

Nonfiction Comprehension

Context Clues & Text Features

Part 1 Reading for Meaning

The Seminole

Directions: Read the passage.

The Seminole tribe of Native Americans began when members of the Creek tribe migrated to Florida in the 1700's 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 and nourishment. 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 unjustly forced by the government of the U.S. to move to Oklahoma.



Seminole Native American hunting with fishing spear

Glossary

Directions: Reread the passage and underline the words that are listed below.

unite: to join together to do or achieve something.

migrate: to move from one area to another.

clan: a large group of people who are related.

gratitude: a feeling of appreciation or thanks.

nourishment: food and other things that are needed for health and growth.

ritual: a formal ceremony or series of acts that is always performed in the same way.

spiritual: of or relating to religion or religious beliefs.

ANSWER SHEET**Part 2 Context Clues & Text Features**

Directions: Choose a word from the glossary word list when completing each sentence. Use context clues to determine which word you should select.

unite migrate clan gratitude
nourishment ritual spiritual

1. Every year, the Johnson Family performs the same ritual of singing Christmas carols on Christmas Eve.
2. The spiritual leader of the tribe helped guide people towards helping others, but could not be seen.
3. Both the third and fourth grade classes will unite in their efforts to gather food and clothing for those in need.
4. The Maloney clan was a very large family.
5. Babies get nourishment from their mother's milk.
6. During the fall, birds often migrate south.
7. She expressed her gratitude to her teacher for all of her love and support.
8. What information can you gather from the picture and the caption?

Students' answers will vary.

Example: People in the Seminole Tribe hunted for fish.