



Florida Studies Weekly

State History



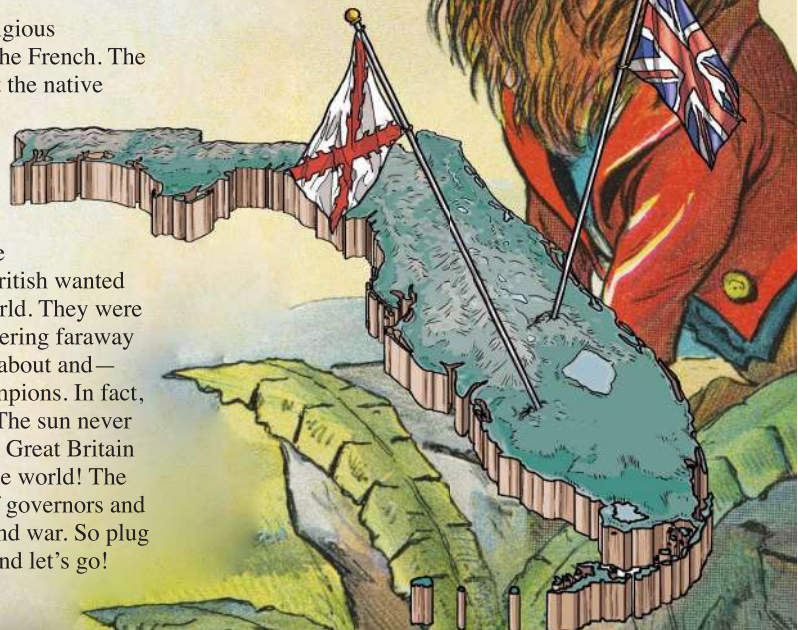
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The British Are Coming! The British Are Coming!

Well, who's going to colonize Florida this week? Last week, the French and Spanish competed for that privilege. Each of those countries had a chance to be in charge of our great state for awhile. This week, the eyes of merry old England are turned to the Florida beaches!

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!



Connections

Where Would You Rather Live?



Hundreds of years ago, people from Spain, France and England all wanted to live in Florida. Today people still want to move to Florida! Why? Let's use England as an example.

For starters, did you know that Florida is bigger than the whole country of England? It's true. And England has about 51 million people, while Florida has only 18 million. So if you want some space around you, Florida might look pretty good.

Let's talk weather. Although rainfall varies in Florida, most of the state gets less than 40 inches a year. How about England? London gets only about 25 inches of rain each year, but other parts of the country get more than 100! What about

average temperatures in Florida in the summer? The coolest it usually gets is in the 70s, and the warmest is in the 90s. England averages 60-80 degrees in the summer. If you like warm summers, Florida is looking better and better. Where Florida really takes the cake is during the winter. England averages about 40 degrees with lots of cloudy, overcast, foggy days, but Southern Florida averages above 70 degrees with mostly blue skies!

Look at a globe, and you'll see that England is much farther north than you are right now. Does that help explain why England wanted to own Florida so long ago? A tropical English colony probably sounded like a dream come true!

Florida Next Generation Sunshine State Standards: SS.4.A.1.1: Analyze primary and secondary resources to identify significant individuals and events throughout Florida history. SS.4.A.1.2: Synthesize information related to Florida history through print and electronic media. 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.3.6: 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. SS.4.A.4.2: Describe pioneer life in Florida. SS.4.A.6.1: Describe the economic development of Florida's major industries. SS.4.A.9.1: Utilize timelines to sequence key events in Florida history. SS.4.E.1.2: Explain Florida's role in the national and international economy and conditions that attract businesses to the state. SS.4.FL.2.6: Predict how people's spending choices are influenced by prices as well as many other factors, including advertising, the spending choices of others, and peer pressure. SS.4.G.1.1: Identify physical features of Florida. SS.4.G.1.2: Locate and label cultural features on a Florida map. SS.4.G.1.4: Interpret political and physical maps using map elements (title, compass rose, cardinal directions, intermediate directions, symbols, legend, scale, longitude, latitude).



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



- 1) General Oglethorpe attacked St. Augustine by land. His soldiers were later forced to retreat.
- 2) King Charles II traded Florida to the British in exchange for Cuba. 3) George Johnstone was the first governor of West Florida. 4) James Grant was the first governor of East Florida.

Honesty

American Character

"An honest answer is a sign of true friendship."—(Proverbs 24:26)

Honesty is being truthful, sincere and trustworthy. Do you try to choose friends who are honest with you? Have you ever had a friend who lied to you or did something dishonest that made you decide not to be his or her friend anymore? Have you ever been dishonest and lost a friend because of it? It is important that we are honest with others and that they are honest with us so that we can trust each other.

Gov. James Grant, the British governor of East Florida, was very impressed by the honesty he saw in the Seminole Indians. He discovered that this tribe was very truthful with him and that when they made promises, they kept them.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Santa Rosa and Escambia Counties

Florida Counties

Santa Rosa County: You can really soar in this western Florida county. Flying is big here, with a new Aviation Park at the Naval Air Station at Whiting Field and a Flight Academy at Milton High School in the county seat of Milton. There's even a Zipline Canopy Tour at Adventures Unlimited. Imagine what you could see from up there! Talk about a high-flying county!

Escambia County: When you're in the county seat of Pensacola, you're almost a two-day drive from Key West. That's how big Florida is! Escambia County is the westernmost county in our state. Here you can visit Historic Pensacola Village, with 27 historic buildings and museums. One is the T.T. Wentworth Jr. Florida State Museum, where you can learn a lot about the past. Don't miss the re-enactment of the Battle of Pensacola that happens every June. Re-enactors dress as American Indians or as British, French or Spanish soldiers and carry old-fashioned weapons. They pretend to fight the Battle of Pensacola during the Revolutionary War, only this time no one gets hurt. It's a great way to bring history to life!



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!

3

4

TIMELINE

General Oglethorpe attacks St. Augustine, 1740



The French and Indian war begins, 1754



British Settle in Florida, 1763



The Revolutionary War begins, 1775



The Declaration of Independence is signed, 1776



Where would you live?

This Week's Question

You have read a lot about what was going on in different parts of Florida during the 1700s. East Florida meant living with Creek and Seminole Indians who held peaceful council meetings with Florida's leaders. West Florida meant facing the challenges of so many Europeans moving into the area very quickly.

Imagine you were a colonist during the 1700s. Do you think you would have thought about moving to East or West Florida, or would you want to try moving somewhere else? What do you think would be the advantages and disadvantages of each place? Think about your ideas and share them with a classmate.



Indigo Plant

Florida Wildlife

Have you ever put a blue outfit on and asked yourself how it got that color? Well, probably not. Today, you don't really have a problem. You go to the grocery store or drug store and you can buy artificial chemical dyes. But if you wanted a blue outfit 100 years ago, it might not be as easy.

The indigo plant is an herb that can be grown in Florida. It is one of many species that are part of the Indigofera group of plants. The plant has a natural blue color in its leaves and stems. It also has clusters of red, purple or white flowers that look like butterflies. It grows from 2 to 6 feet in height.

The indigo plant likes warm climates and mostly can be found growing in South America and Central America.

When the first explorers came to America, they were looking for gold. They didn't find much gold, but the rich Florida soil and tropical climate were perfect for growing indigo. In the 1700s, indigo had become one of the leading crops. However, in the early 1900s, less indigo was grown because it was replaced with artificial dyes.



Name _____



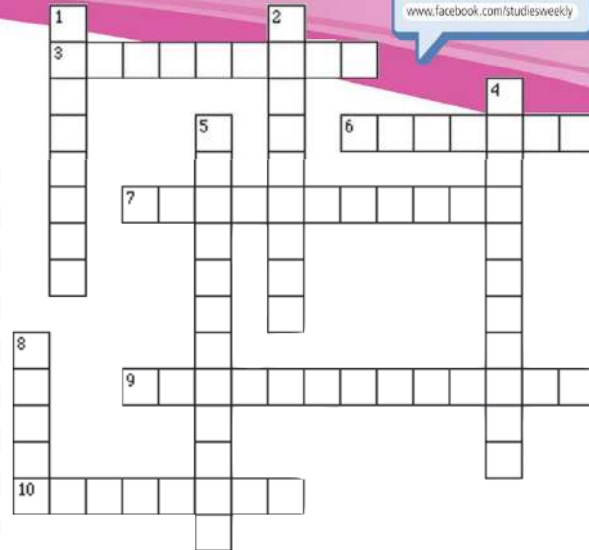
As you read this week's lesson, circle or highlight all proper nouns with any color pen or highlighter. This will help you find some of the crossword answers and get ready for this week's test.

ACROSS

3. a Florida county with Milton as its county seat
6. withdraw
7. East Florida had large _____.
9. "The sun never sets on the _____."
10. West Florida became a major producer of _____.

DOWN

1. westernmost county in Florida
2. the British governor of West Florida
4. The French came to Florida to escape religious _____.
5. Britain divided Florida at the _____ River.
8. governor who made friends with the Indians



Honesty CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

When dealing with the Seminole, Gov. Grant told them that he respected their honesty and that he hoped they would trust him as he trusted them. The Seminole promised not to attack the settlers if the settlers kept their promises to leave the American Indians in peace and only settle on the land that had been agreed upon.

Gov. Grant was able to get along well with the Seminole because he trusted them and believed in their honesty. As long as the settlers continued to keep their promises to the Seminole, both groups were able to get along well together. Honesty between the two groups helped them to live in peace.

When we are honest with each other and keep our promises, we are able to get along better in our families, our classrooms and our communities.

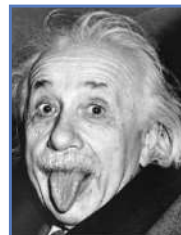


Let's Write

When the British took over Florida, they made a deal with Spain. In exchange for Florida, they would give them Spanish Cuba. Based on the evidence from the reading, why did the Spanish feel that this was a positive choice for them with England? Make sure to use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Language Arts Connection

Use any color to highlight three relative adverbs (where, when, why) in this week's magazine. Underline the clause that contains the relative adverb, and circle the noun that the clause modifies. (LAFS.4.RL.1.1)



As a student,
he was
no Einstein.

CONFIDENCE

Pass It On.

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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.
7. The prefix "re-" means "again." What do you think the words "re-enactment" and "re-enactors" mean in the article about Escambia County?

Think & Review

8. Describe the character trait of honesty.
9. Describe what the indigo plant looks like.