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Blankner K-8

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Pine Castle Women's Essay

Class, please take your seats. I am your teacher, Ms. Laish, and today we will be discussing our Orange County pioneers. To begin, you must understand what makes a pioneer. A pioneer is a person who is the first to settle in an area. So, our Orange County Pioneers are the first people to settle here.

These settlers came to Florida from 1840 to 1880. Often times, people made a living by farming. Some of the most common crops grown at that time were oranges, grapefruit, and mangoes.

Some of the Floridian pioneers were the well-known Native American tribe, the Seminoles. These people ate meat such as deer, alligator, manatee, bear, and turkey, as well as fruits and vegetables. They caught or gathered the majority of their meals up until the late 1800's to early 1900's, when they were introduced to frontier trading posts. One thing that many pioneers traded was oranges. In fact, that's how Orange County got its name! Because of the warm weather conditions, citrus thrived in Florida.

Seminoles often lived in homes known as chickees. They had thatched roofs generally made of palm, but some used cypress bark or metal. Believe it or not, over a century later - some still live in these homes! Perhaps on your way.

Many children in that time did not have as much

Free time as you students today do! Can you imagine spending your whole day doing chores, helping out your parents? This was the life of pioneer children. Girls would spend time with their mother learning how to clean, cook, and sew. Boys spent their day working with their fathers to learn to hunt, fish, and trap animals. Only older children would attend school. When the children did have free time, they played games much as you do. Girls often played with dolls and pretended to be in school while boys could be found getting together and played games. Many children swam. You might have visited Barber park before. It was named after Isaac Barber, a well-known pioneer. Of course, pioneer children didn't play at Barber Park, but they certainly had fun similarly to what you may look like at a park. Another name you may recognize is Bumby Avenue. Perhaps you drive past it on your way to school. Pioneers might not have had cars, but they definitely had Joseph Bumby, the man that street was named after! Bumby was also a very important pioneer, as he owned Orinda's largest hardware store at the time, The Bumby Hardware Store.

Fast forward 100 years and here we are today! Remember, it is important to learn about your past so you can learn for the future! That wraps up our lesson, students. I look forward to our next lesson!