwork headband on graph paper.
4. Color and string macaroni to make your own Indian necklace.
5. Have the students discuss the advantages and disadvantages of each tribe. Also discuss how the modern world can effect the Indians of today.
6. Build a Civilization - Divide the students into groups. Have the children develop a new civilization by making or collecting artifacts from school or home. They could also design their own artwork or picture language. Bury or hide the artifacts, have the students make a treasure map to find them and have fun pretending to be an archaeologist finding and interpreting a new, lost civilization.



scraper



pounding



chopping