



## **Mound House Vocabulary**

<b>Archaeology</b>	The study of people and cultures from the past through material evidence.
<b>Artifact</b>	An object made by a human being, typically an item of cultural or historical interest to archaeologists.
<b>Atlatl</b>	A tool used to throw spears.
<b>Brackish</b>	The name that describes a combination of fresh water and salt water.
<b>Calusa</b>	Native Americans living in Southwest Florida when Spanish explorers arrived.
<b>Cordage</b>	Fibers twisted and tied together to make rope, string, or twine.
<b>Estuary</b>	Body of water where fresh water and salt water mix together.
<b>Excavation</b>	A place where archaeologists expose, record, and process research; scientific digging.
<b>Feature</b>	A immoveable element of an archaeological site usually showing evidence of structures created or modified by humans, such as building foundations, wells, agricultural terraces, pits, and post holes
<b>Gourd</b>	A hard, hollow crop that can be used to make bowls, bottles, flotation devices, and more.
<b>Lightning whelk</b>	A large carnivorous marine snail that lives in the Gulf of Mexico, and was a major food item for the Calusa. The only left-handed snail shell.
<b>Mangrove</b>	A type of tree that can grow in fresh or salt water, and provides protection from hurricanes.
<b>Megafauna</b>	Large animals that lived during the Ice Age.
<b>Midden</b>	A mound made by humans out of waste material, such as shells, animal bones, pottery pieces, and more.
<b>Oysters</b>	Easily collected shellfish that filter water; important source of food for the Calusa.



<b>Juan Ponce De León</b>	Spanish explorer who is given credit for naming Florida.
<b>Sabal Palm</b>	Also known as the cabbage palm, this tree is the Florida State tree, and was an important raw material for ancient people.
<b>Seagrass</b>	An important food source for fish, manatees, and other animals in the estuary.
<b>Seine</b>	A long net that requires at least two people to walk/drag it through the water to catch fish and other seafood.
<b>Shells</b>	The hard coverings of invertebrates, like marine snails, were frequently used to make tools.
<b>Sherd</b>	A broken piece of ceramic material (like pottery).
<b>Stratification</b>	Layers of dirt and debris that are laid down over time, showing a sequence of events that are researched by archaeologists.