



# Museum Vocabulary

## MUSEUM TERMS

**ARCHIVES** place where public records or other historical documents are kept.

**ARTIFACT** any object that was made or modified by humans.

**CHRONOLOGY** sequential order in which past events occur.

**CIRCA** around. ("c. 1895" means "around 1895")

**COLLECTION** objects acquired & organized for study.

**CURATOR** a museum employee who collects, studies, interprets and displays a museum's collection.

**DOCENT** a museum teacher or tour guide.

**INTERPRETATION** the act or process of explaining the meaning of something.

**MUSEUM** a building used to store and exhibit objects of historic, artistic, scientific or cultural value.

**PRIMARY SOURCE** an original record of a historical event, such as a letter, map, photograph, newspaper or memory of someone who participated in or witnessed the event.

**SECONDARY SOURCE** an analysis or restatement of a primary source, such as a reference book, encyclopedia, article, video, etc.

## CIGAR CITY

**ASSIMILATION** the social process of absorbing one cultural group into harmony with another.

**CASITA** small, inexpensive houses where cigar factory workers lived.

**CHAVETA** a special rounded knife used by cigar rollers for cutting the wrapper leaf.

**LECTOR** a person paid by cigar workers to read from an elevated platform in the factory. Lectors read novels and newspapers to entertain employees while they worked.

**MUTUAL AID SOCIETY** a club established by recent immigrants to provide support and assistance for members of their community.

## FLORIDA'S FIRST PEOPLE

**ARCHAEOLOGY** the study of the human past through material remains.

**ATLATL** a device made and used by early Indians to throw a spear with greater velocity and force.

**CARBON DATING** to estimate the approximate age of an object by measuring the amount of carbon 14 it contains.

**DUGOUT** a canoe made and used by early Indians. Dugouts were made by hollowing out logs using fire, mud and scraping tools.

**LA FLORIDA** the name given to this peninsula by Juan Ponce de Leon when he landed here during the Easter season, or the feast of flowers.

**MIDDEN** a trash heap. It is one of the most common types of mounds found in Florida.

**PALEOINDIANS** the name given to the oldest known people of Florida. They lived between 12,000 BP and members of their community. 6,000 BP.

## SEMINOLES & MICCOSUKEES

**CHICKEE** Open-sided house made of cypress poles with a palm-thatch roof.

**CLAN** a group of people related through the mother's bloodline. There are eight Seminole clans in Florida: Bear, Wind, Panther, Bird, Otter, Deer, Snake and Big Town.

**COONTIE** a palm-like plant native to Florida. The root was used by Seminoles as a starch in their diet, especially when corn was not available.

**CREEKS** the name given to several Indian groups in Georgia and Alabama by Europeans. Creeks migrated to Florida and later became known as Seminoles.

**HAMMOCK** A small patch of raised land that forms an island within a swamp. They were used by Seminoles as camp sites because of a limited amount of dry land in the Everglades.

**MICCOSUKEE** One of two federally recognized Indian tribes in Florida. These people share the same cultural background as the Seminoles but are a separate tribe.

**PATCHWORK** a detailed design made from strips of cloth. It is used in making Seminole clothing.

**RESERVATION** land held in trust by the federal government for a recognized Indian tribe. The tribe governs the land.

**SOFKEE** a thin corn soup made by Seminoles.