

Florida Before Columbus

Read how Native communities used the land and water around them.

SS.4.A.2 "Pre-Columbian Florida"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words that name a Florida resource or place and circle words that show how Native people used it, so you can trace how environment shaped each community.

Land, Water, and Daily Life

- ① Long before Europeans arrived, Native peoples lived in many parts of Florida. They chose homes and work that fit nearby land and water. Along the southwest coast, the Calusa used the rich waters of the Gulf of Mexico and bays. They caught fish and shellfish, traveled by canoe, and built large shell mounds. Shells left from meals formed these mounds over many years.
- ② In northern Florida, many Timucua communities lived near rivers, forests, and fields. They grew crops such as corn, beans, and squash. They also hunted deer, gathered wild plants, and fished. Their homes were often made from wood, poles, and plant materials. River travel helped people move goods and visit other communities. Different resources led to different daily choices.
- ③ Farther west, the Apalachee lived in the Florida Panhandle, where fertile soil supported farming. They raised corn and other crops, then stored food for later use. Villages included homes, public spaces, and places for ceremonies. Although these groups had different languages and customs, each used Florida's resources carefully. Studying where people lived helps historians explain how environment shaped their lives.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Which resources did the Calusa use, and what did they do with them?

2 Explain how the Timucua's location gave them more than one way to get food.

3 How were Calusa and Apalachee food practices different? Use one detail about each group.

4 What idea can historians infer about Florida's Native communities from the passage? Give one piece of passage evidence.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine a Native community living near a freshwater lake, a forest, and a sunny field in pre-Columbian Florida. Write three sentences explaining how the community could use each place to meet its needs.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline words that name a Florida resource or place and circle words that show how Native people used it, so you can trace how environment shaped each community. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which resources did the Calusa use, and what did they do with them?	They used Gulf and bay waters to catch fish and shellfish and to travel by canoe. They also built shell mounds from shells left after meals.
2	Explain how the Timucua's location gave them more than one way to get food.	Rivers, forests, and fields gave them places to fish, hunt deer, gather plants, and grow crops.
3	How were Calusa and Apalachee food practices different? Use one detail about each group.	The Calusa caught fish and shellfish from coastal waters. The Apalachee farmed corn and other crops in fertile Panhandle soil and stored food.
4	What idea can historians infer about Florida's Native communities from the passage? Give one piece of passage evidence.	Historians can infer that the environment shaped daily life. For example, the Calusa used coastal waters for fishing and canoe travel, or the Apalachee farmed where soil was fertile.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our community will build near a freshwater lake so people can catch fish and travel by canoe. We will gather wood and plants from the forest and hunt deer. We will grow corn in a sunny field and store extra food for later.

Accept answers that connect the lake, forest, and field to realistic uses such as fishing, travel, gathering materials, hunting, farming, or storing food. Students should write three sentences and use all three places.