

## Florida Act-It-Out

Follow the narration below to create an act-it-out about Florida. When your teacher says *Action!*, the actors will move, act, and speak as described. When your teacher says *Audience!*, the audience members will say “Govern or get out!” loudly and in unison.

**Locations:** Your teacher will point out the locations of Florida, Georgia, and Washington, D.C., on the floor map.

**Characters and starting places:** Seminole Indian (Florida), slave (Georgia), President Monroe (Washington, D.C.), General Jackson (stay seated), two cabinet members and John Quincy Adams (seated together near Washington, D.C.)

### Narration

- In the early 1800s, Florida was controlled by Spain. Sometimes **Seminole Indians** from Florida would cross the border, raid U.S. lands, and escape back into Florida. (*Action!*)
- Sometimes **slaves** from Georgia would escape to Florida, where **Seminole Indians** would hide them.
- The Spanish government seemed to have no control over its territory. Years later, problems with the Seminoles continued. In 1818, **President Monroe** called for **General Andrew Jackson**. (*Action!*)
- **Monroe** ordered **Jackson** to chase the Seminoles back into Florida. He added, however, “Do not invade Florida.” (*Action!*)
- **General Jackson** ignored **President Monroe’s** instructions. He took his army to Florida and captured Spanish military posts. (*Action!*)
- Government officials in Spain were furious and wanted **General Jackson** punished. **President Monroe** said, “I fear there will be war between the United States and Spain.” (*Action!*)
- **Monroe** went to his cabinet and asked, “What should I do?” (*Action!*)
- The **cabinet members** said, “Remove Jackson!” and demanded, “Apologize to Spain!” (*Action!*)
- One cabinet member, Secretary of State **John Quincy Adams**, disagreed. He took **President Monroe** aside and quietly explained his plan. (*Action!*)
- **Adams** convinced **Monroe** to stand firm and send a loud and clear message to Spain. (*Action!*) (*Audience!*)
- Adams’s plan worked. Rather than risk war with the United States, Spain decided to get out. **Adams** sat down and wrote the treaty, which bears his name and gave us Florida. (*Action!*)