



Native American Tribes: Seminole



A Seminole man wearing traditional clothes about 1842.



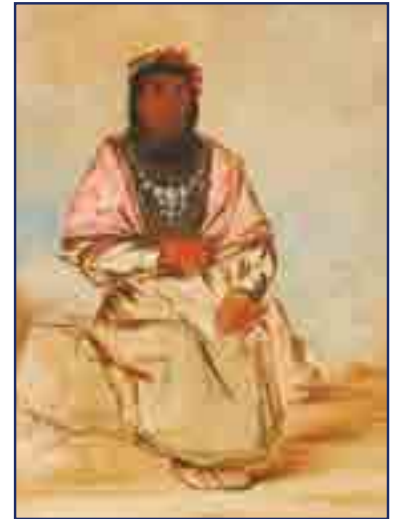
A Seminole fisherman

The Seminole tribe of Native Americans began when members of the Creek tribe moved to Florida in the 1700s and united with other tribes. Their language is similar to the Creek language.

The Seminole were organized into clans, or family groups. The tribe member belongs to his or her mother's clan. The most important ceremony of the Seminole culture is the Green Corn Dance. During this harvest ceremony, many Seminole people come together to pay gratitude to the Creator for providing food. One of the many rituals at this event include "stomp dancing" where men follow a spiritual leader in single file while women dance around them.

The Seminole lived in Florida until 1842 when many tribe members were forced by the government of the U.S. to move to Oklahoma. Those that remained in Florida lived in the swamps of the Everglades. Today, the Seminole tribe of Oklahoma is independent of the Seminole tribe of Florida.

The Seminoles in Florida lived in houses called chickees. A chickee has no walls and has a thatched roof, or a roof made of woven palm branches.



A Seminole woman in traditional clothes about 1838

Fill in the Blank

What states do the Seminoles live in today?

Florida and Oklahoma

What kind of houses did the Seminoles live in?

chickees

What is the most important ceremony for the Seminoles?

Green Corn Dance

Whose clan does a Seminole belong to?

his or her mother's clan

When did government of the U.S. force many Seminoles to move?

1842

Secret Code Word

Use the secret code to find a word about the Seminole. Write the letter in the blank that matches the number from the code.

T H A T C H E D
20 8 1 20 3 8 5 4

Secret code

1 = A	7 = G	13 = M	19 = S	25 = Y
2 = B	8 = H	14 = N	20 = T	26 = Z
3 = C	9 = I	15 = O	21 = U	
4 = D	10 = J	16 = P	22 = V	
5 = E	11 = K	17 = Q	23 = W	
6 = F	12 = L	18 = R	24 = X	