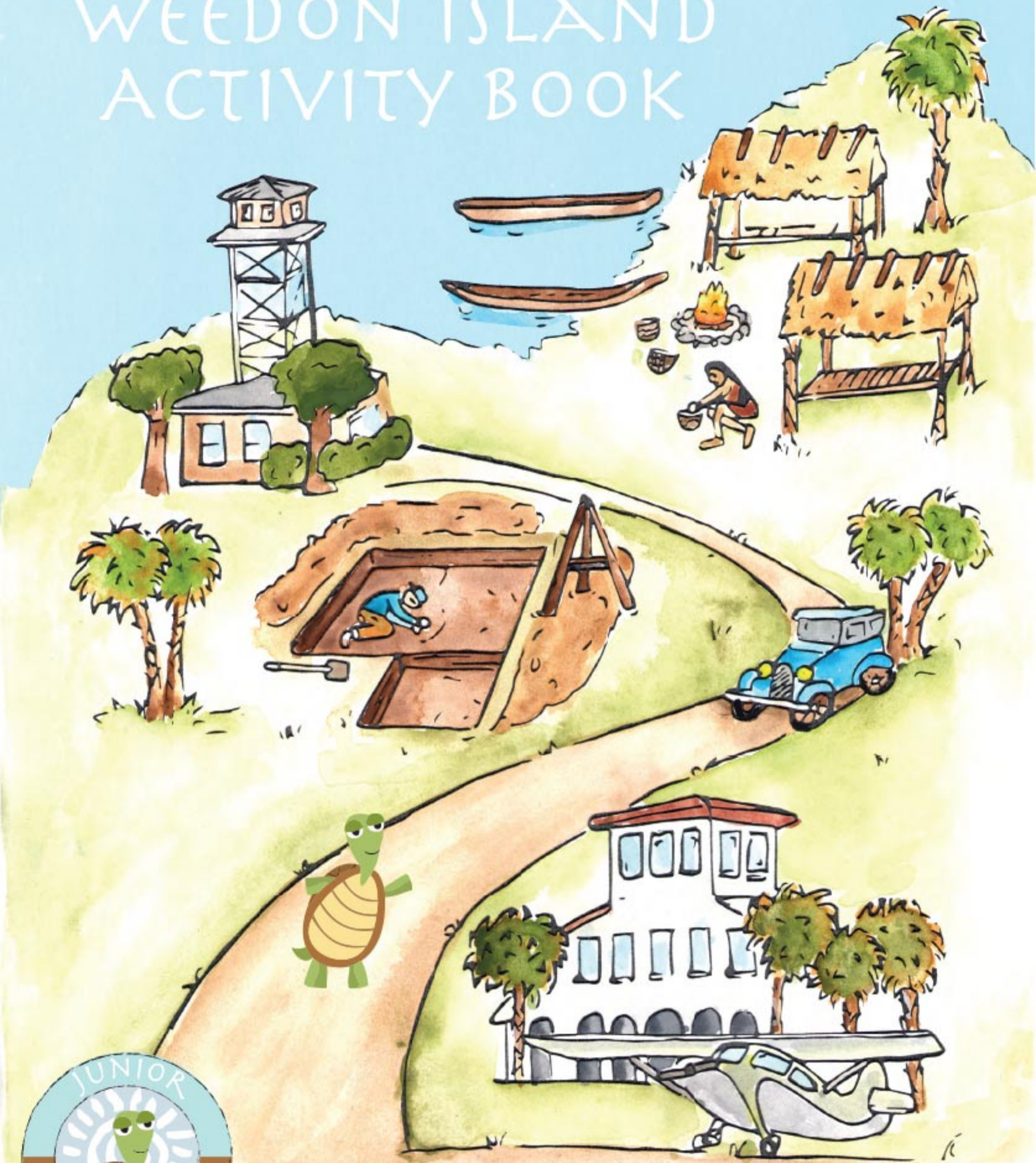


WEEDON ISLAND ACTIVITY BOOK



FLORIDA PUBLIC
ARCHAEOLOGY
NETWORK

A PROGRAM OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA

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WEEDON ISLAND PRESERVE
A Pinellas County Government Program

PLANTS IN THE WEEDON ISLAND PRESERVE

At Weedon Island, many of the traditional plants used historically by the early people of this region are present. Below is a list of plants and their uses that are found on the Upland Trail. Put a check in the boxes by the plants that you see along the way!

The Cabbage Palm is the state tree of Florida. The fronds were used for thatch houses, mats, and cordage. Roots were used for making baskets. Berries were used as medicine and the young center of the palm was eaten.



The roots of the Partridge Pea plant were used for medicine and the leaves were used for tea.

The Winged Sumac shrub leaves and berries were used in making dyes. The bark and roots also have been used in medicine.



Live Oak tree acorns provided food. The wood was used for fuel and in tool making. Dyes were made from the leaves, bark, and roots (gray and red).

If you did not find all of the plants listed here do not worry! Some plants are only seen in certain seasons of the year. Also, check out the other Preserve trails to see if you can spot these plants!



The Beauty Berry bush berries, roots, and leaves can make a medicinal tea and some people used it in ceremonial practices.



The Slash Pine and Longleaf Pine trees were used as lumber for buildings and dugout canoes. These trees provided medicine, turpentine from the resin, and dye was made from the pine cones (brown).



The Yaupon Holly bush was used in making tea for the "Black Drink" ceremony. The bark was also used for medicine and the branches were made into arrows.



The Saw Palmetto shrub berries were used for food and are still used today as medicine. The fronds provided fiber for baskets and ropes.



Hog Plum or Tallow Wood bush fruit was eaten. The inner bark and roots were used for medicine.



NEVER eat wild plants! They must be specially prepared for use as food and medicine.



All parts of the Prickly Pear cactus (Tommy's favorite food!) were eaten after special preparation. Boiled roots were applied as a medicine on sores. Dye was made from the fruit (peach).



WEEDON ISLAND'S NATURAL PAINTS AND DYES 12

Before modern paints and dyes were invented, the Native people of Weedon Island used the plants that grew around them to add color to the items they made. Check out the chart below to see a list of native Florida plants and the colors they can create!

PLANT & PART USED	COLOR
Slash Pine Tree, Cones	Brown
Prickly Pear, Fruit	Peach, Orange
Goldenrod	Yellow
Live Oak, Leaves, Roots, and Bark	Gray, Red
Beach Sunflower, Seeds, Flower	Purple, Green
Charcoal (Burned Wood)	Black

Information from "50 Common Native Plants Important in Florida's Ethnobotanical History" by Ginger Allen, Michael Bond, and Martin Main. Online: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/uw152>

COLORING A PREHISTORIC SCENE FROM WEEDON ISLAND

Directions: On the next page, color your very own scene of what a village site might have looked like in prehistoric times at Weedon Island. Once your scene is colored, look at the chart above. What colors did you use? Would they have been available to early Weedon Islanders? Circle all of the plants in the chart that you used!



Hey Friends!

My name is Tommy, I'm a gopher tortoise and I dig archaeology. Follow me through these activities and learn all about Weedon Island's past and the people who lived here!



THIS BOOK BELONGS TO:



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West Central Regional Center

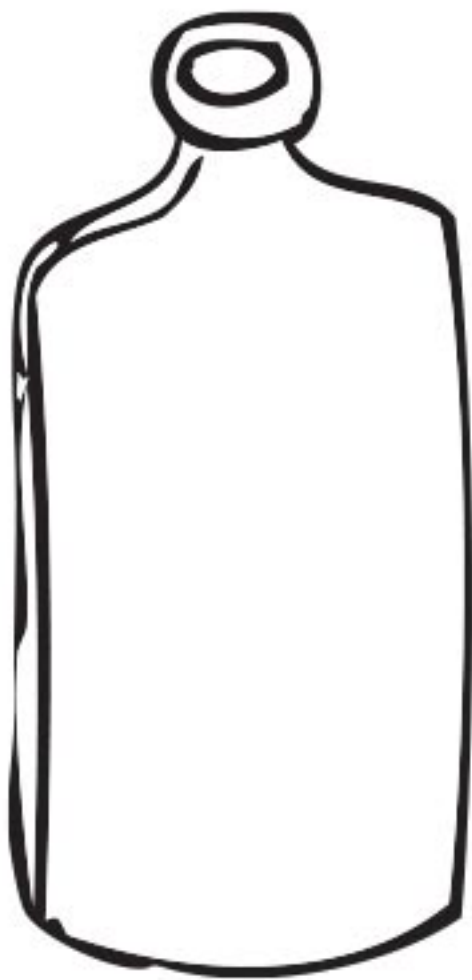


WHAT IS ARCHAEOLOGY?

Archaeology is a science and helps us learn about people who lived in the past based on the things they left behind. These things are called **artifacts**. An artifact is anything a person has used, made, or eaten. Many times, archaeologists only find a small piece of an artifact. But whatever it looks like, each artifact is an important clue to what people were doing in the past!

IS IT AN ARTIFACT?

DIRECTIONS: Color in the items below. Which ones do you think could be an artifact? Circle all the items you think archaeologists could find as an artifact.



Glass Bottle



Shell Tool



Brick



Clay Pot



Seeds

WEEDON ISLAND TIMELINE 4

RECENT HISTORY: (1900 - Present)

Dr. Leslie Weedon acquires Weedon Island

HISTORIC: (1500 - 1900)

Spanish explorers arrive in 1500s and document the lives of the Native peoples

MISSISSIPPIAN: (AD 800 - 1500)

Native people's lifestyles changed as village leaders and chiefdoms developed

WOODLAND: (500 BC - AD 800)

Populations grew as people built villages, shell mounds, and settled permanently on the coast. This time is known as the Manasota Period at Weedon Island

ARCHAIC: (7,500 BC - 500 BC)

As the climate warmed and sea levels rose, Archaic peoples fished and hunted along the coastlines

On the next pages Tommy will guide you through these cultural time periods on an exploration of Weedon Island! A cultural time period is a span of time when people developed traits, customs, and traditions that were different from what came before or after. Sometimes these differences are reflected in the objects that people left behind or the landscapes they chose to live in.

Archaeologists use **PREHISTORY** to describe the time before written records. Any time after written records is called **HISTORY**!

PALEOINDIAN: (10,000 BC - 7,500 BC)

Earliest evidence of humans in the Tampa Bay area



PREHISTORY OF WEEDON ISLAND

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Around 3,000 years ago people began living on Weedon Island year-round. Archaeologists refer to this time as the **MANASOTA** period. The lifestyle of the Manasota people changed over time as populations increased and as they built mounds and middens of discarded shell.



Middens at Weedon Island contain leftovers like shell and bone, but also other trash like broken pottery or stone tools.



Dugout canoe recovered from Weedon Island

The Manasota people also began to adopt special religious and ceremonial customs that archaeologists believe may have traveled with visitors by way of trade networks from the north. For over 800 years the Manasota people traded and manufactured some of the most beautiful pottery in the prehistoric southeast. Some of this pottery was found right here at Weedon Island.

Later in time, descendants of the Manasota people formed wonderful villages and built temple mounds. For reasons unknown, these people moved away from Weedon Island and probably settled in other areas of the Pinellas peninsula.

Archaeological remains of this time are found at Safety Harbor and south at Maximo Point. These people continued to build extensive shell mounds and practiced the same sustainable lifestyle as hunters, fishers, and gatherers. It was these Native peoples that met the early Spanish explorers and life for them changed forever.



This is an early map of the Weedon Island site. Clusters of lines show elevated areas which Native peoples made out of sand and shell.

HISTORY AND RECENT PAST OF WEEDON ISLAND

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Weedon Island is actually a complex of several islands. On one of these islands, now known as Ross Island, Lorenzo Dow Ross established his homestead in the 1860s and raised a family. Other people purchased portions of the land including Captain George Henderson. When his daughter married Dr. Leslie Weedon, he gave them the property for a wedding gift. The land soon became known as Weedon Island.



Visitors view the Smithsonian crew's excavations

Although Dr. Weedon and his family did not actually live on Weedon Island, they came by boat across Tampa Bay on the weekends. Dr. Weedon enjoyed a keen interest in the prehistoric people that once lived there, but sold the land with promise that a park would be established in the Native people's honor.

In 1923, Dr. Weedon sold the land for stock in E. M. Elliott's company. Elliott quickly drew up grand plans for the island. These plans included a Smithsonian Institution investigation of the mounds and middens. The archaeologists discovered beautiful pottery from the mounds and other important information about the early people who once lived there. Elliott also built a nightclub and dance hall to attract many visitors to the island.

Elliott eventually lost the land. Others, however, saw an opportunity at the remote island and decided to build an airport. Remnants of the Grand Central Airport that opened in 1930 are still evident today. There was also an attempt to establish movie studios taking advantage of the island's scenic, natural environment. Unfortunately, after only three movies the studios closed down.



Grand Central Airport control tower

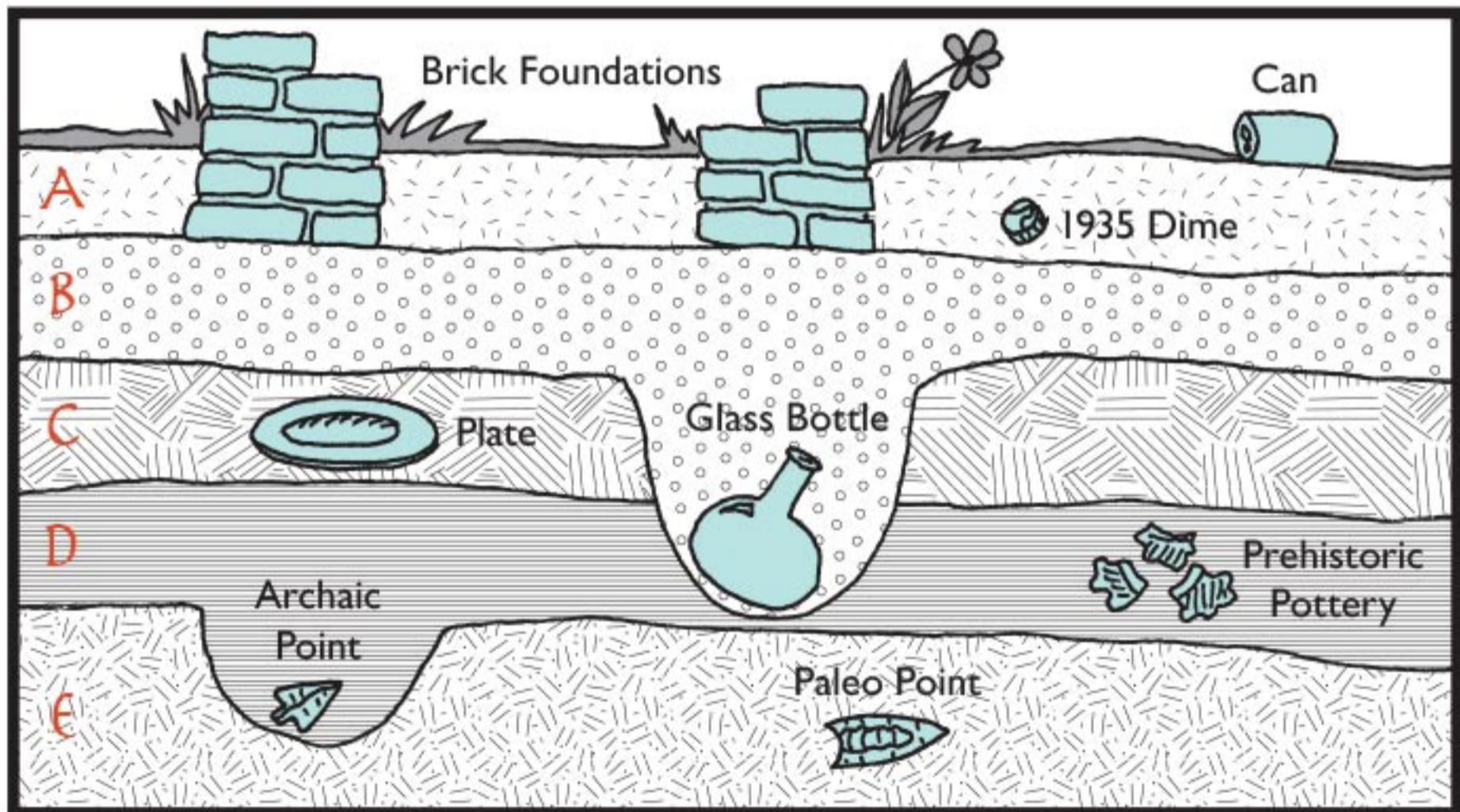
Eventually, a power company purchased part of the land to build a power plant. Although some of the shell mounds were lost during its construction, the power company provides great security to this important archaeological site. Today, most of Weedon Island is owned by the state of Florida and is managed by the Pinellas County Government.

WHICH IS OLDEST?

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Below is a diagram of **stratigraphy**, or layers of soil, where each layer represents a different time period. One way that archaeologists are able to tell how old an artifact might be is by looking at what layer of soil it came from. In general, the lower down a layer of soil is, and the artifacts it contains, the older it will be. Each soil layer above it will be younger than the one below it.

DIRECTIONS: In the diagram below is an example of stratigraphy and artifacts that an archaeologist might find. Each soil layer is labeled with a letter from A to E. Look at the diagram and then answer the questions below.

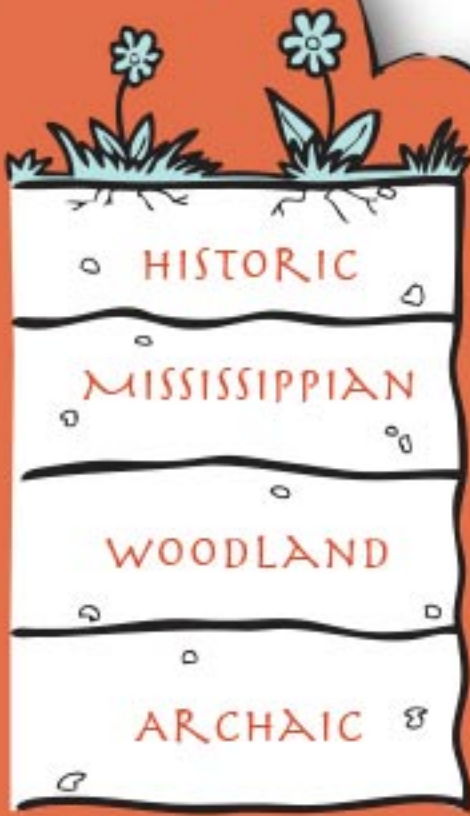


1. Put the soil layers in order from oldest to youngest. _____, _____, _____, _____, _____
2. What artifact is the oldest? Based on what you read do you have any idea how old it could be?

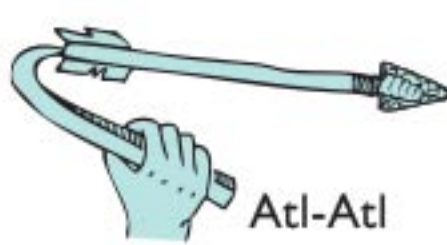
3. Is the glass bottle older or younger than the artifacts in layer D? _____
4. Which is older, the brick foundations or the can? How could the coin help you figure out the age of the brick foundations? _____

WEEDON ISLAND UNEARTHED

DIRECTIONS: Read about Weedon Island's archaeological time periods on the previous pages. Below are some questions about the types of foods and tools that might come from each specific time period. Based on what you read, answer the questions by circling which object you think came from each time period.



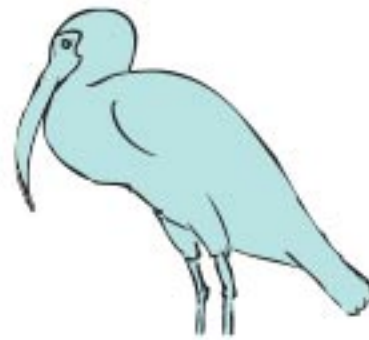
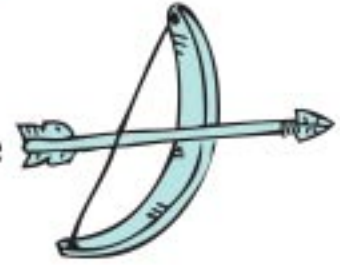
What tool would you expect to find in the **ARCHAIC** soil layer?



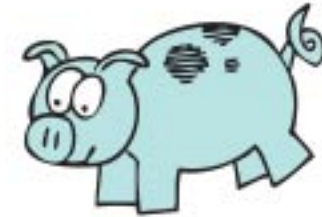
OR



In the **WOODLAND** period, people used the _____ to hunt:



OR



Which tool could you find in the **MISSISSIPPIAN** soil layer?



OR



In the **HISTORIC** period, people ate:



OR



If you were an archaeologist digging at Weedon Island you might find the remains of some of these foods and tools!

Answer: Atl-Atl (Archaic), Bird (Woodland), Hoe (Mississippian), Grapefruit (Historic)

Don't forget Stratigraphy!
The lower down the soil layer, the older the layer and its artifacts will be!

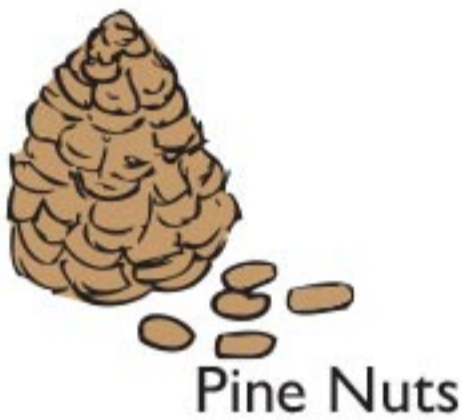


PEOPLE AND PLANTS

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Ethnobotany is the study of the use of plants by people. Some archaeologists study plants to learn about the different ways past peoples used plants in their everyday lives. People have been learning about plants and their many uses for thousands of years. Different parts of the plants are used in different ways including for:

Food 



Shelter 



Tools 



Medicine 



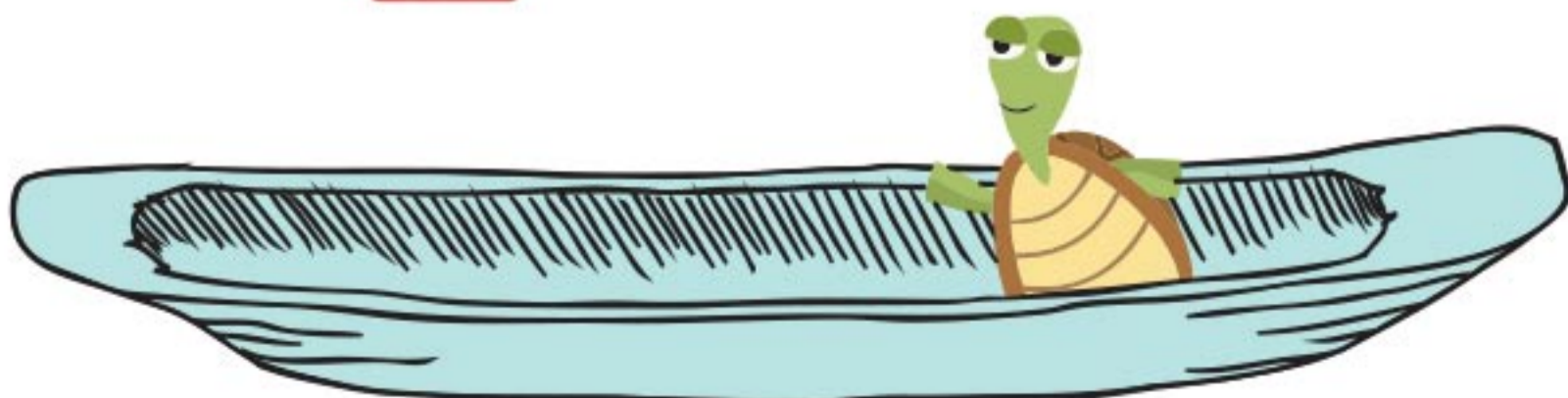
Dyes & Paints 



Storage 



Transportation 



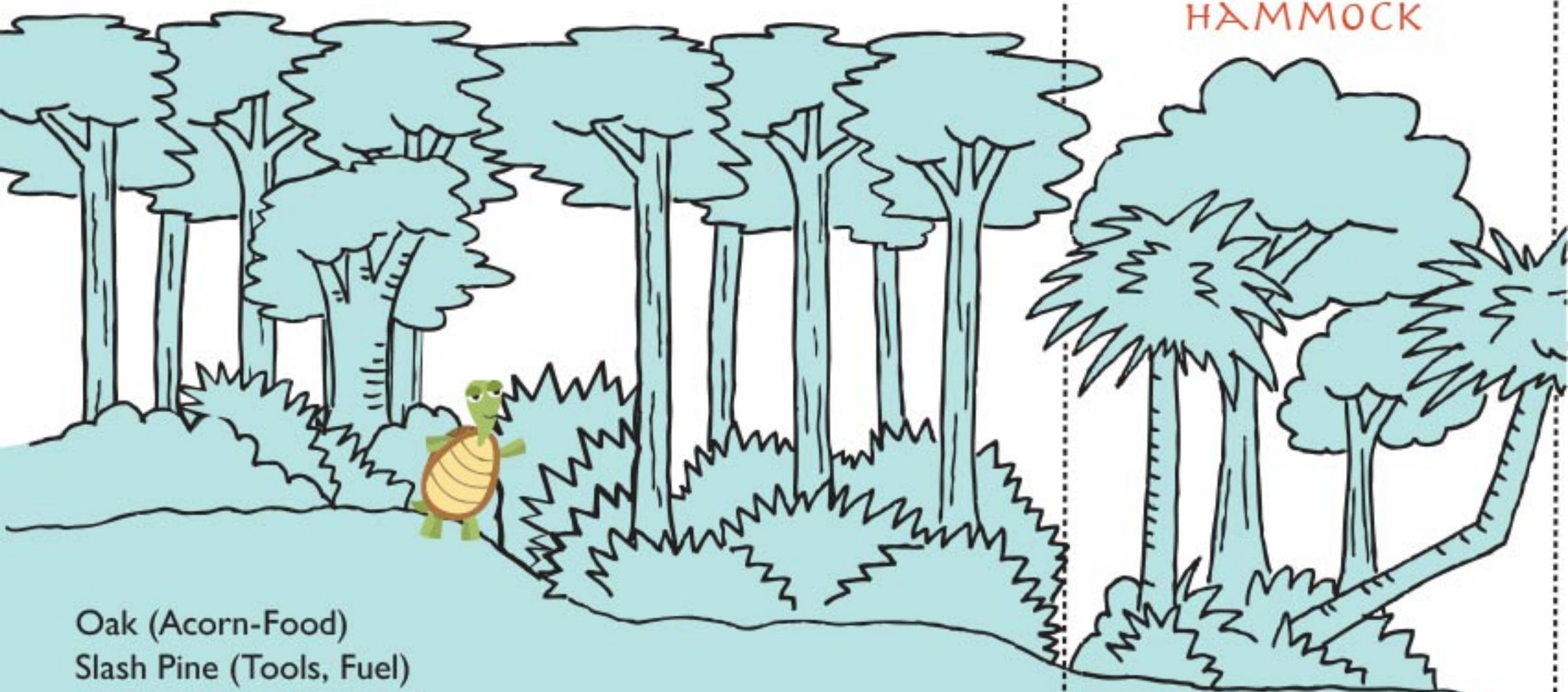
ENVIRONMENTAL ZONES AND RESOURCES

Not all parts of Florida have the same types of plants and animals. With changes in elevation and the amount of freshwater, different natural communities develop, each with their own unique character. Weedon Island's Native peoples would have taken advantage of these differences by traveling to different areas throughout the year to collect the resources they needed to survive. Below are natural communities found at Weedon Island along with some important resources that each contains. As you walk through the Preserve answer these questions:

Did you see any or all of these natural communities? Can you identify any special plants or animals in these communities? _____

PINE UPLANDS/SCRUBBY FLATWOODS

MARITIME HAMMOCK



- Oak (Acorn-Food)
- Slash Pine (Tools, Fuel)
- Saw Palmetto (Housing)

- Longleaf Pine (Wood-Canoe)
(Resin-Glue)
- Saw Palmetto (Fronds-Mats)
- Wiregrass (Baskets)

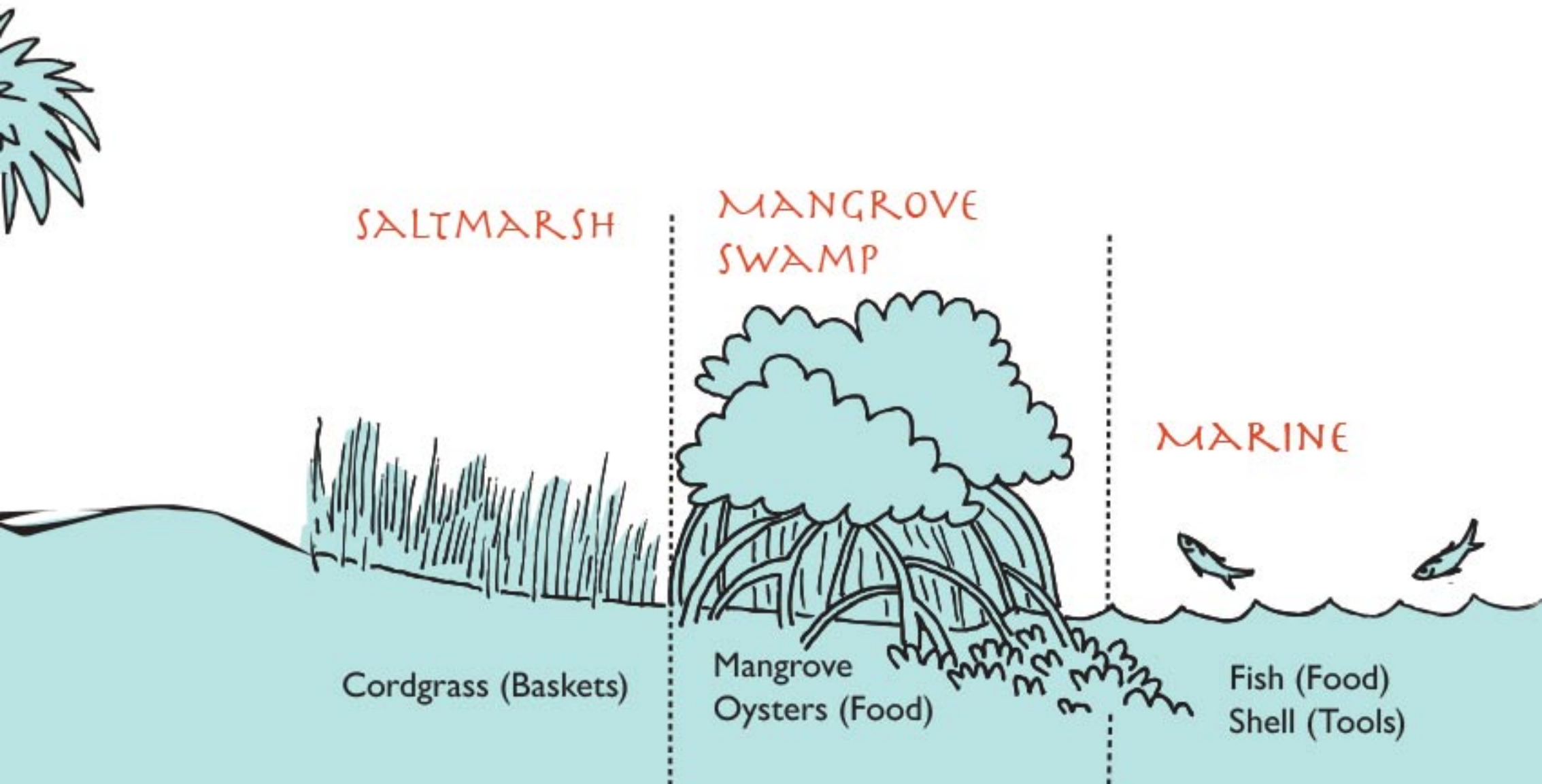
- Sabal Palm (Housing, Food)
- Oak (Bark-Dyes)
- Red Cedar (Wood-Carving)
- Beauty Berry (Ritual)

MAJOR NATURAL COMMUNITIES

SCRUBBY FLATWOODS occur on the coastal uplands on well-drained soils. You will see open pinelands with an understory of oaks and palmettos. In the past, wildfires burned the understory and maintained the scrubby flatwoods. Today, prescribed burns (fires that are scheduled and controlled by Preserve staff) mimic natural conditions.

MARITIME HAMMOCK develops on coastal sand dunes. This zone is formed by a canopy of oak and pine trees with a dense understory of ferns, shrubs, and vines. The maritime hammock is maintained without fire or human interference.

MANGROVE SWAMP is the largest environmental zone of the Weedon Island Preserve. It creates a buffer between salt water and land and protects the coast from erosion. The three types of mangroves that grow in this zone are the red, black, and white mangrove. These mangroves provide important nurseries for wildlife and fish to grow and mature.



SURVIVING WEEDON ISLAND 16

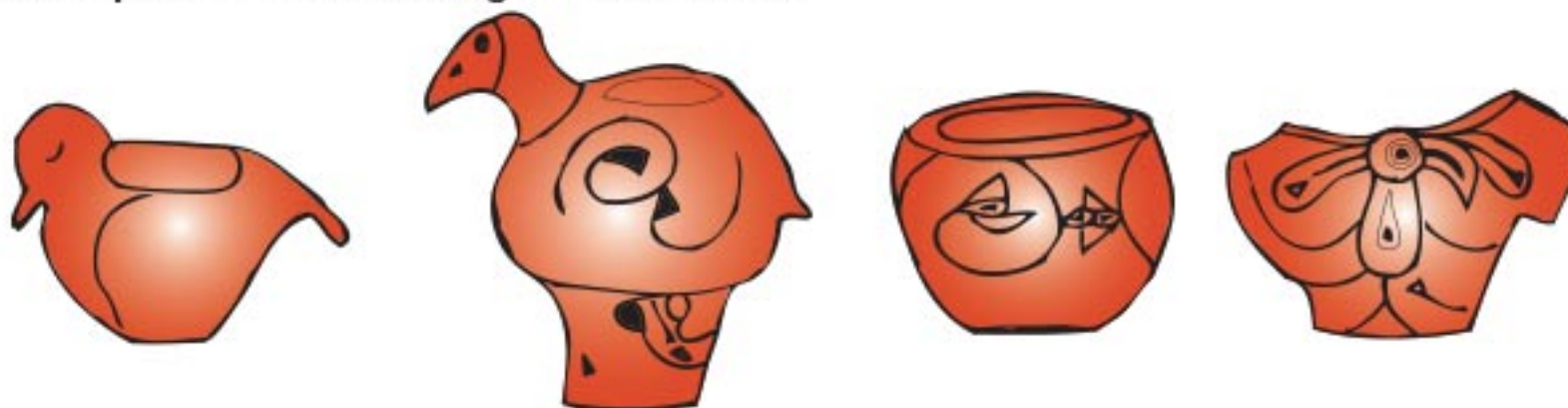
Imagine that you have traveled back in time 1,000 years to Prehistoric Weedon Island. How would you survive? Prehistoric Native Americans couldn't go to the store to get the things they needed, they had to use the plants and other resources around them to fulfill their basic needs.

Directions: Below are six things that you need to survive, and six problems you might encounter if you lived at Weedon Island in prehistoric times. Read about the Preserve's three environmental zones and how people used the resources around them on the previous pages and write down where you would look to find the resources you need.

NEED	PROBLEM	RESOURCE & NATURAL COMMUNITY
Food	You are hungry! What would make a good dinner? Where would you find it?	
Shelter	Night is falling, what would you need to make a chickee or hut?	
Transport	In order to cross a river you need to make a dugout canoe. Where would you find the right materials?	
Tools	You need to do some hunting, what would you need to make some arrows?	
Storage	You have a lot of stuff to carry, what could you use to make a container like a basket or pot?	
Ornament	You want to make a piece of jewelry for someone in your family, what could you make it from? What would you decorate it with?	

WEEDON ISLAND POTTERY 17

The Native peoples at Weedon Island decorated their pottery with representations of animals from the different environmental zones. These animals were important to them in their everyday lives and were also significant in rituals and ceremonies. Effigy vessels are pots that are shaped like animals. Sometimes the animals were drawn directly on to the pot. Below are some examples of pots that archaeologists have found!



DIRECTIONS: Below is a plain Weeden Island pot. Using the pictures of pots above as a guide, decorate the pot with an animal that you have seen at the Weedon Island Preserve or even one you have at home!



HISTORIC WEEDON ISLAND 18

How did Weedon Island get its name? Dr. Leslie Weedon was a renowned physician known for his study of yellow fever. In 1889, Dr. Weedon married Blanche Henderson and her father gave the island to them as a wedding present. Although they didn't live on the island, they used it as a weekend getaway. For this reason the island became known as Weedon Island.



What was happening at Weedon Island?

Dancing!



Dr. Weedon sold part of the island to Eugene Elliott, an ambitious developer who wanted to create an upscale community on the island. He wanted Weedon Island to become the "Riviera of Florida" and even changed the name of Pappys Bayou to Riviera Bay (it's still called this today!). He also paved the main road with shell from the Native American mounds to make it easier for prospective buyers to visit the island.

To entertain his buyers and bring people to the island, Elliott established speakeasies. Speakeasies were dance clubs that illegally sold alcohol during Prohibition in the "Roaring 20s". To further entice buyers, Elliott had the Smithsonian Institute come and investigate the Native American mounds.



China and bottles from the speakeasy

Archaeology!



Weeden Island pottery

In 1923 when the Smithsonian archaeologists came to Weedon Island they discovered distinct and impressive artifacts. Even though these artifacts were first identified at Weedon Island, similar artifacts have been found at other archaeological sites throughout the Southeastern United States. Visit the exhibit gallery for examples of these artifacts!



Scene from a movie filmed at Weedon Island

In 1933, a big Hollywood producer came to Weedon Island to make movies and take advantage of the beautiful scenery the island had to offer. Only three black-and-white movies were filmed on the island before the studio went out of business due to back taxes.

Airplanes!



These ruins are of the air control tower of the Grand Central Airport (later known as the Sky Harbor Airport). The airport was built in 1929 and was used mostly by commercial passengers. In World War II, the United States Government leased the airport as a pilot training facility. In time other airports opened in the area that were more accessible and this airport was closed in 1948.

While walking around the preserve did you notice any other ruins?

Mosquitos!



In the 1950s and 60s, ditches were dug all over the Mangrove Swamps that surround Weedon Island. They created a grid across the landscape.

My tortoise friends and I dig deep holes to live in. While we dig we kick out all sorts of things, even artifacts such as shells, bone, and pottery made by the past peoples of Weedon Island! If you see an artifact on the ground, don't pick it up! Take a picture and let someone know where you found it.

These ditches were meant to control the mosquito population and reduce disease. The idea was to allow fish to swim into the mangrove swamps and feed on mosquito larvae. However, the ditches didn't help with the mosquitos. Construction of the ditches destroyed portions of the shell mounds and altered the Mangrove Swamp ecosystem.



Every photograph tells a story. For archaeologists, pictures can give clues to the kinds of artifacts they might find during excavation. These historic photographs from Weedon Island reveal the types of activities that took place on the island in the past.

Directions: Circle objects in the pictures that could be left behind for archaeologists to find today!



Weedon family members

I have circled some objects that could be artifacts. Now you try!



Scene from a movie filmed on the island



Visitors watching excavations on the island



Mosquito nets protecting archaeologists during excavations



Smithsonian archaeologists



Viewing tower at island club



Weedon family members



Grand Central Airport hangar



Model T Ford



Passengers boarding Eastern Air Transport airline

How many artifacts did you find? Almost anything can be an artifact! Many objects in the pictures above are artifacts including the umbrella, hats, clothing, cars, or even the shovel!

Name of archaeological site: _____

Date of field visit: _____

Name of Junior Archaeologist: _____

Describe the general area the site is located in. What environmental zones are near the site? Are there any signs or trails? What makes you think this is an archaeological site?





Read any signs you see along the trail or in the visitor center. What do they tell you about this site? How old is it? What cultural time periods are represented here? What other information did you find out?

Do you see any natural threats or human activities that could damage the site?

Why do you think people would have wanted to live in this area?

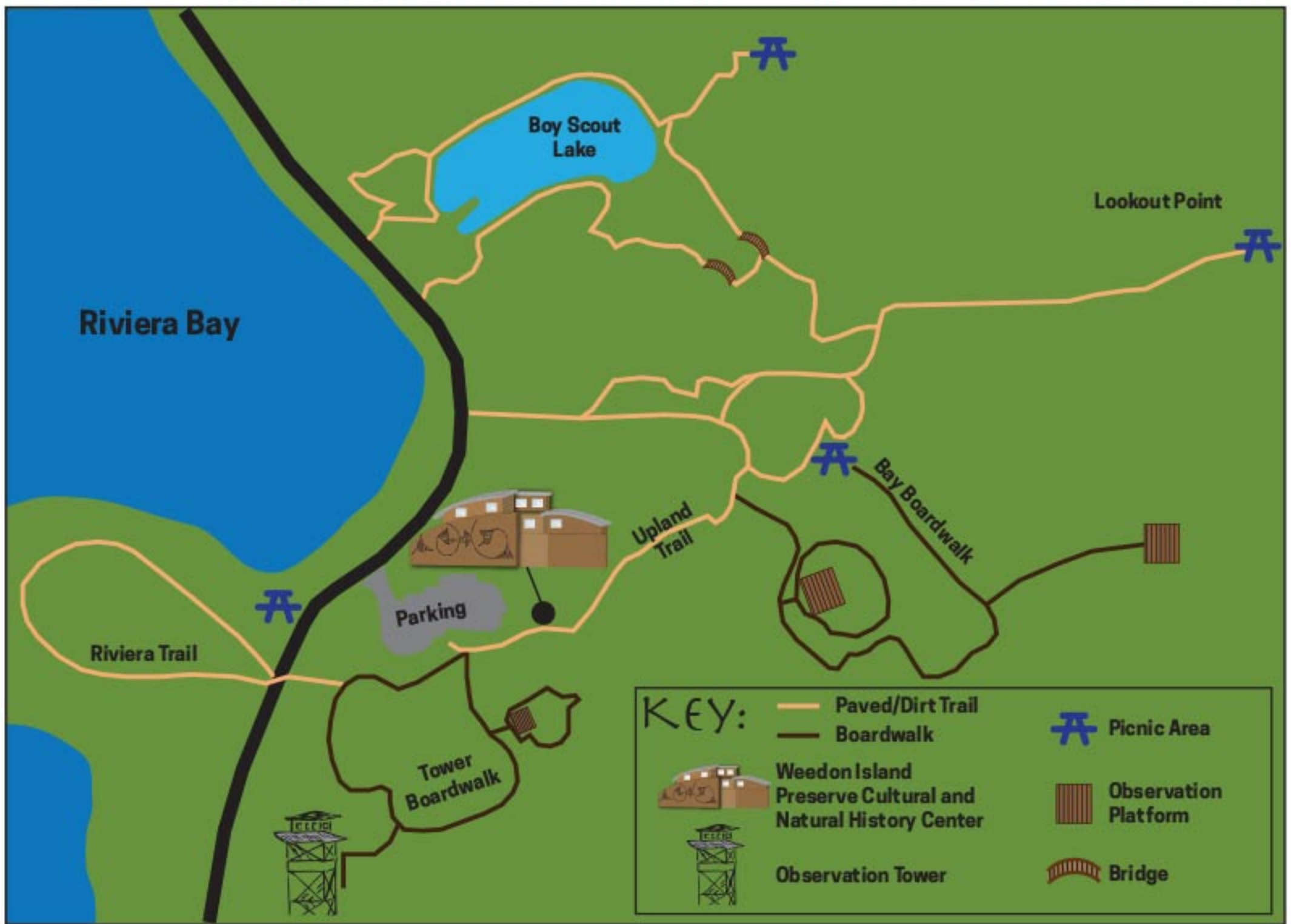


Key:

-  Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center
-  Major City
-  Archaeological site/park
-  Museum

For more information or directions to these sites please visit:

- Philippe Park**
www.pinellascounty.org/park/11_Philippe.htm
- Indian Mound Park**
www.stpeteparksrec.org/indian-mound-park.html
- Maximo Park**
www.stpeteparksrec.org/maximo-park.html
- Ft. Desoto Park**
www.pinellascounty.org/park/05_Ft_DeSoto.htm
- Jungle Prada**
www.stpeteparksrec.org/jungle-prada.html
- Historic Train Depot**
www.tarponspringsareahistoricalsociety.org
- Dunedin Historic Museum**
www.dunedinmuseum.org
- Safety Harbor Museum**
www.safetyharborculture.com
- St. Petersburg Museum of History**
www.spmoh.com



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON FPAN
EVENTS AND PROGRAMS GO TO:

www.flpublicarchaeology.org

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