



**Topic:** Who Were the Timucua?

**Level:** 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade

**Site of Activity:** Classroom pre-activity, 15 minutes

**Designed by:** Pamela James, Teacher to Ranger to Teacher, Sandalwood High School

**Theme:** Culture and Clothing

**Goal:** Students will be able identify main idea of the passage on the Timucua Indians.

### **Sunshine State Standards**

SSA 331

### **Materials Needed:**

1. Background Reading (attached)
2. Worksheet (attached)
3. Pencil and paper

### **Directions:**

After reading the background information students will fill in the blanks below.

### **One Sentence Summaries:**

Make sure to take time and allow your students to share their answers.

**Background:**

For thousands of years, native people depended on the rich natural resources of the St. Johns estuary. These pre-Columbian people have left clues to their existence; the most easily recognized are the mounds of shells found throughout the preserve. The Indians who made contact with the first European arrivals to the area in the mid-1500's are today known as the Timucua.

The term Timucua actually represents a number of cultural traditions that have become defined by a shared language. The Timucua who settled along the rivers and islands near the Atlantic Ocean took advantage of the waterways for transportation.

Using tools made from the store house of natural materials, they felled, burned, and scraped tree trunks to make dugout canoes. They hunted and gathered in the forests and marshes, fished, and collected oysters and clams. Discarded shells were piled atop the mounds accumulating from successive generations. It is these ever present shell mounds that testify to the importance of the water for survival.

The Timucua of this area first encountered Europeans in 1562 when French settlers arrived at the St. John River. The Timucua offered food and even helped the strange newcomers build a fort. As with other Florida native peoples, they did not long survive contact with Europeans. Spanish rulers, who had driven out the French, imposed their own culture, including spiritual beliefs through the Spanish mission system. European diseases, to which the Timucua had no immunity, devastated the population. Only 550 Timucua were recorded in 1698, from a population once in the tens of thousands.

Today, no indigenous people call themselves "Timucua."

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** After the reading about the Timucua, fill in the blanks below.

**ONE SENTENCE SUMMARY:**

**Description**

A \_\_\_\_\_ is a kind of Native American that lived along the rivers and islands near the Atlantic Ocean.

**Compare/Contrast**

\_\_\_\_\_ And \_\_\_\_\_ are similar in that they both have left clues to their existence.

**Sequence**

First encounters began with the \_\_\_\_\_, continues with \_\_\_\_\_ rulers who drove out the French and end with \_\_\_\_\_ diseases devastating the population.

**Problem/Solution**

The Spanish wanted to impose their own \_\_\_\_\_, but thru the \_\_\_\_\_ system.

**Cause/Effect**

After reading the passage above, identify one example cause and effect you identified from the reading. Write your response below.

Cause	Effect