

The Apalachee Indians and Mission San Luis

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Summary:

Mission San Luis is one of the many places in Florida that you will find the meeting of different cultures. There were compromises made on both sides as each struggled with their cultural differences and altered some of their ways in order to live together. The Apalachee Indians welcomed the Spanish friars to their area sometime in 1608. These Spanish missionaries taught the Indians in growing various crops and welcomed the Indians to a trade relationship with the Spanish. Students will use three web sites to do research about the Apalachee Indians and Mission San Luis. They will discover where these Indians lived, how they lived, the arrival of the Spanish and what happened to these Indians. They will also explore the history of Mission San Luis and Florida's purchase of this site.

Objectives:

1. Students will explore the history of the Apalachee Indians.
2. Students will examine the meeting and blending of the cultures of the Apalachee Indians and the Spanish.
3. Students will examine the San Luis Mission and its recreation by the State of Florida

U.S. History Event or Time Period:

Pre-Columbian Native American cultures and European colonization of North America

Grade Level:

Elementary and middle school

Materials Needed:

Computers with internet access for each student (or pair of students), a Guided Reading Activity Sheet for each student, and a Test for each student.

Lesson Time:

One class period—For students to research information on the internet and fill out the Guided Reading Activity Sheet.
One class period—For the teacher to review the Guided Reading Activity Sheet and add further information about the subject.
15 minutes—For the students to take the test.

Lesson Procedures

This lesson should be used in conjunction with other related lessons (United States History, Florida History, American Indians, etc.).

1. The teacher will run off copies of the Guided Reading Activity Sheet and the Test.
2. The teacher will provide the web site to begin this lesson (http://dhr.dos.state.fl.us/bar/san_luis/ or <http://fcit.coedu.usf.edu/florida/lessons/apalach/apalach1.htm>)
3. The teacher will hand out the Guided Reading Activity Sheet and the students will access the web sites, read the material, and answer the questions on the Guided Reading Activity Sheet.
4. The teacher will review the Guided Reading Activity Sheet and elaborate on various answers and information. The teacher can also ask questions that are not on the Guided Reading Activity Sheet to see what other information the students can remember.
5. The teacher may prepare the students for the test by pointing out what questions on the Guided Reading Activity Sheet will be on the test. This could be a modification for ESE or ESOL students or could be done for the whole class.
6. The teacher gives the test.

Optional:

1. The teacher can have the students write an essay or a short story using the information they receive from the internet research.

Activities

Mission San Luis

At Mission San Luis the village of the Apalachee was built around a courtyard. It was about 410 feet in diameter and was the center of commerce and recreation. They played a ball game in this area that would get pretty rough at times. The circle was surrounded with crosses which implies that it had some religious significance also. It reminds one of the medicine wheels of other Indian tribes.

The Apalachee Indians were converted to Christianity as the Spanish missionaries moved into the area. They built a church where they worshipped. Their cemetery was located below the floor of the church and the more important people being placed closest to the altar.

The Spanish built a fort at this location and kept a garrison of men here to protect their interests. The Apalachees would fight with the Spanish to protect their village and its people. Their main enemy was the British.

The Apalachees were known as a farming and a warrior people. They were also looked upon as being prosperous. They would grow corn, beans, and squash. They also hunted game to add meat to their diet.



Picture A-3-1

This is a picture of the inside of the Friar's house. You can see how the roof was constructed from rough hewn logs and with a thatch roof. Notice also the candle lighting.



Picture A-3-2

This is the cooking area in the Friars house. Again you will notice the candle lighting fixture on the wall.



Picture A-3-3

This council house was the gathering place for the tribe. It was 120 feet in diameter, and could hold up to 3,000 people. They gathered here for religious activities and ceremonies.

It was also where the leadership would meet to discuss matters and make decisions.

They designed the structure with an opening along the ground all the way around it. They would leave a hole at the center of the roof. This design would allow air to flow under the edge of the structure, and rise, to exit out of the hole in the top. It was a form of air conditioning. It also caused the smoke from fires to be forced out of the top of the structure.

The chief's house was built the same way as the council house but was smaller, being about 65 feet in diameter. It would be located close to the council house.

The homes of the Apalachee families would be built around the center of the village and were about 18-24 feet in diameter.



Picture A-3-4

This was the typical design of the homes of the Spanish. They were also designed to take advantage of the natural flow of the air. Air would enter the windows and doors and would rise to the top as it was heated. They designed airways at the gables on the ends of the house in order for the hot air to flow out. This would create a circular airflow, bringing in fresh air and forcing stale and hot air out the holes in the gables.

For Further information see the following web sites:

<http://fcit.coedu.usf.edu/florida/lessons/apalach/apalach1.htm>

http://dhr.dos.state.fl.us/bar/san_luis/

The Apalachee and Mission San Luis- (Answer sheet for the above web sites.)

1. How were the Apalachees regarded by other Florida Indians?
As wealthy and fierce.
2. What was the northern border of the land of the Apalachees?
The modern Georgia state line.
3. Where was the Apalachee Province located?
Mainly in today's Leon and Jefferson counties.
4. What types of crops did the Apalachee Indians raise?
Corn, beans, and squash
5. Name two types of animals that the men would hunt.
Bear and deer.
6. What would the women gather to add to the diet of these Indians?
Nuts and berries.
7. What did the women usually wear?
Moss skirts.
8. What was the Apalachees' capital?
Lake Jackson.
9. Who was the first group of European explorers to make contact with the Apalachees?
An expedition led by Panfilo de Narvaez.
10. When did Hernando de Soto encounter the Apalachees?
In 1539.
11. How many Apalachees converted to Catholicism between 1633 and 1635?
At least 5,000.
12. How many Apalachee Indians and Spaniards lived at Mission San Luis between 1656 and 1704?
More than 1,500.
13. What caused the Apalachee Indians to abandon the Mission San Luis?
A series of attacks by the British and their Creek Indian allies.
14. What types of items were shipped to St. Augustine and Havana?
Corn, wheat, hides, tallow and other agricultural products.
15. When was Mission San Luis purchased by the State of Florida?
In 1983.
16. What is in the process of being developed at San Luis?
A living history program.

Worksheet for the above web sites:

The Apalachee and Mission San Luis.

1. How were the Apalachees regarded by other Florida Indians?

2. What was the northern border of the land of the Apalachees?

3. Where was the Apalachee Province located?

4. What types of crops did the Apalachee Indians raise?

5. Name two types of animals that the men would hunt.

6. What would the women gather to add to the diet of these Indians?

7. What did the women usually wear?

8. What was the Apalachees' capital?

9. Who was the first group of European explorers to make contact with the Apalachees?

10. When did Hernando de Soto encounter the Apalachees?

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12. How many Apalachee Indians and Spaniards lived at Mission San Luis between 1656 and 1704?

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15. When was Mission San Luis purchased by the State of Florida?

16. What is in the process of being developed at San Luis?

Assessment

Test—The Apalachee Indians and Mission San Luis

Name: _____

Date: _____

Multiple Choice:

1. How were the Apalachees regarded by other Florida Indians?
 - a. as poor and primitive
 - b. as wealthy and fierce
 - c. as peaceful and poor
 - d. as friendly and cooperative
2. What did the women usually wear?
 - a. moss skirts
 - b. skirts made of hides
 - c. Skirts made from cloth they had spun
 - d. Skirts made of braided palmetto leaves
3. How many Apalachee Indians and Spaniards lived at Mission San Luis between 1656 and 1704?
 - a. 1,500
 - b. 500
 - c. 850
 - d. 2,000
4. When was Mission San Luis purchased by the State of Florida?
 - a. 1965
 - b. 1980
 - c. 1983
 - d. 1977
5. What was the northern border of the land of the Apalachees
 - a. Tallahassee
 - b. 30 degrees North Latitude
 - c. The modern Georgia state line
 - d. The Taylor county and Madison County line
6. What was the Apalachees' capital?
 - a. Trenton
 - b. Madison
 - c. Sopchoppy
 - d. Lake Jackson
7. When did Hernando de Soto encounter the Apalachees?
 - a. 1539
 - b. 1545
 - c. 1587
 - d. 1560
8. Who was the first group of European explorers to make contact with the Apalachees?
 - a. Juan Ponce de Leon
 - b. Hernando De Soto
 - c. Tristan de Luna
 - d. Panfilo de Narvaez

Fill In The Blanks:

9. Name three crops the Apalachee Indians raised?

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10. What is in the process of being developed at Mission San Luis?
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Optional Assessments:

*Grade the Guided Reading Activity Sheets.

*Essay or Short Story.

Resources

1. http://dhr.dos.state.fl.us/bar/san_luis/
2. <http://fcit.coedu.usf.edu/florida/lessons/apalach/apalach1.htm>
3. Brochure—Mission San Luis de Apalachee.
4. Visitor Guide—Mission San Luis De Apalachee.