



## About the Artifacts



### Alligator head

The alligator once served as a food source for early Indian groups in Florida. Today, the Seminoles have popularized alligator wrestling, which utilizes old hunting and capture techniques, into a successful tourist attraction.



### Can rattle

The can rattle plays an important part in traditional ceremonial music and dance. Once fashioned from turtle shells and pebbles, many rattles today are made of metal.



### Coontie (branch, seed pod and seeds)

The Seminoles used the coontie root as a source of food. The root of the coontie plant was pounded into a type of flour that was used to make bread.

*NOTE: The plant is toxic when consumed. Please do not allow students to handle.*



### Doll

A popular tourist souvenir, Seminole dolls are often made of palmetto fiber and are dressed in the traditional style with a colorful cape and skirt.



### Dugout canoe (miniature replica)

Early Indians made dugout canoes by hollowing out pine or cypress logs using a process of burning and scraping. Ranging from 15 to 50 feet in length, dugout canoes were used to navigate bodies of salt water and fresh water.



### Patchwork strips

These colorful swatches of fabric are often used to make skirts, jackets, and other pieces of clothing. Many samples contain symbols that correspond with words like "fire," "arrow," and "turtle."



### Stickball racquet

Stickball is a game in which Seminole men use a special racquet to throw and catch a ball similar to lacrosse. It is a game often associated with springtime and has become part of various tribal ceremonies.



### Turban

This traditional hat is an early example of the clothing worn by Seminole men. The hat, which resembles a turban, was often made of plaid wool shawls and could also include additional embellishments, such as feathers.