Florida became a territory of the United States on March 4, 1822. A territory is an area of land under the jurisdiction of a ruler or state. The territorial legislature established Florida’s first two counties, Escambia (formerly British West Florida) and St. Johns (formerly British East Florida). The legislators also established the capital at Tallahassee, because it was midway between St. Augustine in the east and Pensacola in the west. Florida would remain a territory for another twenty-three years.

In 1838, fifty-six men held a special Florida Constitutional Convention and wrote Florida’s constitution, or plan of government. However, a territory could not become a state until its population reached at least 60,000 people, and there were not that many people living in Florida yet. Problems with the Seminoles had caused many people to move away and kept others from moving into Florida.

**THE SEMINOLES**

Florida has been home to the Seminoles since the 1700s, which was then Spanish Florida. When Florida’s original native population declined, the Seminoles came here from the Creek tribes in Georgia and Alabama. They were pushed south from their homeland because white settlers wanted their lands. Eventually the Miccosukees and the Seminoles became the two dominant tribes in Florida. Though they are from the same cultural group, they speak two different languages. The name “Seminole” could have two meanings. From the Creek phrase *phegee ishti semoh*, Seminole means wild men. From the Spanish word *cimarrones*, Seminole means runaways.

Both the Seminoles and Miccosukees came into conflict with Florida’s white population. The Seminoles fought three wars with the United States. The First Seminole War (1817-1818) began because Seminoles in Spanish Florida made raids into the United States. Also, slaves from Georgia and Alabama escaped into Florida and began living with Seminoles. General Andrew Jackson led U.S. forces across the border into Florida to fight the Seminoles. He captured several Spanish towns and executed two British citizens because he thought they were spies, but he was...
unable to stop the Seminoles.

In the 1820s, American settlers entered Florida and clashed with the Seminoles over land. As a result, in 1823 the territorial government of Florida signed the Treaty of Moultrie Creek with the Seminoles, which required the natives (1) to give up their land and settle on four million acres of land in central Florida, and (2) to stop allowing runaway slaves to live with them.

In 1830, President Andrew Jackson—the same man who had, as a general, tried to stop the Seminoles in 1817-1818—signed the Indian Removal Act. The law required all Native Americans to move to the Indian Territory (now Oklahoma), west of the Mississippi River. Many Seminoles did not want to leave their homes. A group of tribal leaders went to see the place where the Seminoles were to relocate and were persuaded to move there. However, when they returned to Florida, many of the chiefs told their people they had been forced to agree. Seminoles continued to refuse to leave Florida, which led to the Second Seminole War (1835-1842).

Osceola was one Seminole who refused to leave his Florida home. In December 1835, he led a small group of warriors that killed a government agent who had once put Osceola in jail. On the same day, a large group of Seminoles attacked Major Francis L. Dade and over 100 soldiers traveling from one fort to another. Only three of Dade’s men survived. Osceola was eventually captured, and died in a South Carolina prison in 1838.

Colonel William Jenkins Worth brought the war to an end in 1842, but no treaty was ever signed. Most of the Seminoles were either killed or captured and sent west to Indian Territory. A few hundred Seminoles retreated to the Everglades in south Florida. About 1,500 soldiers died and $20 million was spent in the Second Seminole War.

Once there was peace in Florida, settlers felt safe enough to move there. They started farms and businesses without fear of Seminole attacks. The territory’s population soon reached 60,000, so Florida could enter the Union. On March 3, 1845, Florida became the twenty-seventh state.

Ten years later, the Third Seminole War (1855-1858) began after a military survey team destroyed banana trees in Chief Billy Bowlegs’ garden in Big Cypress Swamp. When Bowlegs confronted the men, they refused to either pay for the damage or apologize. The next day, the Seminoles attacked the survey team, killing or wounding all of them and starting the war. In

### Historical Timeline

- **1821**
  - Andrew Jackson is appointed military governor of Florida.
  - Tallahassee is established as the capital of Florida
- **1822**
  - William T. DuVal is appointed first territorial governor.
remaining in Florida lived with Seminoles as others before them had done. Some were slaves of the Seminoles; others were free, but all were called Black Seminoles. Even though the Seminoles protected the blacks, slave owners from the north came after them and tried to return them to their plantations. Sometimes Seminoles lied, saying they owned a free black man in order to protect him.

The Black Seminoles accepted the culture of the Seminoles. They spoke the language, and they dressed like Seminoles. The Black Seminoles were helpful because they knew about farming, shared their crops, and served as interpreters because they spoke English.

Some Black Seminoles rose to important positions in the tribe, such as Abraham, a former slave who had been freed by the British during the War of 1812. Abraham then lived in the towns along the Suwannee River, where Seminole Chief Micanopy protected him as an important interpreter and counselor. Abraham was part of the Seminole delegation that visited Washington, D.C. in 1826. He was one of two interpreters at the 1832 Treaty of Payne’s Landing, which forced the Seminoles to leave Florida.

During the Seminole wars, Black Seminoles joined the fight against the United States to keep their freedom. The ones that were caught—mostly during the Second Seminole War—were returned to slavery or sent to the Indian Territory with the Seminoles. A few fled to the Bahamas to avoid capture, where their descendants live today.

Black Seminoles later left the Indian Territory for Mexico.
or Texas. In the 1870s and 1880s, the U.S. Army enlisted Black Seminoles to fight other native tribes and four Black Seminoles were awarded the Medal of Honor. Today, descendants of the Black Seminoles live in Florida, Oklahoma, Texas, and Mexico.

SECOND SEMINOLE WAR IN PALM BEACH COUNTY

A few years after the Second Seminole War began, fighting erupted in what is now Palm Beach County. In January 1838, Navy Lieutenant Levin Powell headed a small group of soldiers and sailors down the Indian River and onto the Loxahatchee River. They encountered a large group of Seminoles west of today’s Florida’s Turnpike in Jupiter, now known as Loxahatchee Battlefield Park. The Seminoles forced the Americans to retreat, and men died on both sides, including one Black Seminole. Soon after, Major General Thomas Jesup led U.S. forces against the Seminoles near the same location and the Seminoles withdrew, after wounding and killing many soldiers.

After this battle, the soldiers moved a few miles east and built Fort Jupiter on what is now known as Pennock Point, about three miles from Jupiter Inlet. The fort closed in 1842 and reopened in the 1850s for the duration of the Third Seminole War.

Jesup tried to end the Second Seminole War by suggesting that the remaining Seminoles move into south Florida to stay, but the government rejected his idea. He was ordered to capture all Seminoles who had gathered at the fort to await the government’s response. Of the 678 Seminoles taken, 165 were Black Seminoles.

During this war, several forts were established on the east coast of Florida to supply the military. In 1838, Major William Lauderdale led volunteers and soldiers south to the New River, hacking a supply trail out of the jungle to reach their destination. When they arrived, they constructed a fort that Jesup named Fort Lauderdale. The trail they had forged between the coastal swamps and the Everglades became known as Military Trail, which today runs through Palm Beach County.

COACOCHEE

Coacoochee (Wild Cat) was the son of King Philip, chief of a Miccosukee band in Mosquito County, Florida. General Joseph Hernandez captured Coacoochee with Osceola and others in 1837 at a meeting held during a truce. He escaped with other Seminoles, and he and his warriors participated in the Battle of Okeechobee on December 25, 1837. He later surrendered and moved to the Indian Territory. After he failed to be appointed chief of the Seminoles in 1849, he led his band of Seminoles and Black Seminoles into Mexico, where they were welcomed.

JOHN HORSE

Born to a Seminole father and African mother, John Horse (1812-1882), also known as John Cavallo, became a Black Seminole leader during the Second Seminole War. In 1837 he was captured under a white flag of truce with Osceola, Coacoochee and other Seminoles. They escaped from prison at Fort Marion in St. Augustine. That December, when Colonel Zachary Taylor’s troops fought Seminole warriors at the Battle of Okeechobee, John Horse led the Black Seminoles among the Seminole force. He later surrendered and was sent to the Indian Territory. He then led a group of Black Seminoles into Mexico. Before he died, John was able to obtain land for his people from the Mexican government.

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Historical Timeline

- 1837: Colonel Zachary Taylor commands U.S. forces against Seminoles at the Battle of Okeechobee.
- 1838: Battle of the Loxahatchee in present-day Riverbend Park.
- 1845: Florida becomes a state.
- 1855-1858: Third Seminole War
The Seminoles and Miccosukees have two languages still in use – Muscogee/Creek (Seminole) and Mikasuki/Hitchiti (Miccosukee) – that are related. Both contain sounds that are difficult to pronounce using the English language.

Some words in the two languages seem to mirror each other, while other times they are totally different. For example, the English word bread would be pronounced by Seminoles as “tak-la-eek-i,” and by the Miccosukees “pa-les-tee.” “Dog” is “ef-fa” in Creek and “ee-fe” in Mikasuki. For “cow,” Seminoles say “wa-ka” and Miccosukees say “waa-ke.”

The names of many Florida cities, counties, places, rivers, and lakes are taken from Seminole and Miccosukee words. You may know some of them, below.

**VOCABULARY**

- Chattahoochee: marked stones
- Chokoloskee: old house
- Hialeah: prairie
- Hypoluxo: water all around, can’t get out
- Immokalee: my home/camp
- Loxahatchee: Turtle River
- Miami: that place
- Micanopy: head chief
- Ocala: spring/still water

**NUMBERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Seminole</th>
<th>Miccosukee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One</td>
<td>Hum-kin</td>
<td>Taamea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two</td>
<td>Ho-ko-lin</td>
<td>Toklan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three</td>
<td>Too-chin</td>
<td>Tocheenan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Four</td>
<td>Ostin</td>
<td>Sheetaaken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five</td>
<td>Chaw-kkee-bin</td>
<td>Chahkeepan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Instructions: Read "Territorial Florida" and answer the questions below in a separate document. When you are finished, submit answers to your teacher.

Name:

1. Why did the Seminoles migrate to Florida?

2. Why was the United States government at odds with the Seminoles?

3. Why did Osceola plunge his knife through the treaty he was asked to sign?
Instructions: Read "Territorial Florida" and answer the questions below in a separate document. When you are finished, submit answers to your teacher.

Name:

1. What was the first event that happened after Florida became an official territory?
   A) the joining of East and West Florida
   B) the Indian Removal Act
   C) the Seminole War
   D) the Second Seminole War

2. What was Osceola famous for?
   A) peacemaking strategies
   B) a defiant attitude to surrender
   C) a fearless nature
   D) speeches and political success

3. Reasons for conflict between the Seminoles and the Americans included:
   A) disputes over waterways
   B) runaway slaves
   C) the Miccosukees
   D) tourism and travel difficulties

4. Which of the following caused tension between the Seminoles and new settlers to Florida?
   A) selling crops and assisting slaves
   B) property rights and selling crops
   C) property rights and helping runaway slaves
   D) harming animals and helping runaway slaves
Instructions: Read "Territorial Florida" and answer the questions below in a separate document. When you are finished, submit answers to your teacher.

TALK ABOUT IT:

1. Why do you think the U.S. government wanted to move Native Americans west of the Mississippi River? Was this right or wrong? How would you have felt if you were a Native American asked to move from your home?

READING CHECK:

1. Where did the remaining Seminoles go after the end of the Second Seminole War?

2. Who was Osceola?

3. What is the meaning of Seminole?
Instructions: Read "Territorial Florida" and answer the questions below in a separate document. When you are finished, submit answers to your teacher.

SHORT ANSWER:
1. How many wars did the Seminoles fight against the U.S.?

2. Which Seminole war was the most costly?

READING CHECK:
1. Why did runaway slaves come to Florida?

2. Who was Lake Worth named after?

3. How did General Thomas Jesup try to end the Second Seminole War?
MATERIALS:

- Sheet of construction paper, pencils, erasers, and crayons
- Reference images (page 6)
- Computer

INSTRUCTIONS:

2. On a separate document, write about and describe your drawing.
3. Record a presentation using your work by describing your drawing in video format. Once complete, submit to your teacher.
TERRITORIAL FLORIDA
EVERGLADES LANDSCAPE DRAWING
REFERENCE IMAGES