“Florida’s Role in the Civil War”
By Gail Sansome
Scott Lake Elementary

Summary
The students will study the time period of 1860-1865 particularly the effect of the Civil War on Florida residents. They will examine the concept of change and the importance of adapting to change as demonstrated during this time period.

Objectives
1. Students will brainstorm change and reasons for change.
2. Students will research the changes made by Florida residents during the Civil War.
3. Students will determine the effects of changes made on outcome of Civil War and the importance of Florida.

U.S. History event or time period
1860-1865: Effect of Civil War on Florida

Grade level
Fourth and fifth grades

Materials needed
- Land Remembered by Patrick D. Smith
- Who Moved My Cheese: for Kids by Spencer Johnson and Steve Pileggi
- Thinking Maps manual by Innovative Learning Group
- Bookbag of the Bag Ladies’ Best by Karen Simmons and Cindy Guinn
- 2 - Research articles included

Lesson time
Three 45-minute periods, with flexibility to accommodate a variety of period schedules from different schools that might range from 45-60 minutes.
Lesson Procedures

1. Introduce the lesson by reading *Who Moved my Cheese: for Kids* to the class.
2. Ask students to create a circle map individually about change (*Circle Map* diagram included in Activities section; “circle maps” are thinking maps used for defining in context)
3. Have students get into pairs. Give each of them one minute to share their ideas from the circle map.
4. Call on each pair to share their ideas with the entire class. Create a class circle map.
5. Have groups of four categorize these ideas with the categories of ways to change and the reasons for change using a tree map (*Tree Map* diagram included in Activities section; “tree maps” are thinking maps used classify main ideas, supporting ideas, and details in the information).
6. Discuss the tree maps as a whole class and create a class tree map.
7. Homework: Interview an older person to find out about changes in their life. (Some possible questions might be: When were you born? What was it like when you were my age? What did you do to help your family? What did you do for fun? What changes have you seen in your lifetime? Where did you grow up?)
8. Share homework findings with the class.
9. Have students and teacher create historical eyeglasses (refer to *Bookbag of the Bag Ladies’ Best* pp.96-98).
10. Have entire class put on historical glasses to help look into the past.
11. Have students read chapters 1-6 in *Land Remembered, Volume I* looking for changes that Florida residents had to make during the Civil War.
12. Have students discuss these changes in literature groups of 4-5 and record.
13. Discuss these changes as a whole group and record on chart paper.
14. Distribute copies of the included research articles: “Florida’s Role in the Civil War: “Supplier of the Confederacy” and “The Smallest Tadpole” Florida in the Civil War to partners --- half a class given one article and the other half given the second article (see below).
15. Have students summarize changes Florida residents made during the Civil War as indicated in these articles.
16. Have each paired group discuss with the other paired groups the information recorded—-one half of the class discussing “Supplier of the Confederacy” and the other half discussing “The Smallest Tadpole”.
17. Discuss these changes as an entire class and record these changes on chart paper (possible changes: many males became soldiers and were injured or died, homes burned by Confederate deserters, women took over farming, many left farms to become cattle drivers, salt production factories established).
18. Create class and individual multi-flow maps (blank copy can be found in Activities section):

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<th>Effects</th>
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<td>Need for salt by the Confederacy to preserve meat.</td>
<td>Creation of salt factories and invention of other ways to collect salt.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homes were burned by Confederate deserters.</td>
<td>Many families were forced to move further South.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Many males of all ages became soldiers.</td>
<td>Women took over the responsibilities of farming and protecting their families.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Many males also became cattle drivers.</td>
<td>Many families forced to separate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blockade of harbors by Union forces.</td>
<td>Trade was halted or delayed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Battles overtook local cities and communities.</td>
<td>Local residents forced to loot fallen comrades.</td>
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</tbody>
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19. Discuss how these changes affected the outcome of the Civil War and the importance of Florida. 
(Possible answers: shorter war, salt production not discovered until later, Florida taken over by another 
country, northern Florida destroyed, cattle industry not developed)
Activities

RESEARCH ARTICLE #1

Florida’s Role in the Civil War: “Supplier of the Confederacy”

Background Information

Settlers began to move to Florida once it became a United States territory. By the mid 1800s, it was a rural territory with large farms and plantations. In 1845 when Florida became a state, the population was approximately 140,000. Of these, 63,000 were African Americans, most of whom were slaves. The state’s economy was based on cattle and crops. Slavery was practiced in Florida but not all African Americans were slaves. Many bought their freedom or were freed by their owners. Some were Creoles, free descendents of Spanish citizens of African ancestry. When Florida became a state, it was considered a slave state. This was an important factor in Florida’s part in the Civil War.

Many states in the north did not believe in the practice of owning slaves and began to abolish slavery. By 1860, slavery was only found in the southern states and territories. The Presidential election that year was based on two candidates who debated about slavery. Many southern states were upset because Abraham Lincoln discussed stopping the spread of slavery. He did not want slavery in the west and hoped that it would eventually die out in the south. He was elected President on November 6, 1860. South Carolina decided to secede from the Union on December 20th. That meant that it would not recognize the United States as its government and instead would make its own state laws.

On January 10, 1861, Florida seceded as well. It became a separate state from the Union. By February, Florida and six other southern states had formed a new government, the Confederate States of America. Four other states joined a month later. The Confederate states were South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Florida, Louisiana, Tennessee, Texas, and Arkansas. Jefferson Davis, from Mississippi, was elected President and Montgomery, Alabama was selected as the capital, though it was soon moved to Richmond, Virginia. Union troops refused to leave Fort Pickens when Florida seceded from the Union.

The Civil War

BOOM! A shot was fired by U.S. troops at Fort Sumter, South Carolina on April 12, 1861 and the Civil War began. The North fought against the South. The two major issues of the Civil War were slavery and state’s rights. Many families lost all or most of the men of the family. Sometimes brother fought against brother or cousin against cousin as families differed in their view on slavery and loyalty to the United States. Not all southerners supported slavery, so they fought for the North, and not all northerners supported the war against the South. The border states between the North and the South had the most difficulties during the war.

The majority of the battles were fought in other states, but two major battles and several smaller skirmishes took place in Florida. The Union sent ships to blockade or occupy Florida ports: St. Augustine, Jacksonville, Key West and Pensacola. This blockade left Floridians unable to participate in their normal sea trade. However, the Union navy was unable to guard Florida’s entire long coastline. Smaller ships would slip through the blockade at night and continue to supply goods to the Confederate troops.

People in Florida who worked on farms and plantations raised crops and cattle to send to the troops. They sent beef, pork, fish, fruit and salt. Florida was a large producer of salt. Salt work plants would separate salt from the seawater. Two of the biggest salt works (factories) were at Apalachee Bay and St. Andrews. Salt was an important resource to the army. Because refrigeration had not been introduced yet, it was used to keep the meat from spoiling.

An estimated 16,000 Floridians fought in the war. Most were in the Confederacy, but approximately 2,000 joined the Union army. Some Floridians didn’t want to fight for either side, so they hid out in the woods and swamps to
avoid being drafted. The Floridian soldiers were organized into eleven regiments of infantry, two cavalry, and numerous small units. Almost 5,000 Floridian soldiers were killed during the war.

With most of the Floridian men fighting, it was up to the women, children, and slaves to keep the farms working. Money was very tight and most families, even in the cities, had to grow their own food and make their own clothes. Clothing was collected to send to the troops and iron was collected to make swords, guns, and other arms.

By 1863, the Confederate Army was in trouble. The bigger Union Army was decreasing the Confederate's numbers. President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, which freed all slaves in the southern states. This angered the Confederacy and the war continued. Many freed slaves joined the Union Army and fought to defeat the south and free their brothers and sisters who were still in bondage.

Battles were fought in the North and the South, but most took place in the South. There were two large battles that took place in Florida and both were won by Confederate troops. On February 20, 1864, the largest Civil War battle in Florida occurred near Lake City. It was called the Battle of Olustee. It was a victory for the Confederacy, but did not help win the war.

The war continued, but with the Confederacy becoming weaker and weaker and most of the southern capitals captured, supply lines to the confederate troops were cut off. On April 4, 1865, Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered to Union General Ulysses S. Grant. The war was officially over. Some battles continued for a short period of time, but, once word reached troops who were still fighting, the southern generals surrendered. Florida officially surrendered April 26, 1865. Union troops took over Tallahassee and immediately raised the United States flag. Once again, the states were united.
Civil War Battles and Troops in Florida

Fort Pickens

Early 1861: Some speculate that the Civil War could have begun in Florida instead of Fort Sumter, South Carolina. In early January of 1861 when Florida joined the other Confederate states and seceded from the Union, there were Union (U.S. Army) soldiers stationed at Fort Pickens on Santa Rosa Island, right off Pensacola. Confederate soldiers demanded that the Union soldiers surrender now that Florida was a Confederate state. The Union soldiers refused to leave the fort. The Union quickly moved in more troops to reinforce the number of soldiers in the fort of Pensacola. A battle began and a standoff lasted over several months.

The Confederate army landed 1,000 soldiers on the island on October 9th to raid a small Union army camp outside of the fort. More Union soldiers were sent from the fort to reinforce their camp and they were able to drive the Confederates off the island. Battles continued throughout the early part of 1862. Finally, by May, the Confederate troops withdrew from the area and the yearlong standoff was over. The Union occupied Pensacola for the rest of the war.

The Tampa Incident

June 30, 1862: A small battle took place in the Tampa Bay area over a two-day period early in the Civil War. A Union general sailed into Tampa Bay. Soldiers disembarked, went into town, and demanded Tampa’s surrender to the Union. A small Confederate militia group stationed in Tampa called the Osceola Rangers refused to surrender. The Union gunboat then began to open fire. The Union General warned the soldiers that they would fire again beginning at 6 pm in order to get civilians out of the way. The Osceola Rangers remained steadfast in their refusal to surrender. Gunfire began again and shots rang out most of the next day into Tampa. Eventually, in the late afternoon of July 1st, the Union soldiers stopped firing and the gunboat withdrew. Luckily, there were no casualties in this battle.

The Battle of Olustee

February 20, 1864: One year after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed, the largest Civil War battle in Florida occurred near Lake City. The Battle of Olustee lasted for six hours in the woods close to Olustee station. The Union army launched an expedition inward from the coastline in order to cut off supply lines to the Confederates. They also were searching for African Americans to join their side. Brigadier General Truman Seymour marched 5,000 men toward Lake City. Confederate General Joseph Finegan set up 5,200 men at Olustee to block their advance. Three regiments of African American troops fought in this battle on the Union’s side and many of these men were lost. The Confederate troops defeated the Union Army and sent them back toward Jacksonville. The Battle of Olustee has been described as one of the bloodiest battles in the Civil War. Almost 3,000 men out of the 11,000 who fought were killed.

The Battle of Natural Bridge

March 4, 1865: Another large battle in Florida took place near Tallahassee. Major General John Newton landed U.S. Navy ships at the mouth of St. Marks River. They had trouble getting up the river, so the soldiers marched northeast to Tallahassee. A small Confederate militia group burned a bridge in their path so that the Union soldiers could not cross the river. The Union soldiers pressed on and the two groups met at the Natural Bridge, a place where the river goes underground for a short distance. The Confederates were able to protect the natural crossing and push the Union soldiers back. The Union soldiers quickly retreated to their ships. Once again, the Confederates were victorious in Florida. Because of this victory, Tallahassee was the only Confederate state capital east of the Mississippi River that was not seized during the war.

The “Cow Cavalry”

Small militia groups were formed to protect the inner part of Florida. These units were mostly made up of ranchers and cowhands. They were called the “Cow Cavalry.” Small numbers of Union soldiers would hold
cavalry raids in south Florida to capture cattle. The Union Navy would also conduct raids along the coast trying to destroy the salt work plants. It was the mission of the cow cavalry to protect the cattle ranches, salt works, and small towns of south Florida. Numerous small battles occurred as the groups met, but most battles were never documented. Florida’s greatest contribution to the war, besides the 5,000 Floridian men who fought, was food supplies. Florida sent beef, pork, fish, and fruit to the Confederate troops. A vital part of the Confederate strategy was to keep Florida’s inland roads and rivers protected so that the supplies could get safely northward. The soldiers of the “Cow Calvary” helped keep the Confederate army supplied with food from Florida.
In many respects, Florida remains the forgotten state of the Confederacy. Although the third state to secede, Florida’s small population (ranking last among the Confederate states with some 140,000 people) and meager industrial resources made the state of little strategic importance to either side. Indeed, one contemporary referred to the state as the “smallest tadpole in the dirty pool of secession.” Despite this neglect, Florida’s cattle ranges provided much-needed beef to the south’s main armies, particularly during the latter stages of the war. The peninsula’s 13000 mile coastline also proved invaluable for the production of salt, made by boiling sea water in large kettles or evaporating it in man-made tidal pools.

Florida did provide some 15,000 troops for the Confederacy, organized into twelve infantry regiments, two cavalry regiments, a handful of artillery batteries, and a variety of smaller organizations. Florida units fought in most of the major battles of the war, with the exception of 1st Manassas and Fort Donelson. The Florida Brigade in the Army of Northern Virginia, for example, earned a solid reputation despite suffering from a serious shortage of replacements for most of the war. One source claims that Florida’s percentage of enlistments to population was the highest of any Confederate state.

In January, 1861, Florida’s Secession Convention took the state out of the Union it had joined only fifteen years before. The final vote was 62-7, but more Unionism existed in the state than this margin indicated. A large minority of Floridians harbored pro-Union or anti-confederate sentiments, a number that grew as the war progressed.

Following secession and the outbreak of fighting, Florida officials were immediately faced with the daunting task of organizing a new military force to defend the state. The peninsula’s long coastline, coupled with the fact that Federal forces remained in control of Key West and Fort Zachary Taylor, as well as Fort Jefferson in the Dry Tortugas and Fort Pickens near Pensacola, made Florida particularly vulnerable.

Even before the firing on Fort Sumter, volunteer companies organized throughout the state. Many of these “minute man” units became the nucleus for companies that later entered Confederate service. During his last months in office Governor Madison Starke Perry, whose single term was to expire in the fall of 1861 and who would later command the 7th Florida Infantry, strove to organize and equip Florida’s troops. During this period he made several trips out of state to obtain weapons and accoutrements. Perry was criticized, however, for his decision to allow state militiamen to volunteer into Confederate service as individuals rather than by units. John Milton, who won election in the fall of 1860, became governor the following October. Described by one biographer as “a loyal Confederate,” Milton labored to rebuild the state militia and also worked to improve the defenses of the Apalachicola River and of Fort Clinch on Amelia Island.

Disaster struck Florida in early 1862. Following the defeats at Forts Henry and Donelson, the bulk of the Confederate troops then in Florida were withdrawn to more important theaters. Braxton Bragg’s small army at Pensacola was pulled out, effectively leaving control of that region to the Union troops at Fort Pickens. The town of Apalachicola was also evacuated, although the Confederates maintained some defenses along the Apalachicola River. Additionally, in March of 1862 the Federals occupied Fernandina and St. Augustine, which remained in their hands until the end of the war. At the same time Jacksonville suffered through the first of its four occupations.

By the summer of 1862 Florida had raised, equipped, and sent out of state the 1st through 8th regiments of infantry, the 1st Florida Calvary Regiment, and various smaller commands. The only forces remaining in the state were a variety of independent companies, several infantry battalions, and the newly-organized 2nd Florida Cavalry Regiment. Over the next year and a half, these units fended off a series of minor raids along the coast, as well as the temporary Union reoccupations of Jacksonville in the fall of 1862 and the spring of 1863. At St. Johns bluff in September, 1862 the confederates experienced a humiliating reverse when a strong position of the St. Johns River near Jacksonville was abandoned to a Union naval and land force without a fight.
The largest battle in Florida during the war took place February 20, 1864 at Olustee. The battle followed the fourth and final Union occupation of Jacksonville, which had occurred on February 7. Launched primarily to reinstitute a loyal state government under the terms of President Lincoln’s Reconstruction Proclamation, the Federal troops also hoped to interdict Confederate supply operations in the state, to open the port of Jacksonville for northern commerce, and to recruit troops for union black regiments.

Union Major General Quincy Gillmore, commanding the Department of the South, accompanied the expedition but Brigadier General Truman Seymour was in actual command. After the occupation of Jacksonville and the surrounding area, Gillmore returned to Hilton Head, leaving Seymour and some 7,000 troops in northeast Florida. On the morning of February 20, unbeknownst to Gillmore, Seymour led a force of some 5,000 men westward from Barber’s toward Lake City. About twelve miles east of Lake City they met a Confederate force of similar size, commanded by Brigadier General Joseph Finegan, situated near the railroad depot of Olustee and a body of water known as Ocean Pond. In the days following the original Union landing, Finegan had consolidated the few troops still in Florida and had obtained additional manpower from Georgia and South Carolina. After sharp fighting lasting four to six hours the Federals retreated. Union losses totaled more that 1,800 killed, wounded, and missing. Confederate losses were roughly half that number. For the Federals, the casualty percentage at Olustee was one of the highest of the entire war.

After Olustee, Union troops retreated to their fortifications around Jacksonville. Both Federal and Confederate reinforcements came to Florida, and for a time it appeared another battle would occur. Gradually, however, both sides withdrew the bulk of their men and the war in Florida reverted to a series of minor raids and skirmishes. The 2nd Florida Cavalry, and particularly the company of Captain John Dickinson, won fame for their series of small-scale victories over Union raiding parties in 1864 and 1865. Anti-war sentiment grew in Florida during the latter stages of the war. The state became a haven for Confederate deserters and draft evaders and by late 1864 Confederate control over the state was effectively reduced to portions of northern and central Florida. In October, 1864, a Federal expedition from Pensacola attacked the panhandle town of Marianna. The Confederate defenders, primarily home guards, put up a stout resistance but the town was occupied and partially burned. The last fight of consequence in Florida took place in early March, 1865, when a naval armada landed 1,000 Federals on the coast south of Tallahassee. The Union troops, commanded by Brigadier General John Newton, were soundly defeated at the Battle of Natural Bridge. This confederate victory assured that Florida would stay in southern hands until the end of the war.

April, 1865 began with the shocking news that governor Milton, ill and depressed over the deteriorating military and political situation, had committed suicide at his home near Marianna. Within weeks Floridians learned of the surrender of Lee’s and Johnson’s armies. Because of the remoteness of the region, it took some time for the Federals to occupy the areas of the state still held by southern forces. Edward McCook occupied Tallahassee, the last state capitol east of the Mississippi still under Confederate control, on May 10. In a formal ceremony ten days later the stars and stripes rose over the capitol building. By early June the last organized resistance in the southern half of the peninsula collapsed as well.
### Cause and Effect Map for Lesson C-1

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Circle Map and Frame

Circle Map for Defining in Context - Frame for Frame of Reference
Tree Map for Classifying and Grouping Main Idea, Supporting Ideas, and Details
Assessment

Write a journal entry as if you lived in Florida during the Civil War. Describe how your life has changed and the importance of Florida to the Civil War. Include in your entry a description of three different changes that occurred and how they affected your life here.
Resources

Florida A Short History by Michael Gannon
Land Remembered, Volume I by Patrick D. Smith
Who Moved my Cheese: for Kids by Spencer Johnson and Steve Pileggi
Thinking Maps by Innovative Learning Group
Bookbag of the Bag Ladies’ Best by Karen Simmons and Cindy Guinn

Web sites:
http://fcit.usf.edu/florida/lessons/cvl war/cvl war1.htm
http://www.floridamemory.com/OnlineClassroom/FloridaCivilWar/history.cfm


