



# Activity 2

## The Seminole Wars: 1812 - 1858

**TIME** 40 minutes

**OBJECTIVE** Students will learn about the causes and effects of the Seminole Wars as they examine the 1839 Florida Seat of War map.

- MATERIALS**
- Teacher background materials “Florida Seat of War”
  - 1839 Florida Seat of War map
  - Seminole Wars 1818-58* by Ron Field
  - Card games (6 decks) – 4 students per deck, all of the decks are the same
  - Seminole Wars card game instructions
  - Fort and canoe magnets

### BACKGROUND: GAME METHOD

Students play an easy-to-learn card game, much like Go Fish, to gather information about the Seminole Wars. Each matching set of cards in the deck includes information about one incident: the location, U.S. military attached to the fort, Seminole involvement and an explanation of significant events. Students use the cards to locate events on the map, and to teach each other about the wars.



### TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS

Introduce this activity by displaying the **map** on a white board or on a table. Point out the map creators included in the descriptions on the map. Help students locate Tampa Bay, Lake Oh-Kee-Cho-Bee and Hai-O-Kee. The U.S. Army built 80 forts used to support the Seminole Wars. We believe they are all included on the map.

Divide students into groups of 4 or less and pass out the **card games**. The game is played like Go Fish. Students need to collect four-of-a-kind (for instance, all of the number 2s = 4 cards) to complete a set of information.

Walk through the **instructions** with your students, helping them establish a dealer and the order of play. In our trials we discovered that many students have not ever played with a poker deck of cards before. They were unfamiliar with the Jacks, Queens, Kings and Aces and the suits.

Allow play for 10-15 minutes. If all students have not completed the game they will be close to finished.

Invite students, one at a time, to come to the map with a set of cards. Begin with the 2s and follow in sequence. Students will share the position of their fort or event by comparing their map of Florida card to the big map, and place a **fort or canoe magnet** on the site. Ask them to tell their classmates about the people and events that are significant to the site. Encourage them to share the information and not just read off of the cards. You may want to fill in or answer questions. The **teacher background materials** include many specifics about the incidents.