

Territorial Florida Voices

Compare how communities shaped Florida between 1821 and 1845.

SS.8.A.4.18 "Examine the experiences and perspectives of different ethnic, national, and religious groups in Florida, explaining their contributions to Florida's and America's society and culture during the Territorial Period."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each group named in the passage. Circle one detail beside each group that shows either its perspective, experience, or contribution to Florida and the United States.

Many Communities, One Territory

- ① When the United States gained Florida from Spain in 1821, the territory was home to people with different histories. Seminole communities included Native people who had moved south over time, along with Black Seminoles, people of African descent who lived in allied communities. Many Seminoles valued their farms, cattle, and independent towns. U.S. officials and incoming settlers wanted more land and sought to force Seminoles west. During the Second Seminole War, Seminoles resisted removal. Their resistance defended their communities and shaped national debates about U.S. expansion and Native removal.
- ② Spanish-speaking families remained in St. Augustine after the transfer to the United States. Many were Catholics, and their churches preserved worship traditions that had developed under Spanish rule. The transfer agreement promised protection for property and religion, but residents still had to adjust to new U.S. laws and officials. Cuban fishermen also visited Florida's Gulf coast seasonally, catching fish and trading along the coast. Spanish-speaking residents and Cuban visitors helped maintain Spanish language, Catholic customs, coastal trade, and ties to the Caribbean.
- ③ Anglo-American settlers arrived from other southern states, seeking farms and political influence in the new territory. Many brought Protestant worship practices and formed churches and schools. Their settlement expanded cotton farming and connected Florida more closely to the U.S. economy. Enslaved African Americans cleared land, raised crops, and built roads and buildings under forced labor. Their work produced wealth, while slavery denied them freedom and political power. These unequal experiences influenced Florida's economy, culture, and conflicts over slavery in the United States.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What did many Seminoles value, and how did they respond when U.S. officials tried to remove them?

2 Describe one challenge Spanish-speaking residents faced after 1821 and one way they contributed to Florida's culture.

3 How did Catholic Spanish-speaking residents and Protestant Anglo-American settlers each affect religious life in territorial Florida?

4 Explain the difference between the economic role and the political position of enslaved African Americans in the territory.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a five-sentence comparison of two groups from the passage. Explain each group's perspective or experience, name one contribution, and describe one way their roles in territorial Florida were different.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each group named in the passage. Circle one detail beside each group that shows either its perspective, experience, or contribution to Florida and the United States. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What did many Seminoles value, and how did they respond when U.S. officials tried to remove them?	They valued their farms, cattle, and independent towns. They resisted removal during the Second Seminole War.
2	Describe one challenge Spanish-speaking residents faced after 1821 and one way they contributed to Florida's culture.	They had to adjust to new U.S. laws and officials. They maintained Spanish language and Catholic worship customs.
3	How did Catholic Spanish-speaking residents and Protestant Anglo-American settlers each affect religious life in territorial Florida?	Spanish-speaking Catholics preserved worship traditions from Spanish rule, while Anglo-American settlers formed Protestant churches.
4	Explain the difference between the economic role and the political position of enslaved African Americans in the territory.	They cleared land, raised crops, and built roads and buildings that produced wealth. However, slavery denied them freedom and political power.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Seminole communities and Spanish-speaking residents both tried to protect ways of life during the territorial period. Seminoles resisted removal because they valued their land, farms, cattle, and independent towns. Spanish-speaking residents adjusted to U.S. officials while keeping Catholic worship traditions. Seminole resistance shaped national debates about expansion and Native removal. Spanish-speaking residents helped preserve Spanish language and customs in Florida, while Seminoles defended community independence.

Accept equivalent evidence-based comparisons that accurately identify a group's viewpoint or experience and a contribution from the passage. For the open response, students may choose any two groups named in the text, as long as all five sentences address the required elements.