



## **FAQs FOR SCHOOL GROUP VISITS**

**Q:** Where is Mound House?

**A:** Mound House is located on Fort Myers Beach which is on Estero Island, a barrier island in Estero Bay. It overlooks Matanzas Pass.

**Q:** What is a Timeline?

**A:** A timeline is a tool used to list events in sequence of their occurrence. The message of the timeline at the Mound House is that people have been in this area for a very long time without the technology that we have now. Our timeline will use 1 inch for every 100 years and we will "count back" to determine where to place events on the Timeline beginning with the holiday we most recently celebrated.

Dates/facts to know for timeline activity:

- 1492 – Christopher Columbus first came to the Americas
- Ponce de Leon, a Spanish explorer who named Florida and came to this area in 1513 and returned in 1521
- 1776 - Declaration of Independence was signed, making our country independent

**Q:** What does the Spanish word matanzas mean?

**A:** Matanzas means slaughter or massacre.

**Q:** Why did Christopher Columbus call the people he met when he arrived in the Americas, "Indians"?

**A:** Columbus was lost and thought he was on the other side of the world, in India.

**Q:** What is an estuary?

**A:** An estuary is a wetland area where a river and sea meet, causing fresh and salt water to mix. This type of water is called brackish water. Estuaries provide feeding, mating, and nesting areas for shorebirds, fish, and shellfish. Almost 90% of ocean dwelling creatures spend a portion of their lives in estuaries. Estuaries are an important resource and an abundant source of food for people long ago and even today.

**Q:** The Calusa were hunters-gatherers-fishers, without benefit of agriculture; what might they have eaten?

**A:** Fish, shark, shellfish, deer, and other small animals.

**Q:** The Calusa built the mound at Mound House site; why would they want to elevate the area?

**A:** Elevation was used to show respect possibly for the chief or important persons in the village. Higher elevation also provided some protection from storms and even mosquitos and no-see-ums, which prefer the low lying mangroves.

**Q:** Who was head of the Calusa?

**A:** The chief or Cacique. The Spanish called one of them Carlos.

**Q:** What is a midden?

**A:** An area of an archaeological site that contains domestic refuse such as food waste, broken pottery, and pieces of other household artifacts, indicating long-term human occupation.

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