The Seminole Wars

Between 1817 and 1842, the United States fought two wars with the Seminole Indians of Florida. By the end of these wars, most of the Seminole had been removed to Indian Territory in what is now the state of Oklahoma. The map below shows the locations of the Seminole in Florida from 1740 to 1842 as well as the sites of major battles during the Seminole Wars. Study the map. Then complete the activity and answer the questions that follow.

The Seminole Indians in Florida, 1740-1842
MAP ACTIVITY

1. Use a bright color to outline the area the Seminole occupied from 1740 to 1822.

2. Use a second bright color to outline the area the Seminole occupied from 1822 to 1842.

3. Use a light color to shade the swamps shown on the map.

4. Update the map legend to reflect the colors that you added to the map.

ANALYZING MAPS

1. Location  What large swamp is located in southern Florida? What lake is located just to the north of this swamp?

2. Movement  How did the location of where the Seminole lived in Florida change after 1822? How did it change after 1842?

3. Location  Near what Seminole villages did battles take place? In what years were those battles fought?

4. Region  How much overlap did the Seminole Reservation have with areas where the Seminole had previously lived?

5. Elaborate  Consider the information shown on the map and suggest why U.S. forces had trouble defeating the Seminole.