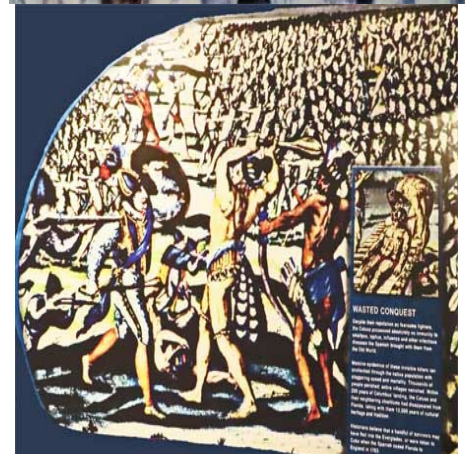
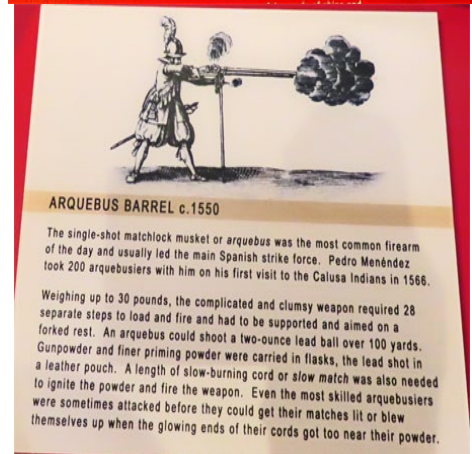
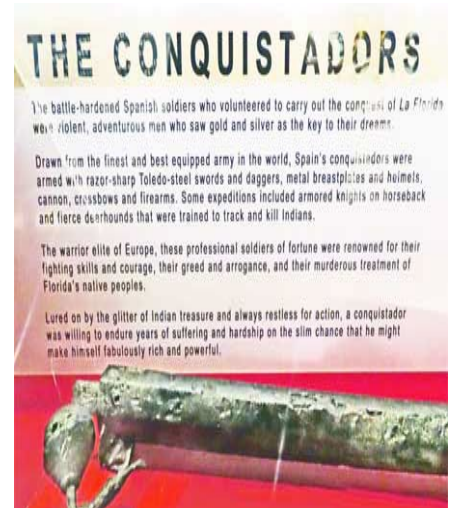
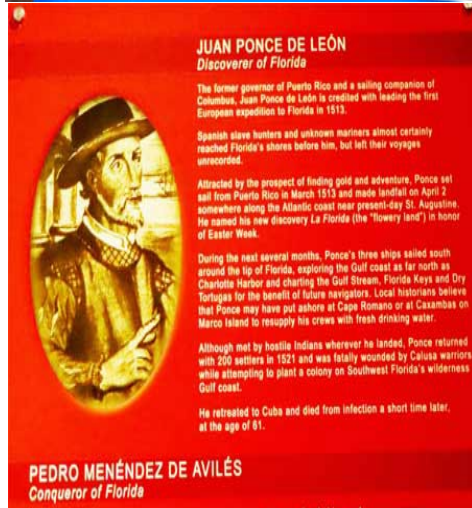
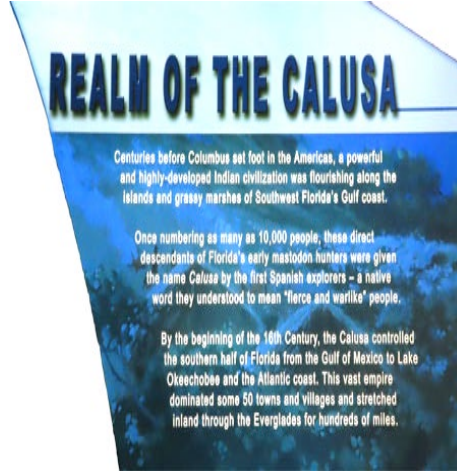




Part 2: The Calusa – Spaniards – Seminole Wars

This photo program focuses on the Collier Museum, 3331 Tamiami Trail East, Naples, Florida history about the Calusa, Spanish Conquistadors, and the Seminole Indians culture and the wars between the U.S Government and Seminole Indians.

The Calusa and Spaniards



The Seminoles

The first Seminole were a mixture of Creek Indians who began migrating to Florida in the early 1700s to escape the expansion of white settlement in Georgia and Alabama.

Moving southward in small bands, these breakaway groups of Oconee, Tamathli, Yamassee, Sawokli, Apalachee, Miccosukee, Chiaha, Eufaula, Apalachicola, Tallahassee, Hitchiti, Yuchi and other Creek peoples, joined with free blacks, escaped African slaves and refugees from other tribes to forge a new identity in Spanish-controlled Florida known as the *Seminole*.

The name *Seminole* is derived from the Spanish word *cimarron*, meaning *wild one* or *runaway*. In the Creek Muskogee language this became *simanoli*, for *separate* or *free men*, to indicate that they were people who had left their old ways, their lands, and their kinfolk in the Creek Confederation. The British later translated this into *Seminole* and applied it to all of Florida's Native Americans.

Together with the Choctaw, Chickasaw, Creek and Cherokee, the Seminole formed part of what whites called the "Five Civilized Tribes" of Southeast Indians.

The Seminole were not a cohesive tribe or nation, but a loose alliance of many diverse and different peoples. Some groups spoke the Muskogee language, while others were Hitchiti-speaking. Some supported the Spanish in Florida, others the British. Each band lived in a separate village and governed itself independently with no central political or military leader to hold the groups together. Their only common bond was the Creek culture which they either adopted or carried with them to Florida.

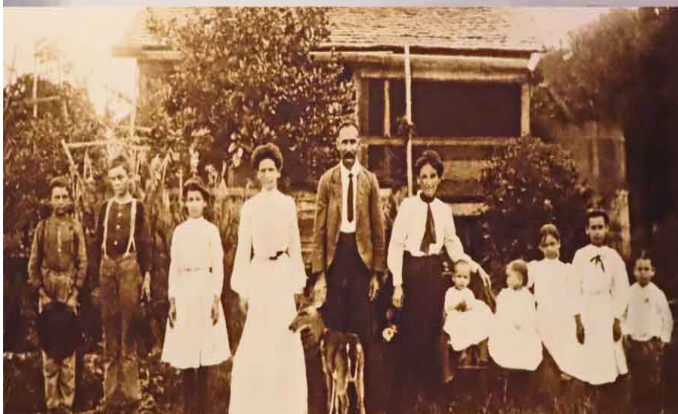
Between 1740 and 1820, the diverse groups of Seminole Indians established scattered farming communities across the northern part of the peninsula, gradually resettling lands left vacant by the extinction of Florida's original tribes. By the time the United States acquired Florida from Spain in 1821, an estimated 5,000 Seminole were living in the territory in over 25 separate towns and villages.

The largest Seminole towns included wood-frame cabins, cornfields, vegetable gardens, herds of cattle and horses, and a population of several hundred people. Operating under the Creek form of government, each town decided its own affairs and elected its own *micco* or chief, who usually held the office for life. Other town council officials included the vice-chief or *micco apokta*, the ceremonial

leaders or *heniha* who supervised the *Black Drink* ritual, and a war leader or *tustenuggee* who recruited the town's fighting forces. A man's standing in the village usually depended on his bravery in battle and an especially courageous warrior could earn the title *hadjo* or *fixico*. The leader of a successful war party was honored with the designation *emathla*.



Home on the Florida Frontier



The Seminole Wars (Also known as the Florida Wars)

"After the American Revolution (1776-1783), Spain regained control of Florida from Britain as part of the Treaty of Paris. When the British evacuated Florida, Spanish colonists as well as settlers from the newly formed United States came pouring in. Many of these new residents were lured by favorable Spanish terms for acquiring property, called land grants. Even Seminoles were encouraged to set up farms, because they provided a buffer between Spanish Florida and the United States. Escaped slaves also entered Florida, trying to reach a place where their U.S. masters had no authority over them. Instead of becoming more Spanish, Florida increasingly became more 'American.'" <dos.myflorida.com> <legendsofamerica.com>

The First Seminole War "Back when Britain controlled Florida, the British often incited Seminoles against American settlers who were migrating south into Seminole territory. These old conflicts, combined with the safe-haven Seminoles provided black slaves, caused the U.S. army to attack the tribe in the First Seminole War (1817-1818), which took place in Florida and southern Georgia. Forces under Gen. Andrew Jackson invaded Spanish Florida, attacked several key locations, and pushed the Seminoles farther south into Florida." <dos.myflorida.com>

"In 1819 Florida was sold by the Spanish to the United States. There were about 5,000 Seminole Indians who claimed Florida's 32 million acres of land as their own. In 1823 under the treaty of Moultrie Creek, they gave up their claim which resulted in reducing their land to 4 million acres, with no access to their cultivated lands, game, and either ocean. Then President Jackson in 1830 signed the Indian Removal Act requiring the relocation of the Seminoles to Oklahoma." <seminolecountyfl.gov>

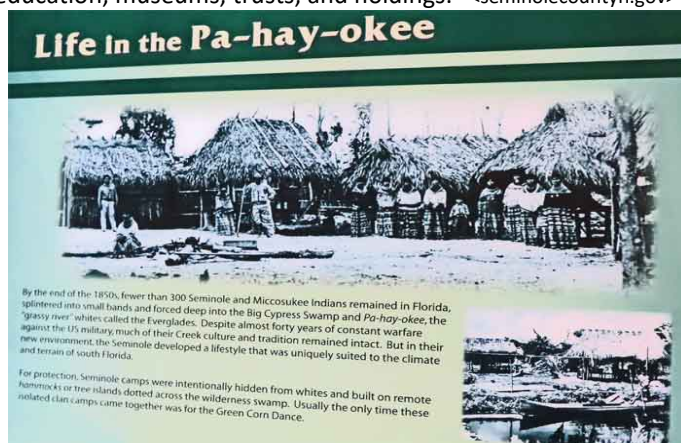
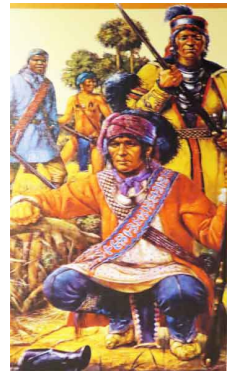
Osceola, a young Seminole leader organized opposition to the relocation. <seminolecountyfl.gov>

Second Seminole Indian War "began on December 28, 1835, when Osceola and a band of warriors killed the Indian Agent and four other whites at Fort King." <seminolecountyfl.gov>

"Between 1835 and 1842, almost 3,000 Seminoles were removed to Oklahoma. For every two Indians removed, one American soldier died. The Second Seminole War was the bloodiest and longest in United States history. In 1842, the U.S. government withdrew, and the Seminole Indians never signed a peace treaty."

Chief Billy Bowlegs lead an attack in December 1855 beginning the..." <seminolecountyfl.gov>

Third Seminole War "This was done in protest of the U.S. government sending patrols into Seminole territory. Some negotiations ended with a treaty being signed giving Seminoles land in Oklahoma. The Florida Seminoles crept quietly deep into the Everglades. Their descendants over the years have fought the good fight and have prospered by teaching the old ways, providing for their young and old, preserving their heritage through education, museums, trusts, and holdings." <seminolecountyfl.gov>



"An estimated 200 Seminole still refused to leave and retreated deep into the Everglades and the Big Cypress Swamp to live on land that was unwanted by white settlers. Since the war was officially over and the remaining Seminole carefully avoided contact with settlers, the government sent the militia home. It reassigned most of the regular Army troops, leaving only small contingents in larger coastal forts such as Fort Brooke. Most of the smaller forts scattered across the Florida wilderness were decommissioned and soon stripped by settlers of any usable material. In the 1940s, the Seminole who remained in Florida began to move to reservations and establish official tribal governments. There are several official Seminole Tribes in Florida today." <legendsofamerica.com>

This is a four-part series:

Part 1 Overview of Collier County Museums Part 2 The Calusa – Spaniards – Seminole Wars

Part 3 The Trail Blazers and Builders Part 4. Tour of the Naples Collier Museum Grounds

[Go to acuri.net – USA – Florida to see the programs under Naples, Florida](https://www.acuri.net)

Sources: Collier County Guide to Historic Sites booklet, <https://www.colliercountyfl.gov/government/advisory-boards-and-authorities/historical-archaeological-preservation-board>, <https://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/departments-services/leisure-services/parks-recreation/museum-of-seminole-county-history/about-the-museum-of-seminole-county-hi/museum-resources-historical-informatio/seminole-indian-wars.stml>, <https://dos.myflorida.com/florida-facts/florida-history/seminole-history/the-seminole-wars/>, and <https://www.legendsofamerica.com/seminole-wars/>.

acuri.net John R. Vincenti Part 2 The Calusa – Spaniards – Seminole Wars