

Social Studies

Grade 4 / Week 7

Your Week at a Glance

- Area of focus: American History – Lesson: British Florida
- Area of Focus: American History – Lesson: Florida and the American Revolution
- Area of Focus: American History – Lesson: Florida Becomes a Territory
- STANDARDS:

SS.4.A.3.7 Identify nations (Spain, France, England) that controlled Florida before it became a United States territory.

SS.4.A.3.9 Explain how Florida (Adams-Onis Treaty) became a U.S. territory.

SS.4.A.4.1 Explain the effects of technological advances on Florida.

SS.4.A.4.2 Describe pioneer life in Florida.

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Name

Teacher

British Florida **(adapted from Florida Studies Weekly Week 11)**

The French came to Florida to escape religious persecution. The Spanish came to kick out the French. The Spanish set up missions and tried to convert the native American Indians to Christianity. Next came the English. What on Earth did England possibly want with Florida? Well, “earth” is the answer. You see, they wanted earth (or land). It seems everyone wants a backyard that’s just a little bit bigger than the one they have, and the British wanted their backyard to include all of the New World. They were the ones to do it, too. Colonizing and conquering faraway places was what this part of history was all about and—believe us—the British were the world champions. In fact, there was once a famous saying that said, “The sun never sets on the British Empire.” This meant that Great Britain had conquered different lands throughout the world! The story of their coming to Florida is a story of governors and guns, romance and revolution, wilderness and war. So plug in your history machine, strap yourself in, and let’s go!

Oglethorpe’s Battle on the Castillo

In 1740, General James Oglethorpe, governor of the Georgia Colony located in present-day Georgia, attacked St. Augustine by land. The British navy attacked by sea and shot canons at Fort Castillo de San Marcos for more than a month. The residents of St. Augustine were safe inside the fort, but their food was becoming scarce. Florida’s governor, Manuel de Montiano, wrote letters to the King of Spain to send supplies. Oglethorpe’s soldiers were forced to retreat (withdraw). The citizens of St. Augustine celebrated that the British were gone at least for awhile!

French and Indian War

In Europe, France and Spain were fighting England to keep their land throughout the world. England wanted more and more land and started to fight the French for land in North America in 1754. Many of the American Indians joined France to fight the British who were also trying to take their land. Even though the French and many American Indians joined forces to save their land, the British won the war.

Florida: Going, Going and Gone to England

The year was 1763. The colonization business was really booming (going well), but Spain was in a tight spot. Its Florida colony was completely surrounded by French and British land. The British were ready to pounce on it any minute! To make matters worse, Britain had already conquered Spanish Cuba. The message from England was clear. “Now, here’s the deal,” they said. “We’ll give Cuba back, but in exchange, you have to give us Florida!” Perhaps King Charles of Spain spent a few sleepless nights thinking it over. Perhaps King George III of England wondered for a day or so if Spain would really go for it. And then, the handshake—after 250 years of Spanish rule, Florida

finally belonged to England! France signed over more land to make the deal complete. While the Spanish colonists packed up to leave, you can bet that King George slept pretty well that night!

That's One Big Colony! Anyone for Two?

Florida was huge when Britain took control. It stretched from the East Coast of the peninsula all the way to the Mississippi River. Britain decided Florida was way too big to manage as one colony. They took a map and drew a line right at the Apalachicola River. Everything west of the line was one colony, and everything east of the line was another. What did they name the colonies? How about Georgeland, after the king, or maybe New World Central, or Orangia, after the oranges brought by the Spanish? Well, these men were explorers and colonists who were brave and hardworking, but they weren't very creative. They named the new colonies ... (are you ready for this?) ... West Florida and East Florida. Tah-dah! What would you have named them, if you had been in charge?

East Florida

East Florida included a lot of the land that makes up Florida today. It was full of African American slaves who worked on large plantations. The first governor of East Florida was a man named James Grant. He became governor in 1763. Grant had not always been kind to American Indians, but he did try to work with the Creek and Seminole tribes in Florida. It was important to British leaders that settlers in Florida get along well with their American Indian neighbors. Grant worked with the Creek and Seminole chiefs on an agreement called the Treaty of Picolata. This treaty meant that colonists and American Indians lived together peacefully while Grant was governor.

Grant was also good at bringing settlers to East Florida. He gave almost 3 million acres of land to Europeans and Southerners who wanted to take advantage of our state's farmland.

West Florida

In 1764, West Florida went all the way to the Mississippi River. It was much bigger than East Florida, and its capital was Pensacola. West Florida's first governor was George Johnstone. Johnstone's biggest challenges were the colonists themselves! He once wrote, "In Pensacola live none but drunks and idlers (people who do not work), who corrupt (cause to be dishonest for personal gain) newcomers and who will delay for a long time the growth of West Florida!" He had plans to attract Norwegians, Dutch and New Englanders to the colony. Johnstone thought they would make better citizens. His plans failed, but he was able to develop big business by trading timber and cloth with Louisiana. Once West Florida started making money, everyone wanted to live there! West Florida became a major producer of textiles, among other things.

It's a Hard-Knock Life!

Imagine you're an immigrant to early British Florida. How would you earn a living? Would it be easy? How would you like it? Here are some things to think about:

Maybe you're a trader or merchant. You might think that settling on the Gulf of Mexico would mean that Mexico would want to trade with you. Instead, day after day, no ships come to your port.

Maybe you're a farmer. You come to Florida because the English government is giving away free land. But you find that from the coastline inland for many miles, the land won't grow anything.

What if you're a doctor? Now you're talking! Florida sickness is at an all-time high because of bad water and tropical fevers. In 1775, one military group of 400 men comes ashore in Pensacola in good health. Suddenly, they get sick with yellow fever. After six months, nearly half the men die!

Is there anyone who prospers in British Florida? Sure, plenty of folks! But even after 250 years of Spanish rule, it's still a rather wild and untamed place. People who endure the challenges of colonization with patience eventually find it to be a great place to live. Of course, we knew that already!

Think and Review

1. Why did the British come to Florida?

2. What does the saying, "The sun never sets on the British Empire," mean?

3. Describe the impact the French and Indian War had on Florida.

4. Describe the size of La Florida in the 1700s.

5. What did the British do to Florida to deal with the large size?

6. Who governed East Florida? West Florida? Describe the differences.

Florida and the American Revolution **(adapted from Florida Studies Weekly Week 12)**

After the French and Indian War in 1763, the Treaty of Paris was signed, and the British got Florida out of the deal. The British gave pioneer families free land grants to settle in Florida, and in order to get more Southerners to come, they allowed slavery.

Remember how, in 1663, Francisco Menéndez developed Fort Mose to provide a place for slaves to escape? Well, unfortunately, the British ruined all that hard work!

With the outbreak of the American Revolution, the British-owned colonies of East and West Florida were upset. That's because the new British colonists depended on Britain for trade; therefore, the two colonies of Florida decided to remain loyal to the motherland—the motherland being England. (Get it? Mothers provide the food and protection.)

People who did not want to fight against England were known as Loyalists or Tories. They were so angry that they burned leaders like Sam Adams and John Hancock in effigy. An effigy is a large stuffed dummy that looks like an important person and is set on fire. This was one way that some people from Florida showed how much they disagreed with revolutionary leaders.

The Floridians hoped that the war wouldn't affect them, but England's military kept British troops in Florida. With the British in control of the Colonies north of Florida, the British supporters figured that England couldn't lose. But to their surprise, British Gen. Cornwallis was defeated at Yorktown in 1781, and the war was nearly over!

Twenty years after the first Treaty of Paris, another Treaty of Paris was signed in 1783. And we bet you're figuring that because the Americans had won the war, Florida would become part of the United States. Right? Well, if that's what you thought, you're wrong—Florida was given back to Spain!

Florida's Growing Up!

The Proclamation of 1763 promoted the growth of Florida. The London Board of Trade offered 20,000-acre lots to any group willing to enter and settle in Florida. Pioneers were able to come to Florida and get free land (land grants). The British even provided soldiers to protect them.

God Save the King!

Of all the British colonies, only Florida remained loyal to England. If you had been watching when Florida learned of the Declaration of Independence, you would have seen your neighbors marching through the street, burning leaders in effigy. Perhaps you would have joined them! During the revolution, most Floridians fought on the side of the British against American revolutionists and Spain.

Spain ... remember that Spain used to be in control of Florida and had Spanish colonists living there. Sometimes, history is so strange!

Oh No! British Troops in Florida!

The British sent troops to Florida to attack the Southern states. The military wanted to use Florida because they felt that the soldiers would grow accustomed to Florida's heat. Remember that Florida's a hot place!

Plus, the large Southern plantations would provide food for all the soldiers. And, if that's not bad enough, guess what else the British did? They turned Fort Castillo de San Marcos into a prison camp for enemy soldiers.

Governor James Grant Gets Along With American Indians

How do we know these things about history? Well, anthropologists John and William Bartram, from Philadelphia, visited East Florida and reported that the Timucuan villages were peaceful and prosperous under Grant's rule. So, what is an anthropologist anyway? It's a person who studies mankind.

Patrick Tonyn

When Governor James Grant of East Florida retired from his office, Florida became more involved in the war. A Loyalist by the name of Patrick Tonyn replaced Grant and formed the East Florida Rangers. This group helped stop American raids near the St. Mary's River.

The Spanish Are Always Getting Involved ... When It Comes to Florida

In 1781, Spanish commander Bernardo de Gálvez captured Pensacola from the British. The victory meant that the Colonies were able to keep control of the entire Mississippi River. De Gálvez also won battles at Manchac, Baton Rouge and New Orleans.

As part of the Treaty of Paris of 1783, Britain was kicked out of East Florida and Spain was given East Florida as payment for their help in the American war effort.

Imagine the surprise of the British citizens when their governor announced that the land was being given back to their old enemy—Spain.

For the new country of the United States of America, Florida became an attractive place for settling. For the Florida Loyalists, it was a time of sorrow because they knew they would have to settle elsewhere. Because of the new Spanish rulers and the American Patriot settlers, only hardship would come to those who had remained loyal to the king of England.

The Outcome of the American Revolutionary War

When the Revolutionary War ended, the 13 Colonies became the independent United States! With this news, the British Loyalists figured Florida wasn't safe, and they left quickly to nearby islands of the Bahamas and Bermuda ... or even back to England!

Forbes Purchase

In 1776, William Panton, Thomas Forbes and John Leslie started a trading company, the Panton, Leslie & Company. When England no longer had control of Florida in 1783, the Panton, Leslie & Co. and the Creek Indians made a deal known as the Forbes Purchase. The Creek Indians traded more than 1 million acres of land along the Apalachicola River for the trading company to cover their newly acquired debts. The Spanish honored these exchanges, but when the United States gained control of Florida in 1821, the U.S. Congress denounced the Forbes Purchase. Forbes and his company contested his land rights in American courts. In 1835, the courts gave the land back. Unfortunately for Forbes, it was mostly swamp land unfit to sell.

Think and Review

1. When the British acquired Florida after the French and Indian War, how did they influence Southern settlers to come to Florida?

2. What are effigies?

3. How did Florida get involved in the Revolutionary War?

4. How did Spain get involved in the Revolutionary War?

5. Who won the Revolutionary War?

6. What was the Forbes Purchase?

Florida Becomes a Territory **(adapted from Florida Studies Weekly Week 14)**

In 1814, with the help of Jean LaFitte's pirates, militiamen, American Indians and African Americans, Gen. Andrew Jackson drove British troops away from the Gulf of Mexico once and for all. This was known as the Battle of New Orleans, the last battle of the War of 1812.

The Spanish stayed in Florida for a few more years until, in December 1817, Jackson was sent back to the area because of an attack that killed a boatload of American soldiers. Most of the Seminole who attacked managed to hide in the swamps, but Jackson seized St. Marks, one of the Spanish towns that supplied the Seminole with food and equipment. There, he replaced the Spanish flag with the American flag. Wasting little time, Jackson moved on to capture Pensacola. By the end of May 1818, he had overthrown the Spanish government in Florida. Spain's officers were shipped off to Cuba. Believing that President James Monroe would support his actions, Jackson claimed the whole region for the United States. But poor "Old Hickory" (as Jackson was sometimes called) had gone way too far, and instead of supporting what he had done, Monroe gave Florida right back to Spain.

The king of Spain was worried that U.S. troops would attack again. He decided to sell Florida to the United States rather than keep defending it.

Americans must have known how valuable Florida would be someday, because the United States gave up a great deal to own the "sunshine territory."

Florida Becomes a US Territory—Finally!

Is it getting hard to keep track of Florida's owners? If you said American Indians, England, Spain and the U.S. (at different times), you're right! So how did the U.S. get Florida once and for all? In the early 1800s, Spain owned Florida. After the Louisiana Purchase of 1803, Spain worried that the U.S. had too much of North America. But Spanish settlers didn't want to stay in Florida because the Seminole kept attacking them. Also, Spain was in the middle of losing Mexico to independence. Who could blame Spain for bargaining (making a deal to trade, buy or sell something) with the U.S.

Spain was not as strong as it used to be and needed help. Secretary of State John Quincy Adams met with a Spanish representative, Don Luis de Onís, to work out a deal. In the 1819 deal, called the Adams-Onís Treaty, Florida became a U.S. territory, and several other U.S. borders were set. It took two whole years to work out all the details, so things weren't official until 1821. Spain had one less thing to worry about. Spain shrewdly (wisely and knowingly) traded Florida for the United States' claim on the Texas region and enough money to pay off \$5 million in Spanish debts owed to American businesses. Afterward, the United States got busy getting rid of outlaws and pirates.

Pioneer Life

The pioneers living in Florida at this time faced many difficulties. Most women and children spent their time in small, single-room homes. These homes usually were made of wood and had a single chimney. Life for pioneer men meant turning the land into good farms. Women and children spent time making their own furniture, cloths and tools. Many pioneers lived miles away from their nearest neighbor. Early pioneers did not have good roads, so visitors were rare. If a family lived near a town or village, they often walked there on weekends to join others for church services, dances and music.

Florida Turned Over to Jackson

Florida's Spanish governor, José Callava, surrendered the province to the United States in July 1821. There to receive Callava's resignation was Andrew Jackson. Yes, that Andrew Jackson, the one who became president of the United States and whose face you may recognize from the front of the \$20 bill. Jackson was a military governor of Florida. He divided the territory into two counties, Escambia and St. Johns, with the Apalachicola River as the dividing line.

Jackson then set up a working government and resigned within a few weeks. William P. DuVal became the first civilian (a citizen not employed by the military) to be governor of the territory.

The Grumpy Governor

Florida's first civilian governor was William P. DuVal. He was in charge from 1822 to 1834—four terms. His ancestors were French Huguenots. Do you remember who they were? Capt. Menéndez drove French Huguenots (Lutherans), who were seeking religious freedom, out of Florida nearly 300 years earlier.

Even though DuVal served for so long, he was not well liked. He constantly complained about the weather and his salary (payment for work done), and he thought the people in Florida were mean.

What? Are You Crazy?

If you look at a map of the United States and compare the size of Texas with the size of Florida, you may think that America was crazy to trade big ol' Texas for little-bitty Florida. If that's what you think, you're not alone. Some Americans living in the 1800s felt the same way. Among them was Henry Clay, a U.S. Congressman, who said, "What do we get for Texas? We get Florida loaded with land grants (gifts of land honored by the government), which leave scarcely a foot of soil for the United States. What do we give? We give Texas, free and unencumbered (free of outstanding obligations, like land grants and debts). Texas is worth a dozen Floridas to the United States!" But it all turned out OK in the end. Go ahead and take a look at the map. Even though Spain controlled Texas for a while, the good old USA wound up with both of them

Where to Put the Capital?

Right up until Florida became a U.S. territory, it had been two separate provinces. You may remember that England had separated the colony into East and West Florida to make it easier to manage. But under American rule, it was all just one Florida again. So where would the capital be? Would it be Pensacola, the capital of West Florida, or St. Augustine, the capital of East Florida? Here's the answer: neither! Tallahassee, halfway between the two cities, was made the capital to avoid jealousy between Pensacola and St. Augustine.

Adams-Onis Treaty

Spain's government had a hard time with Florida. It was difficult to send settlers and soldiers to the area. John Quincy Adams was the U.S. secretary of state, and he wanted Florida to be part of our country. He worked with Spanish leaders to sign the Adams-Onis Treaty.

Spain agreed to give up Florida, and the U.S. agreed on a new western border. The new border meant Spain got to keep land that made up Texas, Arizona, Nevada and California.

Not everyone thought the treaty was a good idea.

Think and Review

1. Who assisted Gen. Andrew Jackson in driving the British troops away from the Gulf of Mexico during the Battle of New Orleans, the last battle of the War of 1812?

2. Why was Jackson sent back to Florida in 1817?

3. Where did Spain's leaders go after Jackson claimed Pensacola for the United States?

4. What did Spain and the U.S. agree to with the Adams-Onis Treaty?

5. Who was the first military governor of Florida?

6. When did Florida become a U.S. territory?

7. What president gave Florida back to Spain, even after Jackson had overthrown the Spanish government?

8. What did the king of Spain do after getting Florida back?

9. Why was Tallahassee picked to be the capital of Florida once it was a U.S. territory?
