

Veterans Legacy Program Curricular Materials

Seminole War DBQ

Grade(s): 9-12

Time (minutes): 90 minutes

Lesson Overview:

This lesson will teach students how to analyze primary sources and begin preparing to write the Document-Based Question (DBQ) essay.

Relevant Social Studies Standards:

- SS.8.A.1.5
 - Identify, within both primary and secondary sources, the author, audience, format, and purpose of significant historical documents.
- SS.8.A.1.7
 - View historic events through the eyes of those who were there as shown in their art, writings, music, and artifacts.
- SS.912.A.1.2
 - Utilize a variety of primary and secondary sources to identify author, historical significance, audience, and authenticity to understand a historical period.
- SS.912.A.1.4
 - Analyze how images, symbols, objects, cartoons, graphs, charts, maps, and artwork may be used to interpret the significance of time periods and events from the past.
- SS.912.A.1.6
 - Use case studies to explore social, political, legal, and economic relationships in history.

Question:

Using the sources provided below, discuss the variety of issues facing the United States Military in the Second Seminole War, and why these issues made winning the war difficult.

Source 1: *The Globe*, March 19, 1836

“Some misapprehension appearing to prevail concerning the relative situation of General Scot and General Gaines, in Florida, we have made inquiries into the subject, and are enabled to communicate the following information to our readers.

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“There are two Military Departments, the eastern and the western. These are divided by a line drawn from the southern point of Florida, to the northwest extremity of Lake Superior. By inspecting the map, it will be seen that this line passes through the theatre of hostile operations in Florida.”

Source 2: *The Army and Navy Chronicle*, June 16, 1836

“It is to be regretted that any circumstances should have occurred, which may tend even in the slightest to degree to produce unkind feelings between the volunteers and the regulars. A recent letter of General Scott’s to the Secretary of War appears to have produced some excitement in the south. We think however a portion of the letter objected to, will bear a different construction from the one generally given. ‘Three thousand good troops (not volunteers)’ were requested. This expression should be taken in connection with other parts of the letter-*nor new regiments of recruits, but the old regiments filled up by enlistments in June and July, so that by December next the whole of them would be in a state of discipline.*”

Source 3: Mahon, John K. "Letters from the Second Seminole War." *The Florida Historical Quarterly* 36, no. 4 (1958): 339

“...I write this from my sick room. Five days since, I was attacked with the dysentery again; -and the Dr. cannot, as yet, control the movements of my bowels. I am writing this letter, supposing it may be the last one I shall write you. For I cannot conceal from myself that I am pretty sick. I have thought much of dying lately, since my sickness. And oh my love, the pang of parting with you and our babes, -is the severest one I meet.”

Source 4: Forry, Samuel. "Letters of Samuel Forry, Surgeon U. S. Army, 1837-1838: Part I." *The Florida Historical Society Quarterly* 6, no. 3 (1928): Pg. 143

“Well it appears there is some prospect of your retrograding to Fort King. As a requisition has been made for more troops to defend us against the *friendly hostiles*. It is thought that you will be ordered.

“The Indians, sir, do know how to melt silver. A Seminole in Paddy’s Camp, reduced three dollars to a fluid state, and manufactured a very neat headband. He used an earthen crucible, and blew the fire incessantly.”

Source 5: Mahon, John K. "The Journal of A. B. Meek and the Second Seminole War, 1836." *The Florida Historical Quarterly* 38, no. 4 (1960): 315

“Thursday 31: Great dissatisfaction prevails as it is said it is intended to march us to Camp King in pursuance of Maj. Reeds wishes; and as we are almost entirely without provisions

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having nothing but jerked beef. The officers of our Regt have determined to march no where but back to Ft. Brooke or Ft. Alabama and that immediately.”

Source 6: “Charge With Every Man,” by Jackson Walker (2011)



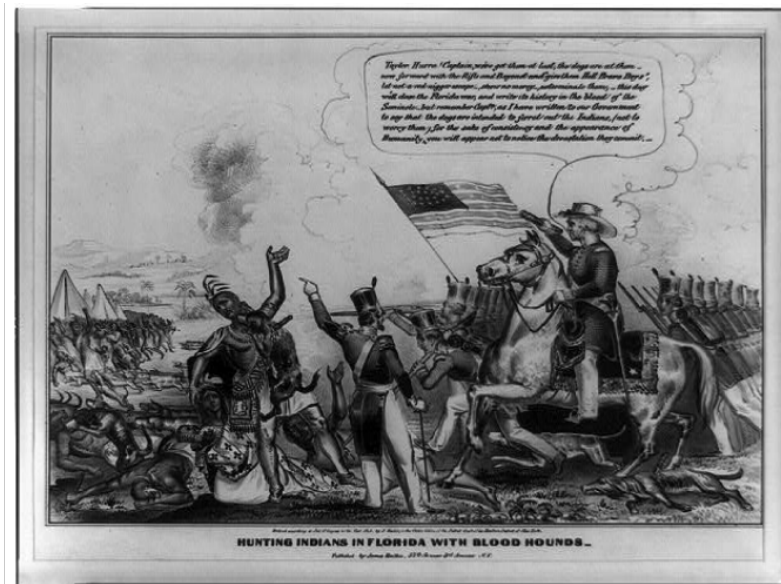
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Source 7: The spot where General Dade was massacred in the Seminole War. Not after 1911. Hand-colored postcard, 9 x 14 cm. State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory.



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Source 8: Political Cartoon: *Hunting Indians in Florida with Bloodhounds*



Zachary Taylor proclaims, "Hurra! Captain, we've got them at last, the dogs are at them--now forward with the Rifle and Bayonet and "give them Hell Brave Boys", let not a red nigger escape-, show no mercy-, exterminate them, -this day we'll close the Florida War, and write its history in the blood of the Seminole--but remember Captn., as I have written to our Government to say that the dogs are intended to ferret out the Indians, (not to worry them) for the sake of consistency and the appearance of Humanity, you will appear not to notice the devastation they commit."