

Veterans Legacy Program Curricular Materials



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Grade(s)	1st-5th
Time (Minutes/ Days)	40 minutes/2 days

Lesson Overview

Students will learn about the major battles of the Second Seminole War through an interactive ArcGIS StoryMaps while engaging in a fun and challenging obstacle course that incorporates various physical activities. Students will be able to compare and contrast the different battles of the Seminole War.

Essential Question

What is the most effective way for students to learn about the major battles of the Second Seminole War and compare and contrast them? What were the experiences of soldiers serving in Florida in the nineteenth century?

Florida State Standards

- PE.K-5.M.1 Physical Education: Movement Competency: Demonstrate competency in many, and proficiency in a few, movement forms from a variety of categories.
- PE.K-5.M.1.1 Use a variety of locomotor skills to travel in personal and general space
- SS.1.A.2.1 Understand history tells the story of people and events of other times and places.
- SS.1.A.2.2 Compare life now with life in the past.
- SS.1.A.3.1 Use terms related to time to sequentially order events that have occurred in school, home, or community.
- SS.1.G.1.1 Use physical and political/cultural maps to locate places in Florida.
- SS.1.G.1.2 Identify key elements (compass rose, cardinal directions, title, key/legend with symbols) of maps and globes.
- SS.1.G.1.6 Describe how location, weather, and physical environment affect the way people live in our community.
- S.S.2.A.1.1 Examine primary and secondary resources
- SS.2.A.1.2 Utilize the media center, technology, or other informational sources to locate information that provides answers to questions about a historical topic.
- S.S.2A.3 Chronological thinking
- S.S.2A.3.1 Identify terms and designations of time sequence

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- S.S.2.C.G.2.2 Students will describe the contributions of the diverse individuals and groups that contribute to civic life in the United States and Florida.
- SS.2.CG.2.3 Explain how citizens demonstrate patriotism.
- SS.3.G.1.1 Use thematic maps, tables, charts, graphs, and photos to analyze geographic information.
- SS.4.A.1.2 Synthesize information related to Florida history through print and electronic media.
- SS.4.A.3.10 Identify the causes and effects of the Seminole Wars.
- SS.4.A Social Studies: American History: Exploration and Settlement of Florida
- SS.5.G.4.G Use geography concepts and skills.

Required Materials

Obstacle Course Materials

- Cones
- Mats
- Balance beam or stepping stones
- Hula hoops
- Bean bags
- Targets
- Agility ladders
- Soft Playground balls
- Flags

Classroom Materials

- Smart T.V.
- [ArcGIS StoryMap: Mapping the Geography of the Second Seminole War](#)
- Printed copies of primary and secondary sources related to the Second Seminole War battles, determined by teacher discretion. Could include the following:
 - [Seminole War Teacher Packet](#) (Used with permission from Osceola History)
 - [Seminole War Teacher Packet](#) (Used with permission from Osceola History)
 - [David Moniac Source Packet](#)
 - [Alexander Ramsey Thompson Source Packet](#)
 - [VLP Second Seminole War Source Packet](#)

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Learning Objectives

- Students will be able to compare and contrast the different battles of the Seminole War.
- Students will learn about Florida geography through a StoryMap based on Seminole War Battles.
- Students will be able to make a connection with Veterans and Native Americans while completing different obstacle courses based on geographical challenges during the 1800s.

Procedure

Second Seminole War Classroom Work

1. Class Discussion (20 minutes):

a. Discuss the Seminole Nation

i. *The Seminole Nation is not a single tribe but a confederation of different tribes with shared history, culture, and territory. The Creek, Miccosukee, Hitchiti, and Oconee tribes are considered the foundational tribes of the Seminoles. They have established their own identity and way of life, blending elements of their original tribes with new customs and practices.*

b. Summarize the conflict between the Seminole tribe and the U.S. soldiers.

i. *1st - 3rd Grade Florida/Seminole War Summary: In the 1800s, the Seminoles lived in Florida. The US government wanted them to move out of Florida and onto reservations. The Seminoles didn't want to move or follow these rules, so the US government sent soldiers to remove the Seminoles from the forests and swamps that they had lived in for generations. The soldiers and the Seminoles fought for a long time. The Seminoles knew the land and could hide well; they were also brave fighters. It was hard for the soldiers to catch them. Although the Seminoles were never defeated and a treaty was never signed, Florida became part of the United States in 1845.*

ii. *4th and 5th Grade Summary of Florida/Seminole Wars: In the early nineteenth century, the U.S. Army, Navy and Marine troops, volunteers from Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Alabama, and Tennessee, the Florida Militia, and some Native Creek guides confronted the Seminole people in a series of bitter wars over land ownership in Florida. After the Seminoles' refusal to move out of Florida, the US government sent troops to bring Florida under federal control, marking the beginning of the Second Seminole War. On December 28, 1835, Seminoles ambushed Major Francis Langhorne Dade's troops on the way to Fort King. Seven years of*

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woodland warfare ensued, as the Seminoles, who knew the state better, evaded the US forces. Both sides incurred heavy losses during the multiple battles. Florida became a part of the United States in 1845. The US and the Seminoles never signed a treaty, and not all Seminoles left Florida, making it possible for some to argue that the Seminoles were never defeated. The Seminoles call themselves the Unconquered People.

2.

a. Discuss what events led to the Indian Removal Act (only 4th/5th Grade)

- i. *In 1819, the Spanish sold Florida to the United States. Settlers wanted to use the land for farming, mining, and building homes for their families. The Seminoles wanted to keep their 32 million acres of cultivated land, game, and the ocean but under the Treaty of Moultrie Creek in 1823, their land was reduced to 4 million acres. President Andrew Jackson passed a law called the Indian Removal Act in 1830, which mandated the relocation of the Seminoles to Oklahoma.*

3. Exploring the Battles (30 minutes):

a. Introduce students to the geographical ArcGIS StoryMap to familiarize students with the terrain and location of the 5 major battles of the Second Seminole War.

- i. [ArcGIS StoryMap: Mapping the Geography of the Second Seminole War](#)
- ii. Instructions for student use are attached below.

b. Discuss the terrain, disease, and supply challenges in Florida during the 1800s.

- i. Terrain Challenges
 1. Dense Swamps and Marshes: Much of the war was fought in the Florida Everglades and other marshy areas, which made movement difficult for both soldiers, equipment, and horses. The swamps provided natural barriers and hiding places for the Seminoles, making it challenging for the U.S. forces to locate and engage them.
 2. Thick Vegetation: The dense vegetation, including thick forests and undergrowth, made it hard for soldiers to navigate and set up effective lines of sight. It also hindered transportation and supply movements.
 3. Extreme Heat and Humidity: Florida's hot and humid climate posed additional challenges for soldiers, as it often led to exhaustion, dehydration, and heat-related illnesses.
- ii. Disease Challenges
 1. Discuss Malaria and Yellow Fever: Florida was known for its mosquito population, which carried diseases such as malaria and yellow fever. Soldiers and settlers were susceptible to these illnesses, and outbreaks were common, significantly impacting their

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- health and ability to fight.
2. Lack of Medical Facilities: The war took place in a remote and sparsely populated region resulting in limited medical facilities and resources. This made it difficult for soldiers to receive proper medical care and treatment for injuries and diseases.
- iii. Supply Challenges
 1. Inadequate Provisions: The difficult terrain and lack of infrastructure made it challenging to transport and supply troops adequately. Soldiers often faced shortages of food, water, ammunition, and other essential supplies.
 2. Limited Support from Settlers: The sparse population of settlers in Florida meant that soldiers had limited access to local support and resources. This further compounded the challenges they faced during the war.

*For the above discussion, use the [UCF VLP tableau visualizations](#).

- c. Discuss the challenges that the soldiers and Seminole warriors encountered during the Second Seminole War Battles in Florida.
 - i. Dade's Battle
 1. Location: West Central Florida, near the Dade Battlefield Historic
 2. Terrain Difficulty: Heavy Pine trees, tall grass, swampland, and a large pond
 3. Summary: The Dade Battle occurred on December 28, 1835. The battle took place just beyond the final river crossing for Major Dade's column, near the end of the swampland, in the dense pine barrens of west central Florida. The difficult terrain provided little cover for the soldiers, making them vulnerable to ambushes by the Seminole warriors who were hidden in the tall grasses.
 4. Additional information can be found [on the VLPedia here](#).
 - ii. Battle of Withlacoochee
 1. Location: Citrus County Florida, ford of the Withlacoochee River, near Osceola's Indian Settlement
 2. Terrain Difficulty: Rough river crossings
 3. Summary: The Battle of Withlacoochee occurred on December 31, 1835. Osceola and Alligator fought General Clinch and 750 men in a conflict fought at the ford of the Withlacoochee River. Ford's are usually a place where a river is shallow enough to cross by wading, but the water at the "Cove" was too deep to cross due to flooding. Soldiers had to cross the Withlacoochee River multiple times in canoes and 300 horses swam to the other side of the river where the Seminoles attacked.
 4. Additional information can be found [on the VLPedia here](#).

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iii. Battle of Wahoo Swamp

1. Location: Western part of Central Florida, Between Tampa and Ocala, wetlands and hammocks of the Wahoo Swamp
2. Terrain Difficulty: Dense mangroves and hammocks of the swamp
3. Summary: The Battle of Wahoo Swamp took place on November 17, 18, and 21, 1836. Under the command of Florida's governor Richard K. Call, 1,830 troops completed a 3-day, 30-mile march along the Withlacoochee River. The battle was fought in the dense mangroves and hammocks of Wahoo Swamp. Seminoles could easily camouflage themselves in the hammock's dense canopy of trees to hide from the soldiers. The terrain made it difficult for troops to move quickly or maintain a clear line of sight, allowing the Seminole warriors to use their knowledge of the terrain to their advantage. This was an unsuccessful campaign for the US Army because they didn't follow the Seminoles as they retreated into the forest.
4. Additional information can be found [on the VLPedia here.](#)

iv. Battle of Lake Okeechobee

1. Location: Southern Florida, near Lake Okeechobee
2. Terrain Difficulty: Hammock of dense trees, cut grass, and swampy area
3. Summary: The Battle of Lake Okeechobee took place on December 25, 1837. The US Army was led by Colonel Zachary Taylor, and the Seminole warriors were led by Chief Alligator. The battle occurred near the northeastern shore of Lake Okeechobee. The Seminoles cut the grass short on top of the hammock that overlooked the swamp to have an open firing area. They were hoping the US soldiers would sink into the swampy terrain. Approximately 800 U.S. troops engaged in the battle against an estimated 380 Seminole warriors. Despite the Seminoles' tactical advantage in the difficult terrain, the U.S. Army was able to push forward and claim victory.
4. Additional information can be found [on the VLPedia here.](#)

Timeline

1. 1814: The Treaty of Fort Jackson ends the Creek War, which resulted in the cession of millions of acres of Creek land to the United States.
2. 1817: General Edmund P. Gaines leads a military expedition into Spanish Florida, claiming that Seminole Indians are harboring escaped slaves and raiding American settlements.
4. 1818: General Andrew Jackson invaded Spanish Florida with a force of American soldiers, capturing several Spanish forts. This event became known as the First Seminole War.
5. 1819: The Adams-Onís Treaty is signed between the United States and Spain, officially ceding Florida to the United States.

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6. 1821: U.S. occupation of Florida began.
7. 1822: Florida officially became a territory of the United States.
8. 1823: The Treaty of Moultrie Creek is signed between the United States and the Seminole Indians, establishing a reservation system and attempting to assimilate the Seminole into American society.
9. 1830: The Indian Removal Act is passed by the United States Congress, providing for the forced removal of Native American tribes to Indian Territory in present-day Oklahoma.
10. 1832: The Treaty of Payne's Landing is mandated that all Native Americans move west of the Mississippi River.
11. December 28, 1835: The Second Seminole war began with the ambush of U.S. troops under Major Francis L. Dade near Fort King, Florida. Only three soldiers survived the attack.
12. January 1836: Seminole warrior Osceola emerges as a prominent leader of the resistance against the U.S. government
13. March 1836: General Duncan Clinch leads an unsuccessful attack on the Seminoles at the Battle of Withlacoochee.
14. May 1836: General Thomas Jesup replaces General Winfield Scott as the commander of U.S. forces in Florida.
15. December 1837: The Battle of Lake Okeechobee takes place, resulting in a U.S. victory against the Seminoles.
16. February 1838: General Jesup petitioned for the Seminoles to remain in the Everglades but Washington denied his request therefore the war continued until 1842.
17. May 1838: Osceola is captured by deception during a supposed peace negotiation and imprisoned at Fort Moultrie in South Carolina, where he dies of illness in January 1838.
18. 1839-1842: The war continues with sporadic fighting and small-scale skirmishes.
19. August 1842: Col. William J. Worth decided to stop the fighting and staged a large funeral in St. Augustine. He also created the pyramid tombs to bring closure to the war. There was never a peace treaty signed to end the Second Seminole War.
20. 1855-1858: The Third Seminole War broke out as a result of conflicts between the white Floridians and remaining Seminoles, primarily over land disputes.

Extension Activities:

- For further exploration, students can conduct additional research using books or online resources about the Second Seminole War. Students can create a story map about other Second Seminole War battles.
- To give students insight into the Seminole experience and changes in territory. Utilize the Seminole War [Primary Sources Student Packet](#) and the Florida map coloring pages.

Second Seminole War Obstacle Course

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Warm-up:

1. Begin with a brief discussion about the Second Seminole War, highlighting the major battles and their significance.
2. Lead the students through a dynamic warm-up, including exercises such as jumping jacks, high knees, arm circles, and lunges.

Activity:

1. Divide the students into small groups and explain the obstacle course setup.
2. Demonstrate each obstacle and explain its connection to the Second Seminole War battles.
3. Allow students to practice each obstacle individually or in pairs to ensure they understand the instructions and can perform the activities safely.

Obstacle Course Setup:

1. **Lake Okeechobee Sprint:** Set up a designated area for the sprint (40-yard dash).
2. **Wahoo Swamp Seminole Hideout:** Create a maze or use cones and agility ladders to represent the Seminole warriors' ability to hide and navigate through the forests. Build Hula Huts to represent the hammocks.
3. **Withlacoochee River Crossing:** Set up a balance beam, symbolizing the numerous river crossings and different objects to represent the equipment and horses that had to cross the river.
4. **Dade's Battle Target Practice:** Set up targets and provide bean bags or soft playground balls for students to practice their marksmanship skills.
5. **Medicine Bag Relay:** Set up an obstacle course where students carry small bags filled with lightweight objects to represent medicine and medical supplies during the war.
6. **Flag Capture:** Divide students into two teams, representing Seminole warriors and American soldiers. Each team has to capture the other team's flag and bring it back to their designated area.

Closure:

1. Gather the students together and ask them to share their favorite parts of the obstacle course and what they learned about the Second Seminole War battles.
2. Recap the major battles and their significance, emphasizing the physical challenges soldiers faced during the war.
3. Encourage students to explore more about the Second Seminole War and its impact on Florida's history, either through further research or classroom discussions.

Extension Activity: Students can create their own obstacle courses based on different Second Seminole War battles.

Assessment:

The main focus of this lesson is engaging students in physical activity while introducing them to historical events. Assessment can be done informally through observation and class

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discussions, as well as by evaluating students' participation, teamwork, and understanding of the connections between the obstacle course activities and the Second Seminole War battles.

Bibliography for Further Reading/Teacher/Student Use

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- Wasserman, Adam. "Dec. 26, 1835: Second Seminole War, Largest Uprising of the Enslaved." Zinn Education Project: Teaching People's History. Accessed September 20, 2023. <https://www.zinnedproject.org/news/tdih/second-seminole-war/>.

StoryMaps Student Instructions

[ArcGIS StoryMap: Mapping the Geography of the Second Seminole War](#)

To navigate the first map, users can:

- Click on the red location markers on the present-day map of Florida, located on the right. This will take users to a corresponding brief excerpt explaining the history of that fort
- Scroll through the individual forts as they appeared on the 1839 Tanner map, located on the left. Users will notice the corresponding red location markers of each fort emphasized on the present-day map as they scroll.
- Zoom in and out by using the +/- on the bottom right of the present-day map of Florida, located on the right

Scroll through the entries on the left to read a brief excerpt explaining each event, and to see where each event happened across the state.



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