Forever Changed: La Florida, 1513–1821
A Bibliography For Young Readers
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## Credits

This bibliography was compiled by Museum of Florida History intern Rebecca Reibman, with text contributions from MFH volunteer Michelle Hearn and MFH staff members Lisa Barton, Lisa Dunbar, and KC Smith; edited by KC Smith; and graphic design by MFH staff member Tim Leatzow.

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Forever Changed: La Florida, 1513–1821
A Bibliography for Young Readers

The books in this bibliography, geared to K–12 readers, relate to Forever Changed: La Florida, 1513–1821, a permanent exhibit of the Museum of Florida History. Themes interpreted in three exhibit galleries—Land of Many Cultures, Spanish Exploration, and Meeting of the Cultures—are explored in the following selection of books. The list does not include all books available about these subjects; rather, they represent nonfiction and fiction works that Museum staff regard as relatively accurate, pedagogically sound, and very engaging.

The following criteria guided the development of the bibliography.
- All books are cited in format adapted from MLA.
- Age recommendations are listed.
- Books generally were chosen because of their accessibility. If they are out of print, this is noted, although they often are available through Interlibrary Loan (ILL).
- Different formats in which books are available are noted.
- If a book is available in a language other than English, this is noted.
- Book awards are mentioned in the listing.
- Fiction and nonfiction books are distinguished in the citation.

Europe and the Age of Discovery

This selection of books reviews the cultural contexts and global perspectives that gave rise to the Age of Discovery, 1450–1650, and the waterborne migrations that changed the course of history.

This is a beautifully illustrated account of the Age of Exploration. The book contains timelines, maps, and artwork that help to detail the motivations for and consequences of the exploration and settlement of the Americas.

- Print; 406 pages; nonfiction; ages 11 and up
This large volume is divided into short, readable chapters. It explores the life and times of Christopher Columbus and his sons from 1451 to 1539 and uses other individuals and events to place the discovery of the New World into the greater context of world history.

- Print; 168 pages; nonfiction; ages 12 and up
- Currently out of print but owned by many Florida libraries
This book presents an overview of the world in 1492, including Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, Oceania, and the Americas in their own illustrated chapters. It does an excellent job of placing Europe within the context of world history.

- Print; 191 pages; nonfiction; ages 9 and up
- Currently out of print but owned by many Florida libraries
This illustrated book includes reproductions of historical maps, timeline, glossary, and suggestions for further reading. It provides a brief overview of Florida’s most well-known explorers such as Juan Ponce de León, Pánfilo de Narváez, Hernando de Soto, and Alvár Núñez Cabeza de Vaca.

- Print; 64 pages; nonfiction; ages 10 and up
- Currently out of print but owned by many Florida libraries
This general book about exploration is packed with illustrations of explorers through time. The two-page sections contain maps detailing where explorers traveled, photos of artifacts relating to the expeditions, and the types of ships and navigational tools used. This is a great book for children and visual learners.

- Print; 93 pages; fiction; ages 8 to 12
- Currently out of print but owned by many Florida libraries
- Available in Spanish through interstate ILL only
This book does an excellent job of placing Columbus’s 1492 voyage in historical context. Written in the present tense, it uses imaginary characters to explore what was going on in Europe and the Ottoman Empire. The reader is introduced to New World characters, including the Taínos of the Caribbean; the Mayans, Incans, Aztecs of Mexico; and other native tribes in North America. The book is beautifully illustrated by the author’s artwork.
Christopher Columbus

On his 1492 voyage seeking a new trade route to the Far East, Christopher Columbus came upon islands and people that were unknown to Europeans. He claimed these lands for Spain. His journey opened the door to exchanges of people, ideas, plants, animals, and diseases between the Americas, Europe, and Africa that changed the world forever.

- Print; 32 pages; nonfiction; ages 3 to 7
Simple text and bold illustrations combine to make this book a great introductory nonfiction biography. It is ideal for beginning readers or reading aloud. The story is a brief account of Columbus’s discovery of the Americas, with a central message of perseverance.

- Print; 80 pages; nonfiction; ages 7 to 12
- Also available in large print and audiobook format
This illustrated book is a biography of Christopher Columbus and is written in an engaging and personal style that young readers will enjoy.

- Print; 12 pages; nonfiction; ages 4 to 10
- Currently out of print but owned by many Florida libraries
Author Jean Fritz provides an easy-to-read history of Columbus’s discovery of the New World, although she omits some of the darker episodes, such as the exploitation of native peoples. The book is beautifully illustrated by artist Tomie DePaola. Because of its delicate pop-up construction, it is best suited for reading to a class, rather than circulating it.

- Print; 32 pages; fiction; ages 7 and up
This well-illustrated book puts the reader in the role of a ten-year-old boy setting out to sea on Columbus’s first voyage. It is full of humor about the trials of an early ocean voyage, but still educational and engaging. Each section begins with a question and encourages active reading. It also contains a glossary and index.

- Print; 112 pages; nonfiction; ages 12 and up

(From *Regimiento de navegación*, Pedro de Medina, Seville, 1563)
The strength of this book lies not in its summary of Columbus’s life and four voyages, but in the author’s review of Columbus’s legacy as reflected in the historical record. By describing how historians, authors, and others have used primary and secondary sources to interpret, explain, or question all aspects of the explorer’s life, the author provides an excellent model of how history is reconstructed.

- Print; 48 pages; nonfiction; ages 8 to 12
This book places the life of Christopher Columbus in a historical and technological framework. Well illustrated, this volume includes many insets with information about the different cultures and important people of the time. A glossary, timeline, maps of Columbus’s expeditions, and suggestions for further reading are included.

- Print; 57 pages; nonfiction; ages 10 and up
- Currently out of print but owned by many Florida libraries
Based on Columbus’s journal from his first voyage, this children’s version is very accessible. The firsthand account offers insight into Columbus’s personality and motivation, the hardships of the voyage, and the discovery of new peoples, plants, and animals. Peter Hanson’s colored, cross-hatch drawings were created specifically to go with the journal.

- Print; 30 pages; nonfiction; ages 8 to 12
- Currently out of print but owned by many Florida libraries
This book offers a well-balanced account of Christopher Columbus’s voyages to the New World. It is illustrated with works of art inspired by the explorer’s discoveries, including a 1493 woodcut that is the earliest depiction of Columbus’s landing in America. Quotes from his journals are woven throughout the text.

- Print; 55 pages; fiction; ages 4 to 9
- This is a graphic (i.e., illustrated) novel.
- Also available in Italian
This brightly colored graphic novel about Christopher Columbus has anthropomorphic characters including mice, cats, and foxes. Several rascally cat pirates take a time machine back to Columbus’s voyage, and the main character mouse, Geronimo Stilton, and his friends must follow them to make sure they do not change the timeline of history. The novel, which is very attractive to small children, is full of cartoon humor and lots of cheese references.

- Print; 14 pages; nonfiction; ages 6 to 10
- Currently out of print but owned by many Florida libraries
This colorful book is filled with large pop-up pictures that have interactive parts. The text gives a history of Columbus’s first voyage and includes entries from the explorer’s own journal.


- Print; 32 pages; fiction; ages 8 to 12
- This is a graphic novel.
This is a well-illustrated book written in the graphic style, which draws even the most reluctant reader into the story. Beginning with Columbus’s early life in Genoa, the novel reviews his four New World voyages and discusses his influence on other explorers. The book includes an index, glossary, and suggestions for further reading.


- Print; 48 pages; fiction; ages 8 to 14
- This is a graphic novel.
The dark and dramatic illustrations in this action-packed graphic novel about the life and adventures of Christopher Columbus will draw in even reluctant readers. The story highlights Columbus’s struggles for King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella’s support and his interaction with Native Americans. The book includes an index, glossary, further reading, and Internet sites.

**Europeans Explore the Americas**

**Conquistadors**

Conquistadors were Spanish and Portuguese soldiers-explorers who came to the Americas in the 15th and 16th centuries. Many sought riches in the New World because they were not the first-born son and thus would not inherit their family’s wealth. The quest for gold and silver and the lure of adventure prompted these men to lead expeditions to explore or settle new areas. The conquistadors who came to Florida already had participated in conquests in other areas of the Americas. Sometimes, their interactions with native populations were hostile or brutal.

- Print; 64 pages; nonfiction; ages 12 and up
Details about the armor, weaponry, and tactics of Spanish soldiers who came to the New World are described in this book. The long paragraphs and scholarly writing are geared for young adults with a keen interest in the subject or seeking information for a report. The beautiful illustrations may be useful with a younger audience.


- Print; 24 pages; fiction; ages 7 and up
- This is a graphic novel.
This graphic novel follows a timeline from Christopher Columbus to the Spanish in Florida. The book consists of chapters with a question at the top of each page; the answers tell the story of exploration and settlement in North America. This format encourages reluctant readers to read and comprehend.


- Print; 207 pages; nonfiction; ages 14 and up
This scholarly book contains information about Spanish efforts to colonize La Florida as far north as the Carolinas. The author discusses well-known explorers such as Ponce de León, Pánfilo de Narváez, Hernando de Soto, Tristán de Luna, and Juan Pardo.


- Print; 222 pages; nonfiction; ages 12 and up
This collection of essays by historians and anthropologists, written in a readable format with limited use of arcane terms, is suitable for advanced middle and high school students. The book focuses on major expeditions of the early colonial era, especially in Florida, and the associated conditions, influences, and interactions.


- Print; 40 pages; nonfiction; ages 9 and up
- Currently out of print but owned by many Florida libraries
This book explains how contact and the exchange of plants, animals, and world views between Native Americans and Europeans dramatically changed both cultures. For example, it describes Navajo and Plains Indian cultures before and after the introduction of horses, the effects of European diseases, and the conflict over ideas about land ownership.
- Print; 579 pages; nonfiction; ages 14 and up
- Available in Spanish
- Awards: nearly ten outstanding recognitions
This scholarly book covers the history of the Spanish empire in what is now the southern half of the United States from Florida to California. The author avoids bias as he discusses the Spaniards’ interactions with the native populations. The book also covers the topic of North America’s lasting Spanish heritage. This is a good source for a high school level research paper.

- Print; 298 pages; nonfiction; ages 12 and up
This is an abbreviated version of the author’s larger book that is listed above.

**BARTOLOMÉ DE LAS CASAS**

Dominican friar Bartolomé de las Casas was an advocate for enslaved Native Americans, and he publicly criticized their poor treatment at the hands of Spaniards. His activism and writings led to a 1542 decree called the New Laws, which outlawed the abuse and enslavement of the Indians.

- Print; 371 pages; nonfiction; ages 15 and up
(This is a compilation of the author’s well-researched and cited interpretations and translations of Bartolomé de las Casas’s writings.) Through translations of las Casas’s writings, this scholarly book details the atrocities visited on the Native Americans at the hands of Spaniards and his fight for the freedom of the native peoples.
Spaniards Explore La Florida

- Print; 112 pages; nonfiction; ages 9 and up
This book investigates Florida’s colonial history as told by those who lived it, including slaves, Spanish conquistadors, Native Americans, women, and many others. It provides in-depth biographical sketches for many people in colonial Florida.

- Print; 480 pages; nonfiction; ages 14 and up
This scholarly compilation of the work of Florida historians is readable and engaging. The book contains stories and common interpretations of the history of Florida from the Paleoindians to modern day. Due to the book’s length and language, it is recommended for high school students working on a paper or students who are very interested in the subject.

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- Print; 74 pages; nonfiction; ages 8 and up
- Includes an audiobook (CD)
This is an engaging, brief version of Florida history by the state’s preeminent colonial historian. The author reads his book on the audio CD in a lively and easy-to-follow manner. It is an excellent resource for introducing adults and children to the last 500 years of Florida history.

- Print; 64 pages; nonfiction; ages 8 to 12
- Currently out of print but owned by many Florida libraries
- Also available in audiobook format
This book provides an overview of the primary Spanish explorers of Florida. Primary sources are used to illustrate the explorers’ tales. A note of caution: the author presents the Fountain of Youth as a possible motivation for Ponce de León. However, serious historians discount this idea for many reasons, including the fact that the first mention of the myth in documents occurred more than 100 years after de León arrived in Florida.
Juan Ponce de León was the first European to explore Florida with permission from the Spanish crown. However, unrecorded expeditions, probably slave raids, may have occurred before 1513. In 1521, de León returned to southwest Florida to establish a settlement, but a Calusa attack forced the Spaniards to leave. Ponce suffered an arrow wound and later died in Cuba.

- Print; 112 pages; nonfiction; ages 11 and up
- Currently out of print but owned by many Florida libraries

This well-researched book explores and debunks historical myths about Ponce de León, including his fabled search for the Fountain of Youth and whether scholars believed the Earth was flat. It discusses his role as the governor of Puerto Rico and the first recorded European explorer of Florida. Using primary documents, the author places de León in the context of the Age of Exploration, Columbus's voyages to the New World, and the treatment of the Táinó Indians, who inhabited the Greater Antilles.

- Print; 32 pages; nonfiction; ages 9–12

This book discusses the history of Ponce de León, from his life in Europe as a knight to his role as governor of Puerto Rico and discoverer of Florida. It also describes the Táinó and Calusa Indians. It includes a timeline of important events during de León's life and illustrations of places, events, and nautical equipment with explanations.

- Print; 48 pages; nonfiction; ages 11 and up

This book provides a historical context for Juan Ponce de León's life and work as an explorer. It also challenges long-standing myths surrounding de León, such as his purported search for the Fountain of Youth. Well illustrated, this volume includes insets with information about the cultures, important people, and events of the time. A glossary, timeline, maps of de León's expeditions, and suggestions for further reading are also included.

- Print; 87 pages; nonfiction; ages 12 and up
- Currently out of print but owned by many Florida libraries

This is one of the first books to examine the commonly held belief that Ponce de León came to Florida looking for the Fountain of Youth. The author describes his attempt to recreate de León's historic voyage to *La Florida* by sailboat.

- Print; 102 pages; nonfiction; ages 12 and up
- Also available in eBook format
This well-researched biography of the man who became known as the discoverer of Florida is an enjoyable read. It contains pictures of primary sources as the illustrations.

Pánfilo de Narváez

In 1528, Spaniard Pánfilo de Narváez landed with 400 men near Tampa Bay in Tocobaga Indian territory and marched north. This expedition was the first to travel the interior of Florida. It was marked by hardships and ended in failure. The hungry group reached Aute at Apalachee Bay, where, facing starvation, they were forced to eat their horses. They built rafts to sail to Spanish territory in present-day Mexico, but lost many men at sea, including Narváez. Only four men survived the ordeal. The rest were captured or killed by Indians or died from drowning, starvation, or illness.

- Print; 168 pages; fiction; ages 8 and up
- Currently out of print but owned by many Florida libraries
This piece of historical fiction follows the journey of Esteban and Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca from Texas to Mexico through the eyes of a young Native American boy named Chakoh. This is a readable chapter book without pictures to distract one from the story.

- Print; 216 pages; fiction; ages 9 and up
- Currently out of print but owned by many Florida libraries
This book is a fictionalized account of the four survivors of the Narváez expedition: Cabeza de Vaca, two other Spanish captains, and Esteban, a black slave, who was among the first people of African descent to arrive in North America. After a shipwreck on Galveston Island, they wandered the American southwest for eight years before finally reaching Mexico City in New Spain. This is a well-written and exciting book that is illustrated with pen and ink sketches.

Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca

During the 1528 Narváez expedition, Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca was the second in command. He was one of only four known survivors of the expedition. Cabeza de Vaca and the other survivors were marooned near Galveston, Texas, and spent eight years living with natives and later walking through Texas and Mexico before they arrived in Mexico City. Cabeza de Vaca wrote a story about the experience.

- Print; 142 pages; fiction; ages 9 and 14
- Currently out of print but owned by many Florida libraries
This book transforms the life of Cabeza de Vaca into an adventure story. While this exciting tale draws the reader into the story, it also shows how his views were transformed from perceiving American
Indians as savages to the realization that they were fully human. This story discusses how his capture by Native Americans led to his deeper understanding of their cultures, a rejection of his prejudices, and his decision to be a champion for them.


- Print; 103 pages; nonfiction; ages 14 and up
- Also available in audiobook and eBook format

This edited translation of Cabeza de Vaca’s recollections allows us to read about his fascinating journey from his perspective. This is a very readable translation and a wonderful resource for students writing about the Narváez expedition.


- Print; 48 pages; fiction; ages 8 to 12

This book tells the story of Cabeza de Vaca, who sailed with the Narváez expedition to Florida. De Vaca lived with Native Americans for eight years, during which time he came to respect and understand them, and afterwards, he became an advocate for them. This book is a good introduction for young readers to the history of the Age of Exploration and the conflicts that arose when the Old World met the New World.

**ESTEBAN (AKA ESTEVAN, ESTEVANICO) DORANTES**

Esteban, a free black explorer, was one of four survivors of the Narváez expedition. He and the other survivors traveled together to look for a Spanish settlement. Esteban was the negotiator and interpreter when the group encountered native tribes.


- Print; 122 pages; fiction; ages 12 and up
- Currently out of print but owned by many Florida libraries

This fictionalized biography of Esteban tells of his life from the beginning of the Narváez expedition to the dramatic end of his life. The author’s engaging style makes this book an enjoyable read.

**JUAN ORTIZ**

Juan Ortiz was associated with the doomed Narváez expedition in 1528. He was captured by the Uzita Indians and was nearly roasted alive, but was saved by pleas of the chief’s daughter, Acuera, and other female relatives. He lived among Native Americans for several years. He was freed in 1539 by the Hernando de Soto expedition and became its official interpreter. He died two years later, shortly after crossing the Mississippi River into modern Arkansas.


- Print; 184 pages; fiction; ages 12 and up
Currently out of print but owned by many Florida libraries
This book is a fictionalized account of Juan Ortiz's experiences in Florida, including his time with the Narváez expedition, the Uzita and Mocoso Indians, and the de Soto expedition. The author alternates fictional chapters that tell Ortiz's story and related, nonfiction interlude chapters. Steele lists four primary sources for Ortiz in the New World.

**HERNANDO DE SOTO**

Rumors of gold persuaded Hernando de Soto to come to *La Florida*. He personally financed the large expedition of more than 600 people. Soldiers, priests, tradesmen, two Spanish women, free blacks, and enslaved blacks and Indians were among the group. The expedition brought horses, pigs, dogs, and supplies for eighteen months. The four-year journey covered thousands of miles.

- Print; 160 pages; fiction; ages 11 to 14
  This work of fiction tells the story of Cochula, who was enslaved by de Soto and his conquistadors on their journey through the modern-day southeastern United States. Although the story begins after de Soto has left Florida, it is an interesting tale of the experiences of Native Americans during this time period.

- Print; 128 pages; nonfiction; ages 9 to 12
  Currently out of print but owned by many Florida libraries
  This well-researched and easy-to-read biography of Hernando de Soto begins with his birth in Spain and moves on to his exploits in South America, his exploration of the southeastern United States, and his death in Arkansas. The book has a glossary, timeline, bibliography, index, and many illustrations. It is a great source for a young person's research paper.

- Print; 112 pages; nonfiction; ages 10 and up
  This book discusses de Soto's early career, his exploration of the Southeast, and the effects of the expedition. While the book includes a lot of the history, it has few illustrations. It may be best suited for middle school children working on a project.

- Print; 112 pages; nonfiction; ages 9 and up
- Currently out of print but owned by many Florida libraries

This book about Hernando de Soto covers his career as a soldier and explorer, focusing on his exploration of the southeastern United States, which began in Tampa Bay and ended with his death in Arkansas. The book is written in a straightforward style and contains a glossary.


- Print; 144 pages; fiction; ages 14 and up

This fictionalized account of Hernando de Soto’s exploration of the southeastern United States is based on the actual writings of Rodrigo Rangel, de Soto’s personal secretary. It is written from Rangel’s point of view and describes how Rangel met de Soto in Spain, the expedition, and de Soto’s death.


- Print; 48 pages; nonfiction; ages 10 to 14

This book is a biographical account of Hernando de Soto’s early life, his exploration of the Southeast, and the impact that this had on Native American populations. It is heavily illustrated and easy to read. Although unbiased, it presents a sanitized version of events that makes it more suitable for young readers.


- Print; 292 pages; nonfiction; ages 14 and up

This book combines firsthand accounts by members of de Soto’s team with archaeological information to trace the expedition through Florida. The authors use this evidence to take a fresh look at the Native American tribes that Spaniards encountered along their journey.


- Print; 112 pages; nonfiction; ages 9 and up

Written in a clear and engaging style, this book is a thoroughly researched and accurate account of de Soto’s life and explorations. The narrative draws the reader into the time period and explains how de Soto’s violence and ruthlessness were a product of his culture and experience.
Pedro Menéndez de Avilés

Pedro Menéndez de Avilés was a brilliant Spanish mariner who founded St. Augustine in 1565. He was sent to Florida to destroy a colony established by French Huguenots near modern-day Jacksonville. He defeated the French and, while serving as the first governor of Spanish Florida, established numerous outposts along the Atlantic coast. One of Menéndez’s goals was to spread Catholicism to the Indians.


- Print; 161 pages; nonfiction; ages 14 and up
This is the first English translation of Bartolomé Barrientos’s 1567 biography of Pedro Menéndez de Avilés. Translator Anthony Kerrigan provides an interesting introduction to the book that analyzes the histories and characters of both Barrientos and Menéndez. The book is useful for a high school student writing a research paper.


- Print; 107 pages; nonfiction; ages 14 and up
This biography of Pedro Menéndez de Avilés, founder of St. Augustine, describes Menéndez’s career from his beginnings as a talented warrior to his colonization of Florida. It is illustrated with maps and depictions of scenes from Menéndez’s life. The book would be a good source for a research paper for a high school student.


- Print; 48 pages; nonfiction; ages 8 and up
This is one of the few children’s books written about the founder of St. Augustine, Pedro Menéndez de Avilés. The author attempts to describe the controversies surrounding Menéndez, such as his slaughter of the French at Fort Caroline and Matanzas Bay. There are a few factual errors, such as an illustration of Ponce de León captured by Native Americans and an understatement of the French response to Fort Caroline. However, these do not detract too much from the overview about Menéndez.
**First Encounters: Native Americans and Europeans**

When Europeans arrived in the New World, they encountered the Taíno Indians, who inhabited the northern islands of the Caribbean, including the Bahamas and the Greater Antilles. The Carib Indians inhabited the Lesser Antilles. Both populations had migrated northward from South America along the Caribbean island chain well before the arrival of Europeans. Historians and archaeologists believe that the Taínos were a relatively peaceful population, while the Caribs were more aggressive. Because the Taínos lived in areas initially explored and settled by Europeans, they were the first native peoples to be affected by European demands to provide labor, accept Catholicism, and submit to the authority of Spanish crown.

- Print; 74 pages; fiction; ages 9 to 12
- Also available in audiobook format

Morning Girl and her brother Star Boy are native children growing up on an idyllic island in the Caribbean. The story focuses primarily on life for the Taíno people before Columbus, although it does briefly introduce the explorer’s arrival toward the end of the book.

- Print; 107 pages; nonfiction; ages 9 to 12
- Currently out of print but owned by many Florida libraries

This book tells the history of the Taíno people, from their early origins to their near-destruction at the hands of Spanish explorers and colonists.

- Print; 32 pages; fiction; ages 6 to 12
- Also available in Kindle eBook format

This vividly illustrated book tells the story of Columbus’s arrival through the eyes of a young Taíno boy and how this event changed the Taíno people forever.

**Native Americans of Florida and the Southeast**

Perhaps 350,000 to one million American Indian people lived in Florida in the early 1500s. These people shared some characteristics, such as how their societies were organized, their basic spiritual beliefs, and their participation in trade. In other ways, they were different. They spoke many different languages, ate different foods, and had varying levels of political complexity. Florida’s native people were impacted severely by European colonization beginning in the 1500s. By the late 1700s, some native cultures had perished, while others merged with newly arrived Indians and non-Indian people or migrated elsewhere. All natives experienced major changes in their traditional ways of life.

- Print; 125 pages; nonfiction; ages 9 to 12
- The illustrations in this book highlight the lifestyles of Native Americans prior to their exposure to conquistadors and settlers. The author includes a brief synopsis of what happened to these populations after the arrival of Europeans.


- Print; 34 pages; nonfiction; ages 9 to 12
- Currently out of print but owned by many Florida libraries
- This brightly illustrated book describes the prehistory and colonial history of Florida, with chapters focusing on first contact, early explorers, and early settlements.


- Print; 48 pages; nonfiction; ages 12 and up
- Currently out of print but owned by many Florida libraries
- A brief overview of Native Americans in the Southeast, this book focuses primarily on events following Spanish and French settlement. It is best suited for older or very motivated readers because of the long sentence construction and lengthy paragraphs; however, some of the beautiful illustrations could be used with lessons for younger children.


- Print; 48 pages; nonfiction; ages 9 to 12
- This is a comprehensive book about Native Americans in Florida. It begins with Florida’s first people and continues to the present. The history of native populations is placed in context with maps and illustrations.


- Print; 194 pages; nonfiction; ages 10 and up
- A separate teacher’s manual is available.
- This well-illustrated book provides an overview of the history of native peoples in Florida. It is divided into three sections that explore basic concepts such as archaeology, language, and reservations; time periods, from Paleoindian to the 20th century; and specific Florida tribes. It also includes a Native American Heritage Trail of archaeological and historic sites.


- Print; 96 pages; nonfiction; ages 8 to 14
- Currently out of print but owned by many Florida libraries
- This illustrated book presents an overview of Native Americans of the southeastern United States. It covers daily life, agriculture, architecture, ritual, and the history of native peoples into the 20th century.

An excellent resource for the history of Native Americans, this book clearly describes the interaction between explorers and native populations and the resulting impact. Younger readers may find the timeline running along the bottom of the pages and the fabulous illustrations to be of more interest than the detailed explanations.


- **Print; 80 pages; nonfiction; ages 9 to 11**
- **Currently out of print but owned by many Florida libraries**

This guide to arrowheads and spear points includes illustrations of the different types of points, such as Clovis, Sandia, and Folsom. It also discusses flint knapping and other techniques used to create arrowheads and points. The author includes the historical context of the arrowheads and points, including how Native Americans used them to hunt for game.


- **Print; 228 pages; fiction/nonfiction; ages 9 and up**

Following the story of a Timucuan boy, Tenerife, as he travels across Florida, this book describes the daily life of Indians in Florida. Along his journey, Tenerife meets members of the Calusa and Apalachee tribes. The fictionalized account is interwoven with factual chapters that include maps and archaeological evidence about native tribes and glossary words in bold.

**The Calusa**

The Calusa Indians were the dominant people in southwest Florida when Juan Ponce de León visited the region in 1513. Their capital, a village with mounds and canals, was located on Mound Key. The Calusa were the most populous, politically complex, and influential of the south Florida native groups. They lived in a structured society where the chief, his family, and other elites held the highest rank. Beneath them were commoners and slaves. Some slaves were Spaniards captured from shipwrecks.
- Print; 183 pages; nonfiction; ages 12 and up
This book begins with an in-depth look at the ecosystems that enabled the Calusa to thrive, including mudflats, sea grass beds, and mangrove forests. Although the Calusa disappeared in the 1700s, their fishing traditions survive among the modern coastal dwellers, including the Seminole and Miccosukee. The authors emphasize the need to protect the estuarine ecosystems that were so important to the Calusa from overdevelopment and environmental degradation.

**THE TIMUCUA**

At least twenty-five tribes, such as the Potano, Ocale, and Saturiwa, occupied the St. Johns region. Although they spoke dialects of the Timucua language and shared other cultural traits, they were not a single unified group. In fact, some groups occasionally engaged in warfare with each other.

- Print; 151 pages; nonfiction; ages 7 to 12
This is an interactive detective book about the history of the Timucua Indians. Readers are challenged to solve more than forty mysteries dealing with different aspects of Timucuan life.

**Settlements and Forts**

*La Florida* has a long history of forts and settlements, beginning with the doomed settlement attempts of Tristan de Luna in Pensacola in 1559 and the Spanish destruction of France’s Fort Caroline at the mouth of the St. Johns River in 1564. The founding of St. Augustine in 1565 created the first permanent settlement in *La Florida*.

- Print; 64 pages; nonfiction; ages 12 and up
This book is about Spain’s defense network in southern North America from Florida to California. The book emphasizes the use of different building materials by region and provides detailed drawings and photographs of these structures. This is a good source for anyone interested in Spain’s New World military strategy.
**Fort Caroline**

In 1564, René de Laudonnière established a settlement and fort near the mouth of the St. Johns River. Several Timucua-speaking groups such as the Utina and Saturiwa initially helped the French colonists. Over time, the settlement known as Fort Caroline began to suffer as food stocks dwindled and new provisions failed to arrive from France. The fort was destroyed and most occupants killed during a raid by Pedro Menéndez de Avilés.


- Print; 191 pages; nonfiction; ages 14 and up
  
  The first part of this book is a well-researched history of the French colony of Fort Caroline. In the second part of the book, author Charles Bennett provides translations of French and Spanish letters and other historical documents.


- Print; 232 pages; nonfiction; ages 14 and up
  
  This is Charles Bennett's translation of René Laudonnière's diary, which describes two of France's attempts to colonize America (Charlesport and Fort Caroline) and his role in those efforts. The book is recommended for young adults who either have a strong interest in this subject or are writing an AP paper.

**Fort Mose and African American Life**

In 1739, more than 100 people who had escaped from slavery in English colonies in the Carolinas resided in St. Augustine. The Spanish governor of Florida granted permission to establish a new town and fort about two miles north of the city. The settlement was named Gracia Real de Santa Teresa de Mose but referred to as Fort Mose (MO-say). Over the next twenty-five years, Fort Mose and St. Augustine became a haven for Africans seeking liberation from English slavery.


- Print; 54 pages; nonfiction; ages 12 and up
  
  This highly detailed, illustrated work discusses Fort Mose, the first free black community in North America. The authors cover African cultural origins, the origins of African slavery in Europe, and other background material before discussing the foundation of Fort Mose, the history of its people and their daily lives, and the archaeology of the site. The book includes detailed historical engravings, photographs, maps, and diagrams.


- Print; 302 pages; fiction; ages 12 and up
- Also available in large print and audiobook format
This is the fictional tale of Amari, a fifteen-year-old Ashanti slave, and Polly, an indentured servant. After living with the brutality and degradation of life on a southern plantation, a brutal act by the master leads them to run away to Fort Mose.

- Print; 396 pages; nonfiction; ages 15 and up
This scholarly work looks at the complex life of African Americans in Spanish colonial Florida. The Spanish tradition of integration and assimilation provided many former slaves with opportunities that were unheard of elsewhere in the South.

- Print; 42 pages; nonfiction; ages 8 to 11
- Awards: Booklist Editors' Choice Books for Youth
Author Glennette Tilley Turner has written a comprehensive book about Fort Mose, the first free black settlement in America, and Francisco Menendez, an African slave who was appointed by the Spanish governor to be a militia commander. The book follows his life from his birth into the Mandingo tribe, capture, and enslavement in South Carolina, battles with Native Americans in the Yamasee War, and finally his arrival at Fort Mose, where he successfully petitioned for his freedom. By providing details about Menendez, such as his fluency in several languages, the story humanizes colonial slaves. The book contains many archival photos.

**PENSACOLA**

Despite previous failures, the Spanish Crown still wished to settle *La Florida* because it needed outposts to protect shipping. Tristán de Luna y Arellano was charged with establishing three colonies in *La Florida*. Luna’s fleet of eleven ships left Vera Cruz, Mexico, in 1559, carrying 1,500 people, food, livestock, and supplies. The expedition landed at Ochuse (modern Pensacola). Five weeks later, a hurricane destroyed seven ships, all of which were still loaded with food and supplies. This loss dealt such a blow that the colony never took root and survived only two years. The remaining settlers returned to Mexico.

- Print; 494 pages; nonfiction; ages 14 and up
This book is an anthology of articles by historians and archaeologists on the permanent founding of Pensacola in 1698 and the hardships and struggles that ensued. The book would be useful to a student writing a research paper as it contains some hard-to-find materials.

- Print; 185 pages; nonfiction; ages 10 and up
This book is an easy-to-read history of Pensacola from the first European settlement attempt in 1559 to the end of the second Spanish period in 1821. Based on archaeological and historical research, the narrative is illustrated with many large colorful photos and map reproductions.

- Print; 174 pages; nonfiction; ages 12 and up
- Currently out of print but owned by many Florida libraries

This is a compilation of scholarly articles written by historians and archaeologists about the First Spanish Period in Pensacola. The book is suited for high school students who are writing a research paper.

**SPANISH MISSIONS**

Converting native peoples to Catholicism was an integral part of the Spanish colonization strategy. Missions proved to be an effective way to control and influence natives. They also provided a source of support for the capital in St. Augustine, which was strategically important for protecting Spanish treasure fleets returning to Spain along the Florida coast. Mission San Luis in Apalachee Province was critical for Spanish control of the Southeast. Fertile land and abundant population enabled the mission to provide provisions and labor.

- Print; 48 pages; nonfiction; ages 9 to 12

This book provides an excellent overview of the Spanish Catholic presence in the modern United States. It describes the general layout of the missions, their differing architectural styles by region, and is illustrated with the author’s photographs of mission sites across the U.S.

- Print; 194 pages; nonfiction; ages 12 and up

This book brings to life the Apalachee Indians of northwest Florida and the Spanish mission of San Luis. Based on archaeological and historical records, this book is well-researched and easy to read. It is also filled with artwork recreating scenes from everyday life at the mission.

**Stone, Lynn M. Missions.** Vero Beach, Fla.: Rourke Publications, 1993.
- Print; 32 pages; nonfiction; ages 9 to 12
- Currently out of print but owned by many Florida libraries

This book briefly introduces the Spanish mission system to children. It explains the political and religious significance of the system as well as the military implications.

- Print; 48 pages; nonfiction; ages 9 to 12

This book is a wonderful overview of the Spanish mission system in Florida. It includes descriptions of Spanish colonial and Native American cultures, how both cultures cooperated and were in conflict with one another, and the lasting impact of the 150 years of the Spanish mission system.
St. Augustine

St. Augustine, the oldest continuously occupied European city in the United States, was founded in 1565 by Spanish explorer and mariner Pedro Menéndez de Avilés. This was an ideal location for Spaniards to oversee the protection of the treasure fleets that sailed up the Gulf Stream before crossing the Atlantic. St. Augustine also guarded La Florida against incursions by the French and English. Spain ruled La Florida for the next 200 years until handing it over to the British in 1763. British rule only lasted for twenty years, and Spain again held Florida until it was ceded to the United States in 1821.

- Print; 32 pages; nonfiction; ages 7 to 12
  This book is an illustrated introduction to St. Augustine and its history. This is a good choice for younger readers.

- Print; 96 pages; nonfiction; ages 8 and up
  This is more of a guide book to St. Augustine. It contains brief descriptions of each of the structures and sites of St. Augustine. It might be useful to use before a visit.

- Print; 114 pages; fiction; ages 12 and up
- Also available in eBook format
  We follow Luissa, Diego, and Junco as they seek refuge at Castillo de San Marcos during the British siege of 1702. This engaging tale brings the history to life for the reader.

- Print; 24 pages; nonfiction; ages 8 to 12
- Currently out of print but owned by many Florida libraries
  This book is a concise history of the building of Castillo de San Marcos and its use as a fort and a prison under four different flags. While there are some archival pictures, the book is primarily illustrated with large beautiful photographs of modern-day Castillo de San Marcos.

- Print; 104 pages; nonfiction; ages 12 and up
  This book is a vivid retelling of Spain’s early failed attempts to establish colonies in the Americas before the founding of St. Augustine by Pedro Menéndez de Avilés in 1565. The story is well-researched, based on modern scholarship, and is written in an engaging manner that draws the reader into the story.

- Print; 72 pages; nonfiction; ages 9 to 12
- Currently out of print but owned by many Florida libraries
  This book covers the history of St. Augustine from its founding in 1565 to the present day. This look at the city’s history also explores much of the history of Florida and the United States. While it covers
Arms, Armor, and Weapons

Explorers and their armies wore protective clothing and headwear and carried weapons for fighting. Although some officers may have had suits of metal plate armor, common soldiers wore a chain mail shirt and thick cotton armor. Weapons consisted of the crossbow, sword, halberd, and arquebus. Horses and war dogs were used as well.


- Print; 40 pages; nonfiction; ages 9 and up
- Currently out of print but owned by many Florida libraries

This monochrome pamphlet contains illustrations of the clothing, guns, and swords of the conquistadors and soldiers from Spain. It would make a wonderful addition to a lesson or report about conquistadors.

Colonial Life

Florida was a Spanish colony from Ponce de León’s arrival in 1513 until it was transferred to British control due to the 1763 Treaty of Paris. It returned to Spanish control in 1783 after England’s defeat in the Revolutionary War. In 1803, the United States claimed West Florida as part of the Louisiana Purchase. By 1821, Spanish control in the region had diminished, and Florida was ceded to the U.S. The period between 1513 and 1821 is considered the time of Colonial Florida.


- Print; 97 pages; fiction; ages 8 to 12

This fictional adventure story follows a brother and sister against the historical background of the War of 1812 and the American incursions into Spanish Florida. It includes a reader’s guide with discussion questions and essay projects for students.
- Print; 48 pages; nonfiction; ages 7 and up
  This book begins with a discussion of Spain as a powerful European empire and compares it to Florida prior to contact. It describes the first contact between Timucua Indians and Spanish settlers of St. Augustine and the first feast of thanksgiving that Spaniards held after landing in Florida.

- Print; 32 pages; nonfiction; ages 8 to 12
- Also available in audiobook format
  This book discusses how skilled craftspeople made products before the advent of factories. There are many photographs of people practicing colonial crafts such as blacksmithing and papermaking. It is an ideal book to accompany a living history program.

- Print; 204 pages; nonfiction; ages 14 and up
  This is an interesting and well-researched interpretation of the influence of Florida in the American Revolution. The effects of the 1763 Treaty of Paris, the British retreat from Pensacola and West Florida in 1781, and the return of the Spanish rule are major points of this book.

- Print; 177 pages; nonfiction; ages 14 and up
  This extensively researched biography of Anna Madgigine Jai Kingsley is a fascinating account of a woman who was born free in Africa, became a slave in Florida, married her owner, became a plantation slaveowner, and ruled as the matriarch of her family. By following the history of Anna’s life, one learns about the history of race relations in 1800s Florida under both Spanish and American rule.

**Maps and Mapmaking**

After the fall of Constantinople and the advent of the printing press, Ptolemy’s world map, created before A.D. 200, was widely distributed in the 1400s and gave resurgence to the art and science of mapmaking. With the New World discoveries by Columbus and others, newer maps recorded the history of these explorations.
Breakthroughs in navigation, ship building, astronomy, and other technologies made maps more accurate. Although there were still unexplored areas, which were filled in with mapmakers’ fanciful and elaborate designs, maps from the Age of Discovery are collectable for their artistic and historical value.

- Print; 48 pages; nonfiction; ages 9 to 13
  This book teaches basic map skills and navigation and covers the history of navigation through time, beginning with astrolabes and sextants to modern GPS systems and radar. It contains several activities, a glossary, an index for further reading, and online resources. It is a great resource for studying the Age of Exploration and applied map, math, and geometry skills.

- Print; 32 pages; nonfiction; ages 8 to 12
  Currently out of print but owned by many Florida libraries
  This illustrated book is a brief history of maps and mapmaking, from the oldest Babylonian world map to satellite-based maps of the Earth. The maps it contains would make a fantastic addition to a class presentation by a teacher or student.

- Print; 132 pages; nonfiction; ages 10 to 14
  Also available in eBook format.
  This wonderfully illustrated book is a detailed introduction of the history of mapmaking, from its earliest beginnings in Ancient Greece to the present, and discusses how technology has affected our understanding of the world. It includes maps and diagrams and has twenty-one hands-on activities that immerse students into the study of mapmaking and geography.

- Print; 136 pages; nonfiction; ages 14 and up
- Currently out of print but owned by many Florida libraries
  A brief introduction of the earliest types of navigation is followed by a discussion of the history of sea maps. The beautiful pictures of primary source maps range from the earliest surviving sea map from the late 13th century through the Age of Discovery and up to the more modern satellite imaging.

- Print; 264 pages; nonfiction; ages 10 and up
- Currently out of print but owned by many Florida libraries
This beautifully illustrated book sets out to place early maps in the context of the time and place in which they were created and used. The only word of caution is that the author claims on page 76 that Ponce de León was motivated to find Bimini (La Florida) because of the Fountain of Youth, which currently is not the accepted view.

- Print; 128 pages; nonfiction; ages 9 to 14
- Currently out of print but owned by many Florida libraries
This book covers more than just geographical maps; it also includes maps of brain scans, the Universe, weather patterns, and imaginary places. Insets include biographical information about and interviews with mapmakers. It includes a list of books and websites for further research.

**Navigation**

Ship pilots of the 1500s had few tools to help them navigate unfamiliar waters. Pilots had to be familiar with astronomy, maps, math, physics, and seamanship to direct the ship successfully. Shifting winds and currents, and sometimes hurricanes, made navigation difficult.

- Print; 92 pages; Nonfiction; ages 10 and up
- Also in French, German, Italian, and Spanish
- Currently out of print but owned by many Florida libraries
This book presents a history of navigation through time and across cultures. It discusses peoples’ motivations for exploration and the technologies that allowed them to cross new boundaries. The book has many quality illustrations.

- Print; 156 pages; nonfiction; ages 8 and up
This excellent, well-illustrated book covers the history of exploration and navigation, including famous explorers and expeditions, and explains the technology used. It takes a
hands-on approach to navigation and includes activities and experiments for children, such as making a compass and working with maps.

- Print; 30 pages; nonfiction; ages 7 to 12
- Currently out of print but owned by many Florida libraries
This well-illustrated book is a good introduction for young children to the history and development of maps and navigational instruments from antiquity to the present day.

- Print; 192 pages; nonfiction; ages 12 and up
This book, written by a captain with years of sailing experience, is a detailed account of navigation from its earliest origins to the present. Filled with examples and illustrations, this is an excellent resource for a high school student who is writing a report about navigation.

- Print; 89 pages; nonfiction; ages 9 and up
This is a richly illustrated book that takes young readers through the history of maps and navigation. It includes explanations of early maps, biographies of mapmakers, and detailed information about mapmaking and navigational tools.

**Ships and Ship Building**

Many ships came to *La Florida* during the colonial period. The common ship types of the day were caravels, naos (pronounced “nows”), and galleons.

**Note about the Santa Maria:** Although some authors may refer to Columbus’s ship *Santa Maria* as a carrack or a caravel, the explorer’s preeminent biographer, Samuel Eliot Morison, believes that it was a nao. Naos were the minivan of the era and were used primarily for transporting goods.

- Print; 48 pages; nonfiction; ages 10 to 14
- Currently out of print but owned by many Florida libraries
This book begins with a history of ship building in Colonial America, including the names and types of ships that the colonists built and the towns that were centers of the shipbuilding industry. The second half of the book is a highly technical description of the methods, materials, and tools the colonists used to build ships. It is illustrated with detailed technical illustrations.

- Print; 188 pages; nonfiction; ages 14 and up
- Currently out of print with limited ability via Interlibrary Loan

Using a mixture of primary documents and archaeology, the authors seek to piece together the development and use of these early sailing ships. This is a scholarly work but contains many beautiful illustrations that may be helpful in explaining caravels and galleons to older elementary or middle school children.


- Print; 48 pages; nonfiction; ages 12 and up

This beautifully illustrated book contains an incredible amount of information about galleons. Galleons were famously used by the Spanish to transport their riches from the New World back to Spain. This would be a great resource for writing a report.


- Print; 85 pages; nonfiction; ages 8 and up

This book tells about the history of travel and ship building from 340 B.C. Greece to the Apollo 11 moon landing. To accompany Stewart Ross’s stories, artist Stephen Biesty has created wonderful fold-out illustrations of ships, planes, and rockets with detailed cut-away diagrams.


- Print; 74 pages; nonfiction; ages 14 and up
- Available in eBook format

Have you ever wondered where the sailors went to the bathroom on those beautiful ships of the explorers? Worry no more; this book explores the sanitary conditions aboard boats and clears up such mysteries as why toilets are called “heads” on ships. This book is a scholarly work but the topic may inspire children to read at a higher level.


- Print; 314 pages; nonfiction; ages 15 and up
- Currently out of print but owned by many Florida libraries

Inside these pages the reader is able to see what underwater archaeologists really do. This is a scholarly work and probably is best suited for young adults who have a deep interest in the subject or AP students working on a research paper.
Shipwrecks are central to the story of Florida’s discovery and colonization. The route of the Spanish treasure ships, called the Plate Fleet, carried vessels up the east coast of Florida via the speedy but treacherous Gulf Stream. Three major fleet disasters occurred in 1622, 1715, and 1733 due to hurricanes that caused many ships to sink. Tristán de Luna’s effort to create the first settlement in 1559 was doomed when a hurricane sank most of his ships and supplies within a month of arriving in Pensacola Bay.

- Print; 127 pages; nonfiction; ages 10 and up
  This book, which is part of the Images of America series, is filled with photographs of actual shipwrecks and recovered Spanish treasure. It includes shipwrecks that occurred in Florida coastal waters and inland waterways.

- Print; 272 pages; nonfiction; ages 14 and up
  This is a college-level textbook written by marine archaeologists. It tells the history of America through ships and shipwrecks, beginning with Native American canoes to the steamboat era. The book has more than 376 illustrations, including photographs, maps, diagrams, and paintings. It is suggested for older children with a deep interest in this topic or teachers seeking illustrations to highlight lessons.

- Print; 175 pages; nonfiction; ages 10 and up
  - Currently out of print but owned by many Florida libraries
  This colorful book with more than 204 illustrations covers the evolution of underwater archaeology. Beginning with a 1623 sketch of an imaginary diving suit to the most modern technology, the book conveys both the excitement and complexities of underwater archaeology.

- Print; 195 pages; nonfiction; ages 12 and up
- Currently out of print but owned by many Florida libraries

In 1715, a Spanish treasure fleet sank in a hurricane off the east coast of Florida. This is the paramount book on the discovery of these ships. The wrecks were uncovered in the early 1960s and salvaged by treasure hunters using standards and technology of that time period.


- Print; 120 pages; nonfiction; ages 9 and up
- Currently out of print but owned by many Florida libraries

This book is rich in pictures and illustrations. It contains a chapter on the Spanish Treasure Galleons. It does romanticize treasure hunting a bit and should be used in the context of a larger discussion.


- Print; 184 pages; nonfiction; ages 12 and up

This excellent resource tells about Spanish Plate Fleet shipwrecks that have been found. It includes information about the large fleet wrecks of 1622, 1715, and 1733 as well as information about four individual shipwrecks.


- Print; 96 pages; fiction; ages 8 and up
- Available in eBook format; print only available via Interlibrary Loan

This tale begins with the discovery of the remains of the fictitious ship *Magdalena* off a reef in the Bahamas. What follows is an engaging demonstration of how archaeologists, historians, and scientists piece together the story of the *Magdalena*.


- Print; 128 pages; nonfiction; ages 10 and up

This is a brief introduction to some of the shipwrecks that have occurred in the waters off Florida’s coasts. It includes several of the Plate Fleet wrecks.


- Print; 192 pages; nonfiction; ages 12 and up
- Currently out of print but owned by many Florida libraries

Written by Keith Muckelroy, a pioneer of maritime archaeology, this book surveys shipwrecks from around the world. It describes the history of shipping and trade and the development of techniques for excavating, interpreting, and preserving underwater archaeological evidence.
- Print; 64 pages; nonfiction; ages 7 to 12
This highly illustrated and colorful book contains basic information about the history of the first boats up to the most modern boats. To the delight of children, several projects are described that illustrate the importance of such things as steering, stability, and how to make a boat float.

- Print; 64 pages; nonfiction; ages 7 to 12
This is an excellent introduction to underwater archaeology and the study of shipwrecks. Beginning with a personal account of diving at a shipwreck site, the book describes the work that goes into exploring shipwrecks, recovering and preserving artifacts, researching records and other written material, the technology used, and site preservation. Illustrated with photographs, it also includes a glossary of terms and a list of books and websites for further research.

- Print; 64 pages; nonfiction; ages 7 to 12
This book tells the story of the shipwrecks of the early explorers, from the Age of Exploration to the 19th- and 20th-century Arctic and Antarctic expeditions. It draws in the reader by showing how underwater archaeology and research help to reconstruct the story of each vessel, including those of Christopher Columbus, Rene-Robert de La Salle, and Sir John Franklin. Illustrated with portraits and photographs, it also includes a glossary and a list of books and websites.

- Print; 45 pages; nonfiction; ages 10 and up
This maritime atlas is an introduction to the maritime history of Florida, from Native American dugout canoes to present-day maritime travel and industry. It includes maps of harbors, hurricane strikes, ports, wind and ocean currents, and shipwrecks.

- Print; 36 pages; fiction; ages 6 to 10
This book has objects hidden in the illustrations for the reader to find. Most children should enjoy this book, and it can be used to start a dialogue about shipwrecks, treasure hunting, and underwater archaeology.
Trade, Pirating, and Privateering

From the 1500s to the 1700s, a three-way race for dominance existed in the New World. Spanish treasure fleets were attractive targets for English privateers. During the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, England had an unofficial policy of attacking the Spanish shipping as a way of weakening them. In addition, individual pirates who only sought personal gain attacked fleets indiscriminately, without regard to the nationality of the ships. Although Spain forbade her colonies from trading with other countries, her colonies were not always well supplied. Pensacola traded with the French colony of Mobile, and St. Augustine traded silver, gold, and Florida oranges with the British and the Americans. This trade was illicit but profitable for all parties involved.

- Print; 63 pages; nonfiction; ages 8 to 12
- Currently out of print but owned by many Florida libraries

This book is a biographical sketch of Sir Francis Drake with details of his early life, his exploits in the New World, his geographical studies, and the role he played in England’s war against Spain. It includes a glossary, index, chronology of his life, and suggestions for further reading.

- Print; 99 pages; nonfiction; ages 14 and up

This is a detailed analysis of the often-clandestine trade between Spanish Florida and the English colonies during the mid-18th century, including the role of privateers in supplying St. Augustine and economically benefiting both the Spanish and the English. It is a scholarly book that is suited as a source for a high school research paper.

- Print; 80 pages; nonfiction; ages 10 and up

This book is a well-researched and detailed description of Sir Francis Drake’s 1585–86 expedition to inflict damage on Spanish trade ships and the Spanish economy before its attack on England. It
contains illustrations and maps showing Drake’s maneuvers at Santiago, Santo Domingo, and Cartagena.

- Print; 96 pages; nonfiction; ages 10 and up
This book details the life and exploits of twenty different Florida pirates beginning with the 1500s and attacks on Spanish St. Augustine to the present-day drug smugglers. The book has beautiful full-page illustrations by painter William L. Trotter.

- Print; 86 pages; nonfiction; ages 11 and up
- Currently out of print but owned by many Florida libraries
This well-researched, illustrated book presents a realistic view of pirates and their criminal activities from antiquity to the present. It includes several portraits of famous pirates such as Blackbeard and Captain Kidd. Some descriptions of pirate activity are graphic and may not be suitable for some children.

- Print; 128 pages; nonfiction; ages 9 to 15
This easy-to-read book tries to present an even-handed view of Sir Francis Drake. It covers his major accomplishments, such as his defeat of the Spanish Armada and his circumnavigation of the world, but it also discusses the darker side of his career as a pirate and slave trader.

- Print; 32 pages; nonfiction; ages 7 and up
This illustrated book tells what it was like to sail with Sir Francis Drake. The reader is placed in the role of the young chaplain, Francis Fletcher. This book conveys history with a sense of humor and excitement. It also provides expert tips along the way, such as what to do about scurvy or acne while at sea.