Interesting Facts About the Timucua

- Pronunciation: Tee-Moo-Kwa
- About 150,000 Timucua Indians lived in North Florida and South Georgia over 1000 years ago.
- When the Spanish arrived in the 1500s, they brought germs and diseases which killed many thousands Timucuas. There are no direct descendants of the Timucuas living today.
- Archaeologists and artists are responsible for our knowing about Timucuan history and culture.
- Timucuan families lived in groups called clans. Children had many chores, but also time to play games that taught the skills they would need when they grew up.
- Most Timucuas lived in villages near the water. Their houses were circular, one room houses, made of tree trunk frames covered by dried palm fronds.
Interesting Facts About the Timucua

• Both men and women decorated their skins with tattoos and paint, and their long hair with feathers, sticks, bones, leaves and raccoon tails.

• Warriors wore shell jewelry to create additional noise as they approached their enemies, creating the impression of increased numbers of combatants.

• Timucuas hunted with bows and arrows, and with spears that had ends made of a stone called chert. Hunters often dressed as the animal they were hunting, as is depicted in the painting by Theodore Morris entitled “Panther Warrior,” the inspiration for today’s mask activity.

• The Timucua used every part of the animals they hunted. Meat and fish were preserved as “jerky” by smoking it over a fire. They used animal bones to make needles, ear pins, whistles, flutes, knives, hoes, axes, and fishhooks. Animal skins were used for clothing, coverings, and packs.
Timucua tattoos

Timucua shell jewelry and tattoos

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