

Vocabulary List

origin - ancestry; parentage; the first stage of existence; beginning

livelihood – a means of supporting one’s existence, especially financially or vocationally

Seminole – a member of any of several groupings of North American Indians comprising emigrants from the Creek Confederacy territories to Florida or their descendants in Florida and Oklahoma, especially the culturally conservative present-day Florida Indians.

Seminole Tribe of Florida – The Seminole Tribe of Florida is a federally recognized Indian tribe. It is the only tribe in America who never signed a peace treaty.

unconquered - To not have been conquered

conquered – to have been defeated by force of arms

Osceola – also known as William Powell, Osceola is a legendary Seminole leader. He led the Seminoles to successful battles over several U.S. Generals and stood as a national symbol of the Seminoles strong reputation for non-surrender

Seminole Wars – three separate wars fought from 1818-1850 where the United States battled and forcefully removed Florida Seminole Indians from their native lands.

brain tanning – the process of preparing buckskin for use; the process included removing the hair, soaking, and wringing the skin in order to make it velvety soft

sofkee – a Seminole drink made from grits or roasted corn; usually served warm

coontie – the flour produced from the starch of the roots of the coontie (*Zamia*) plant; it is poisonous until properly rinsed using Seminole technique.

plumes – a large, long, and conspicuous feather

egret – any of several usually white herons that grow long, graceful plumes during breeding season.

canoes – any of various slender, open boats, tapering to a point at both ends, propelled by paddles or sometimes sails, and traditionally formed of light framework covered with bark, skins, or canvas, or formed from a dug-out or burned out log or logs.

trading post – a store established in an unsettled or thinly settled region by a trader or trading company to obtain furs and local products in exchange for supplies, clothing, other goods, or for cash

tourist camps - tourist attractions that used Seminoles to sell the idea of the Everglades as a destination to Northern tourist coming to see exotic South Florida

chickee – Seminole word for “house;” consisting of palmetto thatch over a cypress-log frame; created out of necessity, when Seminoles needed quick, disposable housing in case of attack by U.S. troops during the Seminole wars.

poisonous – harmful; destructive; full of or containing poison

matrilineal – inheriting or determining descent through the female line

matrilocal – of or pertaining to residence with the wife’s family or tribe

garfish – any of various marine or estuarine fish with a long needle-like lower jaw

swamp cabbage – hearts of palm; the edible inner stem of the cabbage palm tree

patchwork – something made up of mismatched variety of pieces or parts; Patchwork clothing, considered by many to be the Seminole's traditional dress, became a part of Seminole dress around the early 1920s.

appliqué – ornamentation, as a cut out design, that is sewn onto or otherwise applied to a piece of material