

Spirit of a Nation Glossary

As students play MISSION US: “No Turning Back,” they will encounter many of the terms and locations below.

Anhaica - one of the largest and most prosperous towns in Apalachee territory. In the mid-1600s, the Spanish renamed it San Luis. Today, Tallahassee, the capital of Florida, is there.

Apalachee - a tribal community that, prior to the 1700s, lived in an agricultural society in what we know today as Southeastern North America. Due to being forced to leave the areas in which they had lived, the Apalachee community today is centered in Louisiana.

Aucilla river - referred to as “eastern river” in the game, the eastern border of Apalachee land. It is named after a Timucua village on the river, also spelled Asile.

Bacuqua - a large Apalachee town to the Northeast of Anhaica.

bishop - in the Catholic church, a member of the clergy who ranks above and supervises priests.

buckskin - the hide of an adult male deer, often used to make sturdy, long-lasting leather goods.

cassina - a bitter caffeinated drink made from boiling dried Yaupon holly leaves, which are native to the Southeast.

Catholic - related to the Roman Catholic church, the largest Christian church. Some of its defining characteristics are a hierarchy of priests under the pope and a special sequence of religious rituals known as the Mass.

Chickasaw - a member of a nation of Indigenous people of Mississippi and Alabama.

Communion - in Catholicism, a ceremonial act in which bread and wine are consumed by members of the church as symbols of their spiritual union with Christ.

consecration - the act of dedicating something or someone to a sacred purpose or service, often through religious rites or ceremonies

Creole - a person of mixed French or Spanish, Central or West African, and Native American descent who may speak a colonial dialect of French or Spanish.

debris - the remains of something broken, discarded, or destroyed.

deposit - let something fall or put something down.

distinctive - marking as separate or different from others.

doeskin - the hide of an adult female deer. With a velvet-like texture, it is often used to make flexible, soft leather goods.

Eastern Sea - how Apalachee characters refer to the Atlantic Ocean in the game. Because very few words from the Apalachee language have survived, it is not actually known how they would have referred to this body of water.

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excavate - in archaeology, to expose, record, and recover layers of buried material in a careful process, for scientific study.

falcon - a powerful, fast-flying carnivorous bird of prey. It lives in many habitats, including most of North America.

flint corn - a distinct variety of corn in which each kernel has a very hard outer covering. It was first bred by native people in what is now Mexico about 9,000 years ago. It is preferred for making hominy, a staple food in the Americas.

friars - members of a Christian religious brotherhood who make vows to the church, wear a distinctive set of religious clothing, and travel for purposes of preaching and spreading the religion.

gorget - flat, carefully shaped pieces of adornment, drilled or punched with one or more holes, and meant to be worn around the neck.

hacienda - a large estate, often devoted to the raising of animals and crops, in a Spanish-speaking region.

heathens - nonreligious people or people that do not practice Judaism, Islam, or, especially, Christianity.

incised - cut into a surface; engraved.

inferences - conclusions or opinions reached by reasoning from known facts or evidence.

inija - leader in charge of distributing work assignments for an Apalachee community.

lieutenant - a government official who acts for another higher official or military rank.

mano - a smooth handheld stone tool used in traditional Mesoamerican cultures for grinding and processing plant-based food with hard casings, such as grains or seeds, using a horizontal motion.

metate - a flat slab of stone with a worn-down upper surface, often used together with a mano to grind corn or other grains into meal.

mission - when Catholic friars created towns or buildings for their religious work, these locations became known as missions. Mission San Luis was one of these.

missionaries - people commissioned by a religious organization to spread their religious faith, for example, by leading others to convert to their religion or, sometimes, by doing humanitarian work.

niñito (Spanish) - little boy.

repartimiento - a colonial labor system imposed upon the Indigenous population, requiring work on Spanish farms and public projects for periods of time.

residues - matter that remains after the completion of physical or chemical processes, such as cooking or cleaning.

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San Luis - a large and prosperous town in Apalachee territory previously known as Anhaica. The town was renamed by the Spanish friars who established a mission there. It is now Tallahassee, the capital city of Florida.

sediment - solid fragments of material that come from the weathering of rock and are carried and deposited by wind, water, or ice.

shell hoe - a tool with a flat blade made out of a shell attached to a long handle; used to remove weeds and loosen soil to allow for crops' growth.

Spanish friar - a member of a Catholic religious brotherhood known as the Franciscans, who traveled to the Americas to compel the indigenous people there to become loyal Catholic subjects of the Spanish empire.

systematically - proceeding according to a set, repeated method.

Timucuan - Member of the Timucua people, regional rivals of the Apalachee. The Timucua speak a different language and reside in what is now the Northeastern part of Florida.

whelk - a common species of sea snail with a hard spiraled shell.