



TEQUESTA

Indigenous People
of Southeast Florida

THE TEQUESTA

Occupied Southeast Florida

From 500 BCE to approximately 1763 AD

Had many villages and outposts in close proximity to waterways

Evidence of a complex society with levels of status, an economy, alliances and mastery of the surrounding natural resources

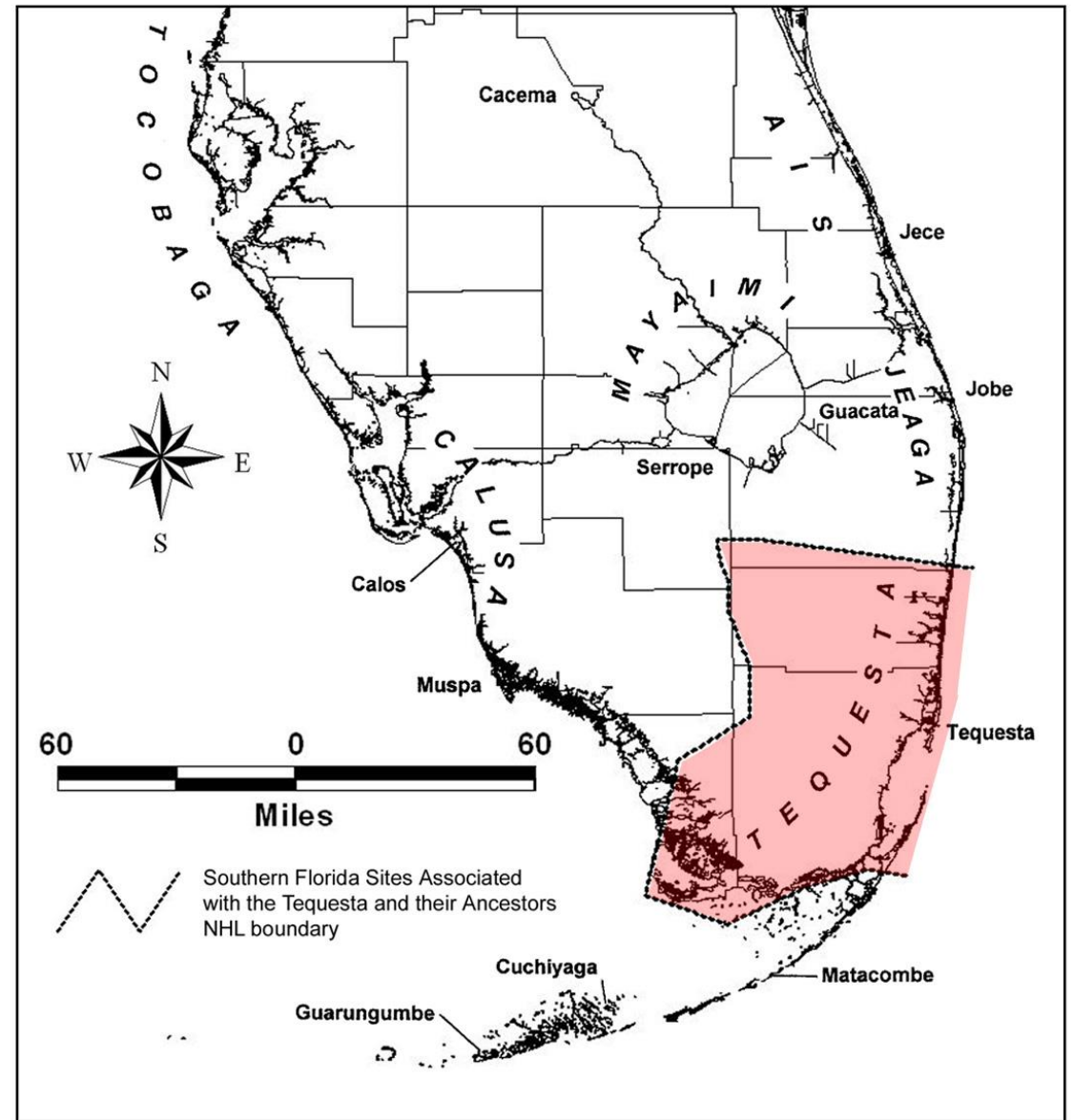


Figure 1. Territory occupied by the Tequesta and their ancestors.

MASTERS OF THE WATER

Utilized abundant natural resources

Were expert wood carvers and made dugout canoes

Traveled along the coast and deep into the Everglades

Had extensive trade network

Their main village was at the mouth of the Miami River



ARCHAEOLOGY

Middens

Burial sites

Villages

Small encampments

Provide insight into the Tequesta's culture



ARTIFACTS



Shark Vertebrae



Surfside Incised Pottery



Conch Hammer or Axe

ARTIFACTS



Carved Bone Pins



St. Johns Stamped Pottery



Strombus Columella

ARTIFACTS



Alligator Scute



Dade Incised Pottery



Conch Shell

LET'S MAKE A PINCH POT



THE CHIEF VILLAGE - TEQUESTA

Located at the mouth of the Miami River

Largest occupied village

Ideal location in proximity to Biscayne Bay and the Everglades

Gave easy access to offshore reefs, river fish, and plants in the Everglades

Could travel along tributaries of the river

Site of the famous Miami Circle



THE MIAMI CIRCLE

An aerial photograph of the Miami Circle archaeological site. The site is a circular ring of 24 post holes, approximately 38 feet in diameter, dug into the earth. The ground is dark and textured, with some patches of green grass. Two large, rectangular concrete blocks are visible in the foreground, one near the center and one towards the right. The overall scene is a mix of natural earth tones and man-made structures.

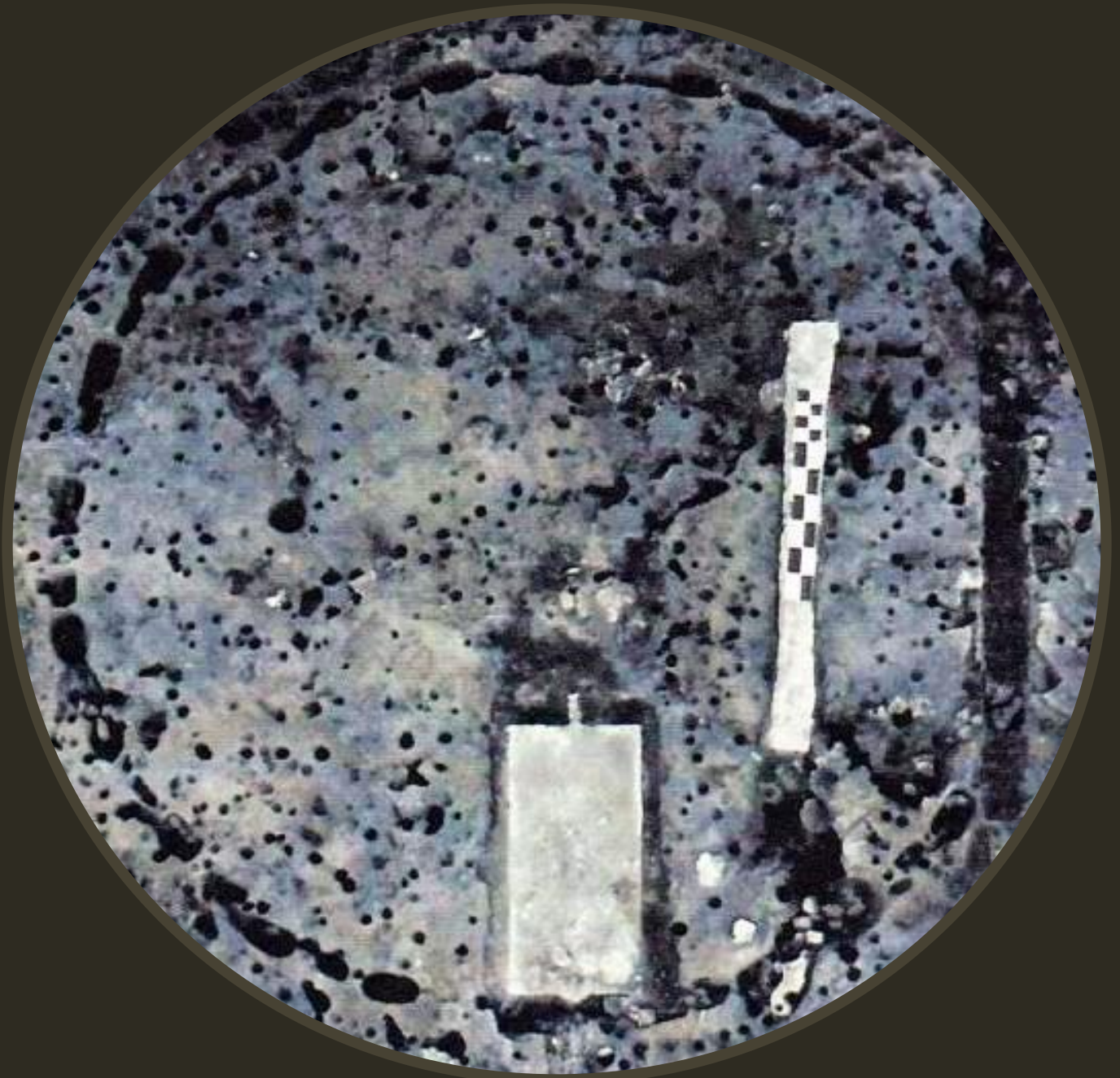
Discovered in 1998 at the south bank of the Miami River

38 foot diameter ring of 24 dug post holes

Believed to be the site of a large hut-like structure

Artifacts found within include...

- A full turtle carapace
- Human teeth
- A dolphin skull
- And more!



THE MIAMI CIRCLE





MIAMI CIRCLE PARK

Purchased in 1999

Placed on the National Registry in 2002

Declared a National Historic Landmark in 2009

Became a park in 2011

Damaged by Hurricane Irma in 2017

Closed in 2021 for renovations

Reopened with new plantings and fencing





THE CHIEF VILLAGE

An extensive village complex has since been excavated

Burial grounds and middens have been found

Survey in 2014 revealed an additional six circles believed to be part of the Chief Village

Met Square would be developed but two circles would be displayed...

Brickell site began being excavated in 2021

INTERPRETING THE TEQUESTA

Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

- Field trip location
- Educational resources
- Curriculum
- Suggested reading for students

AH-TAH-THI-KI
M U S E U M

Florida Public Archaeology Network

- Promotes conservation
- Outreach
- Educational resources
- Trainings



Arch Creek Park & Nature Center

- Historic site
- Small museum with artifacts
- Outreaches
- Field trip location



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