

Spirit of a Nation Timeline of Events Before, During, and After the Mission

Year	Events
A.D. 1000 - 1500	During the Mississippian period, distinct chiefdoms emerged in southeast Florida, including Timucua , Tequesta, Calusa, Tocobaga, Apalachee , Pensacola, Coosa, Ocute, and Guale. Apalachee territory covered about 46 miles. Around 1500, Anhaica became the Apalachee capital.
1513	Juan Ponce de León explored the east coast of "La Florida" (Florida).
1528	Panfilo Narváez's expedition arrived on the west coast of Florida. For two months, the Apalachees attacked the Spanish before forcing the invaders to leave their territory.
1539 - 1540	An expedition led by Hernando de Soto arrived in La Florida and spent the winter near Anhaica in a deserted village and raided its food (maize) stores. The Apalachee waged guerilla warfare against the expedition for the entire time they were in Apalachee territory and burned the town where the expedition encamped. The Spanish fled after five months.
1595 - 1608	During a period of violent conflict between the Apalachee and Timucua, Franciscan friars arrived on Florida's east coast, where they began to establish missions from St. Augustine to South Carolina. As the Spanish built missions, established trade, and attempted to convert Indigenous people, relations between Indigenous groups destabilized. Ultimately, the Apalachee agreed to peace with the Timucua and their allies.
1612	The Apalachee and Spanish developed an informal alliance; however, the Apalachee and Spanish understood that alliance differently. The Apalachee believed the alliance with the Spanish would ensure they receive gifts and can increase their own spiritual power and political authority. Spanish officials considered the Apalachee important to strengthening their position in Indigenous trade and diplomatic networks in Florida and they expected to secure steady access to food and labor in St. Augustine. However, the Apalachee refused to provide men to work on Spanish farms or projects in St. Augustine and few Apalachees were baptized.
1633 - 1640s	<p>Franciscans established the first missions in Apalachee territory, ultimately building 12 missions there. One Spanish mission was established at Bacuqua (called San Antonio de Bacuqua). Slowly, more Apalachee agreed to be baptized. In order to supply workers and transport supplies from Apalachee territory to St. Augustine (200 miles away), the Spanish constructed a new port at the St. Marks River. Once it was finished, the Franciscans relied on the Apalachee to transport supplies to and from the port, while the Spanish transported the supplies by sea to the port.</p> <p>The new port changed the relationship between the Apalachees and Spanish. The Apalachees wanted more consistent gifts from the Spanish and to control other Indigenous groups' access to gifts; the Spanish saw the new port as important in making goods available from Europe and Cuba. Over time, both the</p>

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	Timucua and the Apalachee used the port to extend their trade networks.
1640s	<p>The relationship between the Spanish and Apalachee was transformed after failed corn crops and financial insecurity in St. Augustine left the Spanish unable to give gifts to the Apalachees annually as expected. Indigenous communities in Florida were devastated by repeated outbreaks of disease and had little surplus food or labor to offer the Spanish.</p> <p>Newly arrived governor Benito Ruíz de Salazar Vallecilla appointed Claudio Luis de Florencia as the first deputy governor for Apalachee territory (whom the Apalachee referred to as the “lieutenant”), and he and his extended family lived in Anhaica. With new Spanish leadership, the Spanish increased their military presence, accelerated attempts to eliminate non-Christian Apalachee cultural practices, and demanded increased labor requirements. Most Apalachee towns refused to allow missions in their communities. And some Apalachees violently resisted the changes. One group (including recent converts and non-Christian Apalachees and Chisca allies) rebelled against the Spanish and killed the new deputy governor and his family. They also killed three friars and razed seven missions (leaving only one).</p> <p>This violence led Spanish authorities at St. Augustine, along with Timucua warriors, to retaliate against the Apalachee. Eventually some Christian Apalachees forced the rebels to surrender. After a trial, the Spanish executed twelve rebel leaders, sentenced 26 others to forced labor (including rebuilding the burned missions) and implemented the repartimiento system.</p> <p>As a result, the Apalachee lost some of their bargaining power. All remaining non-Christian Apalachee converted to Christianity and for the first time, Apalachee leaders sent laborers to do agricultural and other work in St. Augustine as part of the repartimiento system. However, the Spanish failed to directly force Apalachee people to work for them.</p>
1650s	The deputy governor and his soldiers established their headquarters at the current Mission San Luis site and pressured the chief of Anhaica to move the village from its original site (Soto winter encampment) to its current site. The Spanish increased the military presence at missions. Mission San Luis became the most populous mission in the territory, with 1400 Apalachees by the 1670s.
1680s-1690s	After Spain appointed a new brutal and tyrannical deputy governor, Antonio Mathéos, he ordered violent attacks and shackling of Apalachees. Relations with the Apalachee disintegrated and many Apalachee migrated to Apalachicola territory. Things worsened after the Spanish commandeered some Apalachees’ houses and land and forced the Apalachee to build additional houses for them.
1702	The Apalachicola broke a peace treaty with the Apalachee and the Timucua out of anger stemming from trade restrictions, particularly the outlawing of horse trading. The Apalachicola attacked a Timucua mission village and murdered three Apalachee traders. In retaliation, 800 Apalachee led by a Spanish officer set out to attack Apalachicola towns along the Chattahoochee. The attack failed when they were ambushed, 500 were killed, and they lost most of their weapons.

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1704	British and Muscogee (Creek) soldiers attacked missions in Apalachee territory. After months of violence, hundreds of Apalachees died, thousands were enslaved, and more than 2,000 were forced into exile. About 14 prosperous mission villages and two dozen or so satellite settlements were destroyed. A few Apalachee survivors relocated to St. Augustine, but most moved west to Mobile in the French colony.
1763	After France lost its North American territories as a result of the Seven Years War, a delegation of Apalachees visited New Orleans in 1763 becoming one of the first Indigenous nations to petition the French government for permission to relocate to Louisiana. They settled in present-day Rapides Parish where they built homes atop a bluff overlooking the Red River.
1833-1834	Illegal sale of the Apalachee land resulted in ownership disputes. Suffering intense persecution at the hands of the ever-increasing numbers of Anglo-American immigrants, the Apalachees left the Red River and established new settlements in the Kisatchie hills. In 1834 they petitioned the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives for reparations.
1901	Federal agents relocated some of the Apalachee to Indian Territory (Oklahoma) as part of a “second Indian removal” intended to sever remaining tribal ties to valuable tracts of land. Many southeastern Indians agreed to relocate with the promise of land allotments, most of which never materialized. Some Apalachees chose to remain in Louisiana.
1910s-1920s	Anglo settlers violently attacked Apalachee residents in Louisiana, forcing them to consolidate their settlements in remote areas or move away.
1990s-present	Talimali Band of the Apalachee applied for federal and state recognition.