Social Studies

Grade 4 / Week 6

Your Week at a Glance
☐ Area of focus: American History – Lesson: French vs. Spanish
☐ Area of Focus: American History – Lesson : St. Augustine
☐ Area of Focus: American History– Lesson: Fort Mose
☐ STANDARDS:
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). SS.4.A.3.5 Identify the significance of Fort Mose as the first free African community in the United States. SS.4.A.3.6 Identify the effects of Spanish rule in Florida. SS.4.A.3.7 Identify nations (Spain, France, England) that controlled Florida before it became a United States territory.
☐ Statutes: 1003.42 h, f, l

Name

Teacher

St. Augustine: French vs. Spanish
(adapted from Florida Studies Weekly Week 8)

The Founding of a City

On the important day of Sept. 4, 1565, three of Menendez's five Spanish vessels sailed south to chase down one of the escaping French galleons (ships). A storm came up and separated one of the Spanish ships from the others, causing the tables to turn. Three Spanish warships are enough to scare anybody, but there was just one lonely, little ship with a few cannons in an ocean full of really mad French sailors. The lost Spanish vessel (ship) decided to sail for the nearest harbor (which had already been called St. Augustine by earlier explorers). There the sailors found a friendly American Indian village. As quickly as they could, they dug trenches and made rough barricades out of dirt and wood to surround the village. Soon they built a fort designed to protect themselves from the French. They were probably thinking more of saving their own lives than of making history, but that fort became the first camp of Gen. Menendez, and it later became the city of St. Augustine, the first European settlement in the United States.

Bloody Beginnings

What would you do if you met someone from a different country? Would you try to learn all about him or her? Would you just stay away? Would you argue about who was better at football or checkers? Well, the day the Spanish met the French on the Florida coast was the beginning of days and days of bloody battles. The French had a fort called Fort Caroline that was just down the coast from St. Augustine. One night during a great storm, Menendez and his men attacked the fort, took it over and renamed it Fort San Mateo. They killed most of the French they found there, but Gen. Ribault, the French military leader, was not among them. He would have been there, but his boat had been held back by the storm. It didn't matter much though, because a few days later, the Spanish soldiers found and killed him and all his men.

Ribault the Frenchman and Menendez the Spaniard were both brave men. They were also both good generals. In this battle, Spain won. But what would have happened if Ribault and his French soldiers had won instead? How would Florida be different? Would Ribault's picture be hanging in as many places as Menendez's is today? It's something to think about!

The Search for Religious Freedom

Just like the Pilgrims who landed at Plymouth Rock, a group of French colonists (called Huguenots) came to America looking for a place where they could protect their freedom of religion. They were members of a Protestant church called the Lutherans, which was founded by Martin Luther, a former member of the Catholic Church. Their Lutheran beliefs made Catholics in France and Spain angry, so the Huguenots came to

America to get away from those who opposed them. In 1562, two ships commanded by Capt. Jean Ribault set up a tiny colony in what is now South Carolina. The colony had all kinds of hardships (mainly food shortages), but they were treated kindly by the natives, and it looked like this would be their home forever. Unlike what happened later with the English Pilgrims, persecution followed the French colonists to the New World. The king of Spain considered Florida his, and he sent Menendez to drive the Huguenots out. Menendez became the first Spanish governor in the region.

French Vengeance

When word reached France about the way Menendez treated the French Huguenots, some Frenchmen were very angry and decided to go to the New World to teach the Spanish a lesson. Three years after the Spanish killed Ribault, a French trader named Dominic de Gourgues convinced the Timucuan Indians to help him attack the Spanish at Fort Caroline. They destroyed the fort and killed many of the Spanish defenders. Menendez was in Europe at the time.

All this killing happened because Menendez and Ribault had different religious beliefs. (Religious means "deeply devoted to God and church.") During this time, religious wars were very common. Each side thought they were doing God's will.

Why did the French and Spanish fight?

The Spanish and French fought over Florida for much of the 1500s. Explorers from both nations knew the land was important. For years, soldiers from both sides struggled to control the land. Spanish soldiers killed the French at Fort Caroline. A short time later, French forces killed the Spanish soldiers who had taken the fort over.

Think and Review

1. What was the name of the French fort attacked by the Spanish?

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2. Why did the Spanish sailors build a fort around the village at St. Augustine?

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3. Why did the French and Spanish start fighting?

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St. Augustine
(adapted from Florida Studies Weekly Week 10)

On Aug. 28, the Feast Day of St. Augustine, Pedro Menéndez de Avilés saw for the first time the land of La Florida. He named the place where they landed after St. Augustine, a famous saint in the Catholic religion. The Castillo de San Marcos is located in St. Augustine. It was not the first fort built by the Spanish in La Florida. It actually was the 10th fort. As the old saying goes, "If at first, you don't succeed, try, try again!" And that's exactly what the people of St. Augustine did. All the previous forts were built out of wood. The wood just "would" (excuse the pun) not hold up through all the bad storms and attacks from other countries. After all, St. Augustine was a "hot" item. Many countries in the world wanted it and were always trying to take it away. The ninth attack on the fort was by pirates in 1668, and even though it survived the attack, it was evident that the fort needed some serious improving. So it was decided to make the fort out of stone. Where is stone in Florida, you ask? Well, it turns out that Florida has its own kind of stone made out of little shells and sand. It's called coquina (co-key-na). And guess what that means? You're right—little shells.

The construction of the fort began in 1672 and was completed 23 years later in 1695. That's not bad, considering they didn't have bulldozers, tractors and electricity. Many local people worked on the fort, including American Indians, African slaves who were given their freedom, Spanish colonists and stonemasons from Havana, Cuba. Stonemasons are people who work with stone to construct buildings.

The first test for the Castillo de San Marcos was in 1702 when the British attacked by sea and by land. More than 1,200 St. Augustine citizens and more than 300 soldiers stayed within the walls of the fort for more than two months. That's a really long time to spend in such a small area. The good news is that the British cannons couldn't penetrate (get through) the walls because the coquina block was soft enough that it could absorb the shock of the cannonballs. The British gave up, but before they left, they burned down the city just as Sir Francis Drake did in 1586. Notice how history repeats itself?

Jean Ribault— The First French Explorer in Florida

In 1562, French explorer Jean Ribault erected a monument to Queen Catherine of France on a river island he named Mayport. It was located in the mouth of what the Spanish called the St. Johns River. He renamed it the River of May. Here, he met with the native American Indians, the Timucuans. He gave them gowns with a blue embroidery. The American Indians in trade gave his people many vegetables and fish. Before he left for Europe, he stopped at the Broad River in present-day South Carolina and started a Huguenot settlement called Charlesfort. He then went to Europe again to get more settlers and supplies for Charlesfort. When he got to Europe, he found the French Huguenots and the Spanish Catholics in conflict. Fearing that he would be

involved in the conflict, he fled to England. Unfortunately, in England he was arrested for planning to steal English ships to resupply the settlement at Charlesfort.

A Bad Mix of People

René Laudonnière organized a 300-person expedition made up of noblemen, criminals, Huguenots, Moors, women and single men. When they arrived at Mayport, where Ribault had first established the colony, he named it Fort Caroline. Unfortunately, this mix of people didn't include a minister or soldiers, and the colony was lawless. Some of the men stole a longboat and began plundering Spanish gold ships. Now this made the Spanish really mad! Ribault was released from prison and sent to Fort Caroline to save it.

Pedro Menéndez de Avilés

The Spanish king, Phillip II, was really mad at the French and wanted a leader to conquer Fort Caroline. Pedro Menéndez de Avilés, who had been in jail but had the reputation of being a great leader and a skilled sailor, was selected to take over Florida. In 1565, Menéndez de Avilés discovered Ribault's five ships that blocked the entrance to the fort. Menéndez de Avilés retreated to a protected harbor and set up camp. He is credited for being the founder of the oldest continuous settlement of the United States, St. Augustine.

The BIG MISTAKE

Jean Ribault wanted to show the Spanish that he wasn't afraid. He sent his ships to attack Menéndez de Avilés' St. Augustine. A bad storm developed, and most of the French ships crashed on the shores of the Atlantic Ocean near Daytona Beach. Menéndez de Avilés knew the French were in trouble and sent 500 of his soldiers to capture Fort Caroline. In 1565, he did capture it and renamed Fort Caroline to San Mateo and renamed the river St. Johns. In 1568, France's Dominique de Gourgues recaptured San Mateo, but it was still known as Fort de San Mateo for some time before being called Fort Caroline again.

Matanzas Inlet—A Real Massacre, 1565

Ribault's soldiers who had survived the storms marched northward to attack St. Augustine. Unfortunately for the French, Menéndez de Avilés found them stuck on the southern side of the Matanzas Inlet, the southern entrance to the St. Augustine Harbor. Ribault was brought across the inlet in a rowboat and surrendered. Ten Frenchmen at a time were brought across the waterway with their hands tied. They were all marched to the sand dunes and were killed. And that's why it's called the Massacre Inlet!

Francisco Menéndez and the Story of Fort Mose

Not to be mistaken for Pedro Menéndez de Avilés, Francisco Menéndez was born in West Africa, enslaved by Europeans and sold to British planters in what we now

call the state of South Carolina. In 1738, Menéndez led a group of escaped slaves from South Carolina to St. Augustine (Spanish Florida). He persuaded the Spanish colonists to allow his group to have freedom. The Spanish governor, Manuel de Montiano, gave Francisco Menéndez land located two miles from St. Augustine, called Mose, which included a church and a fort. They planted fields of corn and vegetables and ate fish and shellfish from the nearby river.

Other enslaved Africans in the American colonies heard rumors that they could seek asylum (a place of protection and shelter) in Spanish Florida. This rumor was based on a decree given by the king of Spain, which said, "... Give liberty to all the men as well as the women." But when they arrived, they were often sold by Spanish governors, who either hadn't heard or didn't care about the king's decree.

When the British attacked St. Augustine, the African militia fought bravely. After this, all the Africans were freed, and Fort Mose became a fortress of freedom for all runaway slaves.

Francisco Menéndez, captain of the African militia and a former slave, heroically helped his people obtain freedom. Menéndez did not use violence to solve his people's problem. Instead, he used his brilliant mind and his fluency with several languages to communicate with Spanish leaders until they understood his people's rights.

Africans remained free at Fort Mose until the British took over Florida in 1763. At that time, most of them moved to Cuba with the other Spanish colonists.

The story of Fort Mose is quite different from the pro-slavery feelings that were present during the Florida statehood era just 100 years after the fort was built. We will soon learn more about how Florida became a state.

Today, Fort Mose remains not only as a national landmark, but also as a symbol of courage and freedom for all people.

Jean Ribault and Pedro Menéndez de Avilés

Jean Ribault and Pedro Menéndez de Avilés struggled against each other for years, but the two men actually had a lot in common. They were both leaders who wanted to explore and claim land for their countries. Think about what you have read about these two men. What else did they have in common? What risks were both men willing to take? How were they different? Do you think it is possible they could have become friends? Write a paragraph that describes how Jean Ribault and Pedro Menéndez de Avilés were alike and different.

Think and Review

1. How did St. Augustine get its name?

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2. What is coquina?

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3. Who was Jean Ribault?

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4. Compare Pedro Menéndez de Avilés to Francisco Menéndez.

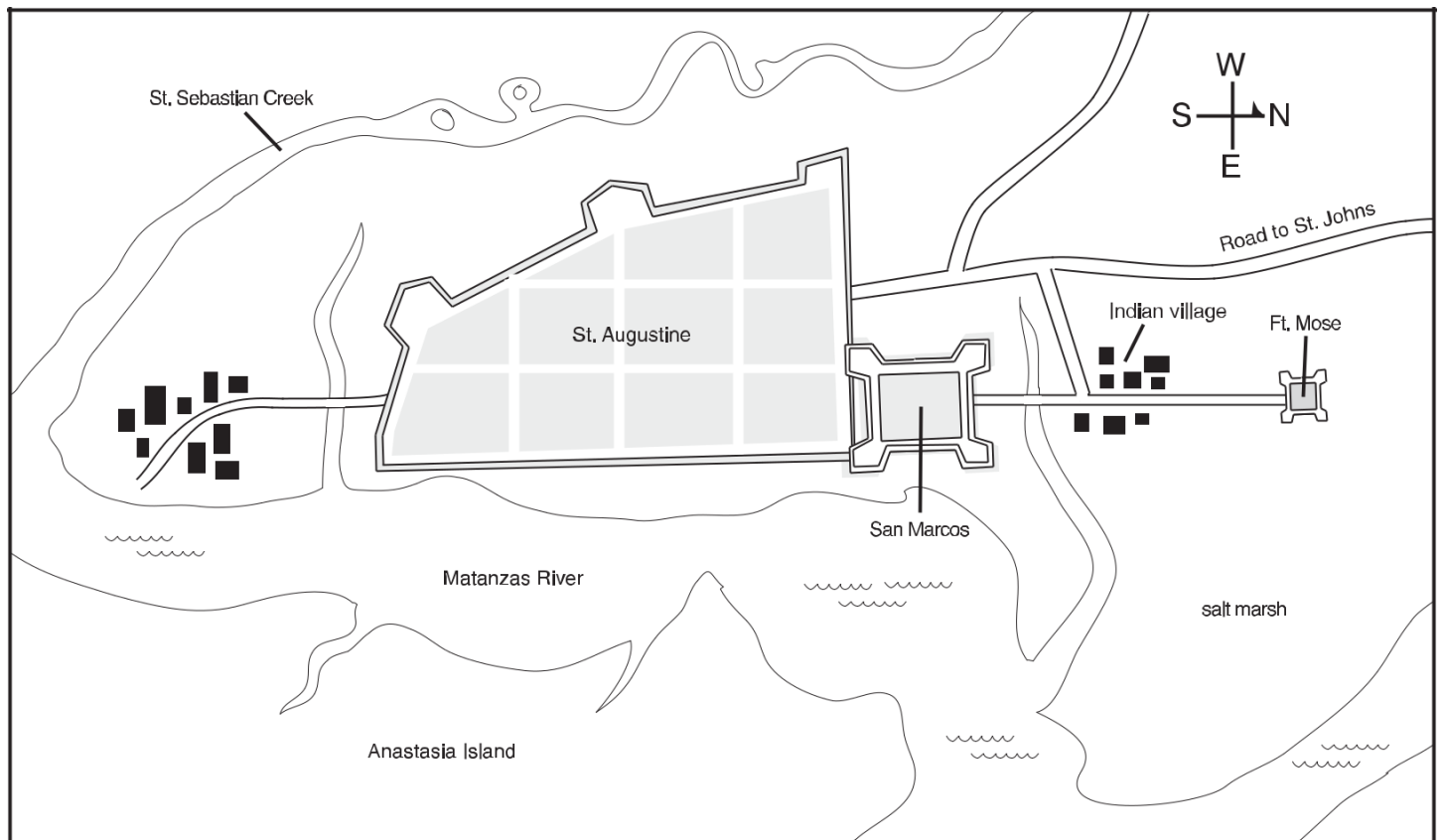_____

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5. Who was René Laudonnière?

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African Americans Settle in Fort Mose

The first African Americans came to Florida in the late 1500s. The Europeans brought them here from Africa. Most were enslaved in the British Colonies, but there were some free Africans who settled in St. Augustine.

Fort Mose was located about two miles north of St. Augustine.

In 1693, the King of Spain wanted to weaken England's rule in the New World. He decreed that slaves who ran away from the British colonies would be free if they converted to Catholicism and declared loyalty to Spain. As this information spread throughout the colonies, many slaves escaped to freedom. Large numbers of these freed slaves helped the Spanish settlers build the Castillo de San Marcos, St. Augustine's great stone fortress.

In 1738, the governor of Florida, Manuel Montiano, decided to set up a separate town for the free Africans. The location for this settlement was carefully considered. The decision was made to build it
2 miles north of St. Augustine in a salty marsh, so that it could act as a military outpost for the town. It was named Fort Mose after the Indian name for that area.

The one hundred African Americans who settled in Fort Mose raised food for themselves and other settlements in St. Augustine. They built churches and shops. The men formed their own militia, or military unit. The captain of this militia, Francisco Menendez, was recognized as chief of Fort Mose.

In 1740, the Fort Mose militia and Spanish soldiers defended St. Augustine and the surrounding area when James Olgethorpe attacked them. Most of Fort Mose was destroyed during the attack. A second Fort Mose was built, but it never really thrived. After the British gained control of Florida in 1763, the inhabitants of Fort Mose, along with most of the Spanish settlers, fled to Cuba.

Fort Mose was the first free African American settlement in America. Today, it is a National Historical landmark on the Florida Black Heritage Trail. Artifacts found on the site reveal the rich culture and traditions of this historical settlement.

African Americans Settle at Fort Mose

Answer the following questions after discussing the article in class. You may reread parts of the article as you answer.

1 Explain how the African Americans helped the King of Spain weaken England's rule in the New World. Use details and information from the article to support your answer.

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

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2 What did the African slaves need to do in order to gain their freedom from the King of Spain?

- (A) help the Spanish settlers build the Castillo de San Marcos
- (B) help the Spanish soldiers fight off an attack from James Olgethorpe
- (C) convert to Catholicism and declare loyalty to Spain
- (D) protect St. Augustine by living in the outpost outside of town

3 Read this sentence from the article.
> A second Fort Mose was built, but never really thrived.

What does the word *thrived* mean?

- (F) prospered
- (G) protected
- (H) deteriorated
- (I) declined

4 Why did the African Americans flee Fort Mose?

- (A) They left because the Spanish gained control of Florida.
- (B) They were unable to raise food for themselves.
- (C) They wanted to help build the Castillo de San Marcos.
- (D) They left because the British gained control of Florida.