

<b>SECTION-TOPIC</b>	<b>NATIVE AMERICANS– SEMINOLES AND MICCOSUKEES</b>
	<i>Standard 2: Understand causes, course, and consequences of the Civil War and Reconstruction and its effects on the American people.</i> <i>SS.912.A.2.7: Review the Native American experience.</i>
<b>VOCABULARY</b>	<b>Sovereignty, Reservation, Tribe, Culture, Seminole</b>
<b>REQUIRED MATERIALS</b>	<b>Seminole and Miccosukee Reading, Comparison and Contrast Chart</b>
<b>DURATION</b>	<b>1 – 50 minute period</b>

**DO NOW OR PRE-READING –**

- Teacher will post the picture of the Seminole Hard Rock Casino (see attached)
- Students will take 5-10 minutes to study the picture and answer the following questions.

1. If gambling is illegal in the state of Florida, how are the Seminole and Miccosukee Tribes able to own and operate casinos?
2. In your opinion, does the commercialization of the Seminole and Miccosukee Tribes, in the form of casinos, jeopardize the cultural history and significance of the tribes or does the new found attention and tourist appeal solidify the tribes' importance?



## LESSON –

- Teacher will make copies or project the following reading on the white board, *Seminoles and Miccosukee*
- Students will read the article below before completing the corresponding worksheet.

### **Seminoles and Miccosukee**<sup>1</sup>

Florida has been home to the Seminole Indians since the mid-1700s. When Florida's original population of Native Americans decreased, groups of Lower and Upper Creeks, (classified by which waterway they lived near), also known as Muscogee, moved into Spanish Florida. They came from Alabama and Georgia seeking their own land, and Florida had plenty available. Eventually, there were two dominant tribes, the Miccosukee and the Seminoles, separated by their languages. The Miccosukee's language descended from the Lower Creeks, while the Seminoles' language came from the Upper Creeks. The name "Seminole" could have two meanings. From the Creek phrase *phegee ishti semoli*, Seminole means "wild men." From the Spanish *cimarrone*, Seminole means "runaway."

The Seminoles and Miccosukee in Florida today are descendants of those who refused to give in or to sign a treaty to move to the Indian Territory.

The Seminoles clashed with American settlers over land and over escaped slaves who found refuge among the Seminoles. They resisted the government's efforts to move them to the Indian Territory west of the Mississippi. Between 1818 and 1858, three wars were fought between Seminoles and the United States government. The descendants of the Seminoles and Miccosukee who refused to surrender or leave are now part of Florida's modern economy.

After many years of hiding out in the swamps, the Seminole and Miccosukee Indians in south Florida were able to rebuild their lives. In 1957 the Native Americans set up the Seminole Tribe of Florida and negotiated an agreement with the U.S. government regarding their land. A group of Miccosukee chose to retain their identity and wrote its own constitution, which led to recognition by the federal government as a sovereign nation in 1961. The National Park Service granted the tribe access to 333 acres on the northern border of Everglades National Park.<sup>2</sup>

Adjacent to the Miccosukee reservation is the Seminoles' Big Cypress reservation, in part of Hendry and Broward counties. Although Big Cypress is the largest Seminole reservation (82 square miles), Hollywood, in Broward County, is the most populated and the seat of the Seminoles' tribal council. The Brighton reservation is northwest of Lake Okeechobee, in Glades County. Other reservations include Immokalee in Collier County, and Tampa in Hillsborough County.<sup>3</sup> The 2000 U.S. Census reported 3,000 Seminoles and Miccosukee on south Florida reservations; they earn money by

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<sup>1</sup> "The History of Florida," HSPBC (2006); Background History in Docent Manual

<sup>2</sup> "Concerning the Miccosukee Tribe's Ongoing Negotiations with the National Park Service Regarding the Special Use Permit Area", Resources Committee, US House of Representatives, 25 Sep 1997

<sup>3</sup> Extension Indian Reservation Program, "Indian Country Extension," at <http://www.indiancountryextension.org/state.php?=3>; "Florida – American Indian Area," 2000 Summary, U. S. Census Bureau, [http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/GCTTable?\\_bm=y&-geo\\_id=04000US12&-\\_box\\_head\\_nbr=GCT-PH1&-ds\\_name=DEC\\_2000\\_SF1\\_U&-format=ST-8](http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/GCTTable?_bm=y&-geo_id=04000US12&-_box_head_nbr=GCT-PH1&-ds_name=DEC_2000_SF1_U&-format=ST-8).

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Lesson plan by Clint Kovach, Lake Worth High School

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farming and by operating hotels, casinos, and other tourist attractions.

**ASSESSMENT/EVALUATION** -

- Following completion of the reading, teacher will pass out the **Comparison and Contrast Chart. (see attached)**
- Students will complete the **Comparison and Contrast Chart** using the information they gathered from the reading.
- Students will turn in the DO NOW activity and the Chart before the end of class.

# COMPARISON AND CONTRAST CHART

	Seminoles	Miccosukee
Language		
Sovereignty		
Reservation Location		
Modern Economy		