

Suggested Literature Based Study of Florida History

First remember to point out that the earth is only 6,000 years old. You may want to start with the first six lessons of the Florida Science course or the first eight lessons of the Middle School Creation Course to make sure your child understands the natural history of Florida from a Biblical perspective.

With that in mind; the first Floridians migrated here after the tower of Babel which was during the post Flood Ice age around 2150 BC. All the older dates than that are based upon the belief in evolution and interpreting the evidence with evolutionary beliefs in mind.

The first Florida natives or Indians were actually a few generations removed from Noah and migrated here during the ice age to take up residence. With that in mind I recommend the following books which you may be able to get at your public library. If it is in the library system and at a different branch, they will bring it to your local branch for you, so I suggest going and requesting a few of them at a time. Also, if you show them evidence that you are a homeschooler and tell them you are using these for a study, they usually give you 6 weeks instead of 3 to use the books. It's worth checking.

As you read these books have your student build a Florida History notebook with maps, pictures and reports. Get creative with it; add art, textures, recipes, brochures from museums and fieldtrip locations, pictures of your projects and explorations, etc.!

I would use a three ring binder with dividers. Use your dividers as you see fit to separate different parts of your study. Make divisions where it seems natural to you and separate areas you or your child finds interesting; then spend more time on those. Remember, have fun with this and model to your child that work is important AND learning is fun! Add as many fieldtrips and movies as you can to really add to your adventure. Remember, this should be an adventure!

For a good overview before getting into details I suggest:

Florida History by Bob Knotts

You could have your child write a report on it and start a timeline using the one in the back of this book just to get started. They can then add all the other books they read in this study to the appropriate place in the time line as they goes. We started with an ancient time line which showed the creation, Flood, and ice age including the tower of Babel and a migration map showing tribes migrating across land bridges into the six continents people inhabit. These would be our native Floridians that you want to read about next. You may want to make a separate timeline starting at 1500 AD with the native peoples and then move to the present adding things to your timeline as you read books and go on fieldtrips, etc.

Then on to the native Floridians:

Florida Native Peoples by Bob Knotts

Have your child write 1-3 paragraphs (more or less at your discretion; it could even be just a sentence or two or a list of interesting facts) on each of the 4 major original tribes for their Florida History notebook including: Apalachee, Timucua, Tequesta, and Calusa. Include illustrations if and when you can. Make additions to your timeline from the timeline at the back of the book. (The Seminole and Miccosukee don't get here until around 1763 so they will come later.) Remember that anything listed as before 2350 BC should actually be on your "realistic Biblical timeline" at the time of the Tower of Babel around 2150BC.

You want to get a children's book at or below your child's reading level (to keep things moving) on a few of the explorers. I personally like: ***Exploration and Conquest - The Americas After Columbus: 1500-1620*** by Betsy and Giulio Maestro which I got from the library. Most of these books will have timelines or tables of dates in the book. Write a short report mentioning the most important explorers. This could be just a paragraph with a line for each explorer, so keep it fun as possible. Add your explorers to your time line: Juan Ponce de Leon, DeSoto, and Menedez (who established St Augustine) and more if you chose but you may want to keep your focus to those who pertained to Florida so you don't get bogged down).

Find a book about St Augustine that tells something about its history as well as the city. Add to timeline and information to notebook. Be creative. This could be a report about St. Augustine or it could be pictures that you find on the internet and your child could make copies or even draw these things and add short captions. This is still a good way to learn the information in a fun way. We even printed some of these things out on colored paper, then crinkled the paper and carefully burnt the edges to make them look old. We then glued them on a new sheet and added it to our notebook.

From this point, I am suggesting books that we used. Be creative on how you have your child add information about each book (book report, pictures with captions, etc.) to their notebook and timeline using your child's areas of interest as much as possible. You may want to use this opportunity to teach them some of the basic elements of literature. If you go on Amazon and search these books, other books of similar subject will come up; then check your local library to see if their available.

Use videos and DVDs from the library to enhance your study. We found some very interesting interviews with Floridians who were born in the early 1900s and shared some very interesting stories. There are other DVDs on environmental impacts on Florida that also include a large amount of Florida history. Be careful you explain to your child the dangers of the environmental movement and how they interpret things from a different perspective than Bible-believing people do.

Add fieldtrips to museums and historic sites as much as possible to bring your study to life. Add free brochures and literature to your notebook or even use them to cut out glossy color pictures to add to your child's written description (or written caption) in their notebook.

BOOKS

Seige! by Wilma Hays (I purchased it because it is not in the library system here but it was worth it to me; I learned so much.). Story around 1702 in St. Augustine. Possibly write book report and definitely add it to your timeline and notebook.

Find a book about the history of the Seminoles in Florida which will start in the late 1700s. Add to timeline and information to notebook.

Legends of the Seminoles by Betty M Jumper, Guy LaBree and Peter Gallagher

Seminole Diary - Remembrance of a Slave by Dolores Johnson is an interesting addition and we got it at the library.

Make sure you have an idea from your reading about the three Seminole wars and add those to your timeline.

Escape to the Everglades by Edwina Raffa and Annelle Rigsby which is a historical fiction that involves a boy around 13 years of age who lived through the second (and longest) Seminole war. Possibly write book report and definitely add it to your timeline and notebook.

Find and read a book on famous Seminoles or at least a book on **Osceola**. Add to timeline and info to notebook.

Panther Girl (setting 1843) (We enjoyed this one.)

Brave the Wild Trail by Milly Howard. (Post Civil War)

Read out loud ***The Young Wrecker on the Florida Reef or, The Trials and Adventures of Fred Ransom*** by Richard Meade Bache was first published in 1869 so you may have to read this one to your children as the language is older and therefore more difficult but it was a children's book when it was written (very convicting). Young men will especially like this one as it is the story of a teenage young man who is "stuck" for a time in the Florida Keys. I personally skipped certain chapters if I found them too uncomfortable like the chapter on hunting sea turtles; it was a different time.

The Land Remembered Student Edition Vol. 1 and 2 by Patrick D Smith. You should definitely read this one with your child if you can. These books are great!!! They cover almost 100 years of Florida history from the Civil War to fairly recently, using three generations of a

fictional family. There is a complete description at Amazon accompanying the adult book. A study guide to this book written for schools is available but I find they make things boring and difficult personally, although you could use it for vocabulary or just to get discussion ideas if you'd like . . . or not! Your choice; remember learning should be fun as much as possible. I know hard work is important also but this can and should be interesting so try to keep it that way.

Tasso of Tarpon Springs (setting 1905)

Strawberry Girl by Lois Lenski which you can get at the library. (Setting 1910) This book was really excellent with the gospel and Christian ethics clearly portrayed. A refreshing change!

The Yearling by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings. Make sure you read this before you watch the movie. Then if you want to, watch the movie. It is considered classic literature but it is a very realistic view of how difficult life was and the hard choices people had to make just to survive. Being an animal person I find this story rather depressing so choose carefully depending on your child's age.

Floridians All by George S. Fichter This one should be in the library and is about famous Floridians. Write a sentence or a paragraph on each of the famous Floridians and add to time line and notebook.

The Spy who Came in from the Sea by Peggy Nolan which should be in the library.

Uncle Monday and Other Florida Tales by Kristin Congdon which should be in the library. Deal with this as you think best.

Refer to Pineapple Press for more living books that can further flesh out your Florida history adventure.

For the 1900s find books on Thomas Edison and maybe some others found in the famous Floridians books.

Remember to stick with the basics and you'll be fine: bible, reading, writing, and math. The reading and writing are all right here. This greatly enhances the Florida Science study found at www.catiefrates.com in my opinion.