Introduction

Ponce Inlet, Florida is located on the east coast of Florida between New Smyrna Beach and Dayton Beach on the South and North sides respectively. On our trip, we had the pleasure of learning a little bit about the local history from Dwight Moody, Ed.D. During the Paleozoic Era, the peninsula of Florida was underwater, creating a shallow sand area that was perfect for the invertebrates of this era to thrive on; this included species like starfish and sponges. This area was mainly composed of sandstone, shale, metamorphic, and igneous rock (Florida’s Geologic History, 2014). In addition, there was also a large amount of limestone and coral reefs for the invertebrates to inhabit. During the Mesozoic Era, the peninsula that was once immersed in water began to build up, due to the limestone deposits, and pierced through the sea-level, becoming a landform.

The next era, the Cenozoic Era, was accompanied with the first humans. These people are known at the Paleoindians, and they occupied Florida thousands of years prior to the European settlers. Roughly eight thousand years ago Florida became a warmer, tropical type climate, so the more advanced Indians from the North began to migrate south (Dwight Moody).

In the early 19th century, the United States government was determined to take over the state of Florida, which was under the control of Spain, along with Georgia, Alabama, and Louisiana. This would soon have an extreme impact on the Seminole Tribes inhabiting the area. Spain was not able to afford Florida by 1821, so the ceded the state to the United States. Andrew Jackson, known at the time as “Jackson the Indian Fighter”, began to push extremely hard to get the Seminoles out of the area by pushing the Indian Removal Act through Congress (Seminole Tribe of Florida).

References

*Florida's Geologic History. (2014, November 14). Retrieved April 13, 2016, from* [*http://dep.state.fl.us/geology/geologictopics/geohist.htm*](http://dep.state.fl.us/geology/geologictopics/geohist.htm)

*Seminole Tribe of Florida - History, Indian Removal. (n.d.). Retrieved April 16, 2016, from http://www.semtribe.com/History/IndianRemoval.aspx*

*Dwight Moody, Ed.D*