

Social Studies

Grade 4 / Week 5

Your Week at a Glance

- Area of focus: American History – Lesson: Native American Tribes of Florida
- Area of Focus: American History – Lesson : Spanish Explorers
- Area of Focus: American History – Lesson : Spanish Missions
- STANDARDS:

SS.4.A.2.1 Compare Native American tribes in Florida.

SS.4.A.3.1 Identify explorers who came to Florida and the motivations for their expeditions.

SS.4.A.3.10 Identify the causes and effects of the Seminole Wars.

SS.4.A.3.2 Describe causes and effects of European colonization on the Native American tribes of Florida.

SS.4.A.3.3 Identify the significance of St. Augustine as the oldest permanent European settlement in the United States.

SS.4.A.3.4 Explain the purpose of and daily life on missions (San Luis de Talimali in present-day Tallahassee).

- STATUTES: 1003.42 f, l, p

Name

Teacher

The Major Native American Tribes of Florida **(adapted from Florida Studies Weekly Week 6)**

Between the Aucilla and Ochlockonee rivers in northwestern Florida lived a peaceful tribe called the Apalachee. Most of them lived near present day Tallahassee, surrounded by rich, fertile farmland. They grew pumpkins, corn, beans and fruits long before their European neighbors ever did! But they weren't vegetarians. The meat they ate consisted partly of a wide variety of fancy birds. Of course, they spent time fishing the nearby rivers and hunting in the woods as well.

The Timucua tribe were Florida's biggest native group, with villages stretching from today's Cape Canaveral all the way up to Georgia. They valued physical strength and worked hard to become tall and strong. The Timucua exercised by playing difficult outdoor games and by farming. They always seemed to have plenty of food, probably because they were good at storing it away for later. They didn't like to trade with other tribes, and when European colonizers asked for food during cold winters, the Timucua tribe usually sent them away hungry!

The Calusa once controlled most of southern Florida. Sometimes, they hung around the smaller "Tequesta" tribe, because they had a great deal in common. Unlike most other tribes, these tribes never did settle down and farm the land. Instead, they hunted and gathered wild fruits and berries. They were also terrific fishermen. Whether it was hunting manatee on the seashore or pulling up nets full of fish from Lake Okeechobee (of course, they called the lake "Mayaimi" back then), there was always plenty to eat. Their diet also included shellfish, and they left behind huge piles of empty shells for scientists to find. They made wooden canoes and painted everything from bowls to fancy ceremonial masks.

The Tequesta Indians lived by Biscayne Bay, near present-day Miami. The 800-person tribe got most of its food from fishing. They caught and ate sharks, porpoises, clams, oysters and turtle eggs. Sea cows, also known as manatees, were a special treat. Whenever one was caught, it was usually prepared for the chief and other leaders.

The Tocobaga tribe lived in villages at the northern end of the Tampa Bay area. Tocobaga villages were built around large earth mounds. Important buildings, such as the temple or the chief's home, were usually on top of these mounds. These people fished, hunted and gathered for food. They also had corn to eat, even though it did not grow in the area. Historians think they got the corn through trade with tribes to the north.

Both tribes used stones, shells and bones to make useful tools. The Tocobaga often tied a shell or pointed stone to the end of a curved stick to make a digging tool called an adz. They also made holes in seashells and hung them on small branches. The branches would grow into the shells, forming strong tools for digging. The Tequesta used shark teeth to carve out the logs they used to make canoes.

Both tribes met with European explorers who arrived during the 1500s. The explorers brought gifts of colored cloths and metal knives that the Tequesta enjoyed. Europeans also brought diseases with them. Over the next few hundred years, each tribe faced battles, illness and slavery. By the 1800s, both tribes had almost entirely died.

Think and Review Questions

1. Which tribe was the largest and controlled the northeastern part of Florida?

2. Which two tribes became the farmers?

3. Which tribe controlled most of the southern part of Florida?

4. Which tribe controlled northwestern Florida?

5. What did the Tequesta and Tocobaga tribes have in common?

Florida Explorers **(adapted from Florida Studies Weekly Week 7)**

Juan Ponce de Leon

In 1513, a man named Juan Ponce de Leon sailed from Spain to find the land called Bimini. Legend had it that Bimini was the location of the Fountain of Youth, which would restore the youth of all those who drank from or bathed in the water. But instead of landing on the fabled Bimini, he landed on the sandy beach just south of Cape Canaveral, where we are sitting now. He named it Florida, probably because it was the Easter season (Pascua Florida), and there were flowers everywhere.

Ponce de Leon did not find the Fountain of Youth. So a few months after arriving, he sailed back to Spain, where he told the king of the beautiful land he saw. Everyone in the king's court believed that all Ponce de Leon had to do was return with more ships, and great treasures would belong to Spain. Ponce de Leon wanted to return to Florida for treasure, but many people think he also wanted to keep looking for the Fountain of Youth.

Ponce de Leon was appointed governor of Florida. Many years later, in 1521, he set sail for Florida again. He formed a colony near the place where he landed on his first voyage. Soon he found out that Florida was part of a mainland, not an island. Ponce de Leon and his soldiers explored the country for some time, but when they started founding a colony, they were met by a group of American Indians who were angry about the pale-face people taking their land. A large battle followed where Ponce de Leon was injured badly in his thigh with an arrow. Many Spaniards were killed in the fight, and so they fled. Ponce de Leon was carried aboard the ship, and they sailed quickly to Cuba, where he soon died.

Gold, God or Glory!

When Ponce de Leon and the other explorers returned to Spain, the Spanish were excited to hear their stories about the great American Indian cities said to be filled with gold. There were many others excited to spread the word of God. They left for Florida as missionaries. Others wanted the glory of land, colonies and a chance to be famous. Those who conquer others for gold and glory are conquistadors.

Panfilo de Narvaez

Have you ever had a day where nothing went right? One man who had many of those days was a Spanish explorer named Panfilo de Narvaez, sent from Spain in 1528 to check out the southeastern part of America. He landed in Tampa Bay, sittin' pretty, with 400 men and plenty of supplies. But one hurricane, one mutiny and a bunch of American Indian attacks later, he sailed off into history on a homemade wooden barge and was never heard from again. His men searched for him for a year but never found him. Then one of the survivors of his misadventures, a man named Cabeza de Vaca

(which is Spanish for “head of cow,” by the way), wandered in the wilderness for eight years before he reached Mexico and was rescued. Cabeza de Vaca finally made it back to Spain (he was the only one in this group to return), where he met Hernando de Soto, governor of Cuba and next in line to set sail for America. He asked Cabeza de Vaca all sorts of questions about America, but old Cabeza de Vaca clammed right up and wouldn’t share much. What a tease! How do you feel when a friend keeps a secret from you? Well, de Soto just about went crazy with curiosity and finally sailed for the New World, with dreams of striking it rich.

Hernando de Soto

How far will a man go looking for riches? Well, we don’t know how far any man would go, but we have a pretty good idea how far it took Hernando de Soto. He had already made a name for himself in Spain by bringing back tons and tons (really—thousands and thousands of pounds!) of gold from South America, so why should North America be any different, right? Many of his rich friends agreed, and his expedition sailed with supplies, soldiers and rich friends galore—even horses. Their trip was one adventure after another, and there are so many stories about de Soto in America that in the 1930s (400 years after de Soto lived), the government made a special study to sort out just where his journeys took him. In the spring of 1539, de Soto landed near the mouth of the Manatee River (near Bradenton). Shortly after landing, de Soto met a survivor of the Narvaez expedition named Juan Ortiz. By this time, Ortiz had learned the languages and customs of the natives, and he proved to be very helpful to de Soto’s group.

The expedition went north through Florida and Georgia and into the Carolinas, where they stopped to dig for gold. From there, they went west through Tennessee and then down again through Georgia and Alabama. Finally, they went all the way to the Mississippi River before it was all over. Whew! Some trip! He didn’t find gold, but he did have one adventure after another. De Soto died of a fever without finding any gold, but he was still the first European to see the Mississippi River.

Why did the Spanish send explorers to Florida?

Spanish explorers like Ponce de Leon, Panfilo de Narvaez and Hernando de Soto had more than one reason for coming to Florida. One reason was to find gold and valuable resources. Another reason was to claim land for Spain. Some explorers were excited to spread Christianity. Some explorers simply liked the adventure of finding a new part of the world.

Think and Review Questions

1. Who were the three most important Spanish explorers of Florida?

2. Why did explorers come to the New World?

3. Which explorer landed near the Manatee River and then explored La Florida, finally discovering the Mississippi River before he died?

4. Did explorers find gold in Florida?

5. Which European explorer was the first to find La Florida?

Spanish Missions **(adapted from Florida Studies Weekly Week 9)**

Why on Earth would a country like Spain spend a whole bunch of money, and go to all the trouble of sailing across the sea with captains and soldiers, just for the chance to colonize a little old peninsula (land surrounded by water on three sides) like Florida? That's a pretty good question. But the answer is not so simple. First of all, in the 16th century, Florida wasn't just the little "sticking-out part" of the United States that it is today. The first Spanish explorers gave the name of La Florida to an area of land that included present-day Florida, as well as about half of the whole United States. Now that's a bunch of land! It's also a big colonization opportunity. But here's where the answer gets even tougher: The first Spanish colonists couldn't get much to grow in Florida soil, and it didn't look like there was much gold or silver either. So what would Spain want with land where there weren't any hidden riches and where crops wouldn't grow? The answer might amaze you! One thing there was plenty of in Florida was people (all natives). To the Catholic Church in Spain, that meant missionary opportunities. Spain sent ships full of missionaries and priests to the New World of La Florida, not to look for gold and not to grow crops, but to bring their religion to the Florida natives.

Baptism or Battle?

One of the problems early missionaries faced was that Spanish soldiers almost always accompanied them. Missionaries were sent to convert people to Christianity. To convert means to convince people to accept new beliefs. The soldiers were sent to conquer people, or take control of them by force. The Florida natives were confused as the missionaries taught about peace and faith while soldiers tried to take over their lands and turn them into slaves.

Ponce de Leon Killed by a Calusa Arrow

The first missionary effort in Florida was a huge failure. Spanish explorer Ponce de Leon brought missionaries with him on his second voyage to Florida. Unfortunately, the Calusa Indians did not want any Spaniards on their lands, including missionaries. They attacked the Spanish, and Ponce de Leon was injured in the fighting. A poisoned arrow hit him in the leg. He sailed to Cuba to recover, but it was too late. Ponce de Leon soon died from the wound.

Where Did the Missions Go?

Florida was not the only place where the Spanish built missions. Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California are all home to dozens of missions. One of the most famous Spanish missions is the Alamo in Texas. Missions in these other states are still standing, and they are popular tourist attractions.

What about Florida's missions? Our state was home to many missions, but you don't see them on tourist maps. This is because we don't know where these old missions were. Historians think hurricanes, fires or wars destroyed them. Also, many of Florida's American Indians were forced to leave the area during the 1800s. That meant there was no one left to carry on the missions' traditions.

We do know about one mission, San Luis de Talimali. It was located near where Tallahassee is today. The mission was built during the 1600s and grew to include several buildings. Most of the mission was destroyed in 1704. Even though the real mission was lost, historians have worked hard to rebuild a copy of what it looked like. Today, it is one of the only places in Florida where visitors can see what a real Spanish mission looked like.

Trading Goods and Germs

In 1526, a man named Vazquez set up a colony in Florida. The colony failed, but it still had a major impact on the area. Vazquez and his men brought European diseases to the area. The American Indians living in Florida had never been exposed to those germs, and their bodies did not know how to protect them. These germs wouldn't give the Europeans so much as a cold, but they caused serious sickness and even death to the natives. Many of Florida's tribes were completely killed off by these diseases.

The Vazquez colony also brought new goods into Florida. The colonists traded Spanish goods with the American Indians. Later expeditions found some of those goods in villages that were hundreds of miles away. An expedition is a group of explorers. The goods had been traded again and again over the years.

What were Spanish missions like?

Missionaries from Spain wanted to convert American Indians to Christianity. Missions were built to help make that happen. Many missions were made up of many buildings. They often had a chapel, or church, for religious services and prayers. Missions also had places for people to eat, sleep and write. People who lived on missions often had gardens to grow food or even small shops to make and sell goods.

Rockin' the Boat

The missionaries had many obstacles (challenges). One was that the natives already had religion! Some were willing to change to Christianity, but many, including the natives' religious leaders, or "shamans," were not. The shamans often encouraged their tribes to fight the Spanish colonizers (people who started settlements in a new land). One problem with fighting was that the Spanish had guns. What would you do if you were an angry native? Most natives usually chose not to fight. But sometimes, the natives got so angry that they fought anyway—guns or no guns! Some missionaries were killed in these battles, but the natives usually lost. One battle was caused because

the missionaries tried to get the natives to change their marriage rules. You see, some native men had many wives, and the missionaries didn't like that one bit! Five missionaries were killed in that battle. The Spanish responded by destroying villages and crops as a warning. Boy, that's some warning!

Think and Review Questions

1. Why did Spain send missionaries to Florida?

2. Name at least one of the obstacles for the missionaries.

3. What two things happened because of Vasquez's group of colonists?

4. Why can't we find many of the remains of missions in Florida from this period?
