

A Clash of Cultures

SPANISH ARRIVAL LESSON 2



Here in Florida we know the name Juan Ponce de León well, because he is credited with being the first Spanish explorer to land on and name the peninsula. Following his 1513 expedition, many others followed. Between 1513 and 1566, 32 explorers led 146 ships and 10,000 soldiers in efforts to extend the Spanish empire into Florida.

These explorers have been called *conquistadors*, because they sought to conquer lands for the Spanish crown. They came with the mission of claiming an area — and its people and resources — for the Spanish crown. Of course, thousands of indigenous people were already living in Florida, and it's not surprising that they did not welcome these invaders into their home.

History AT HOME

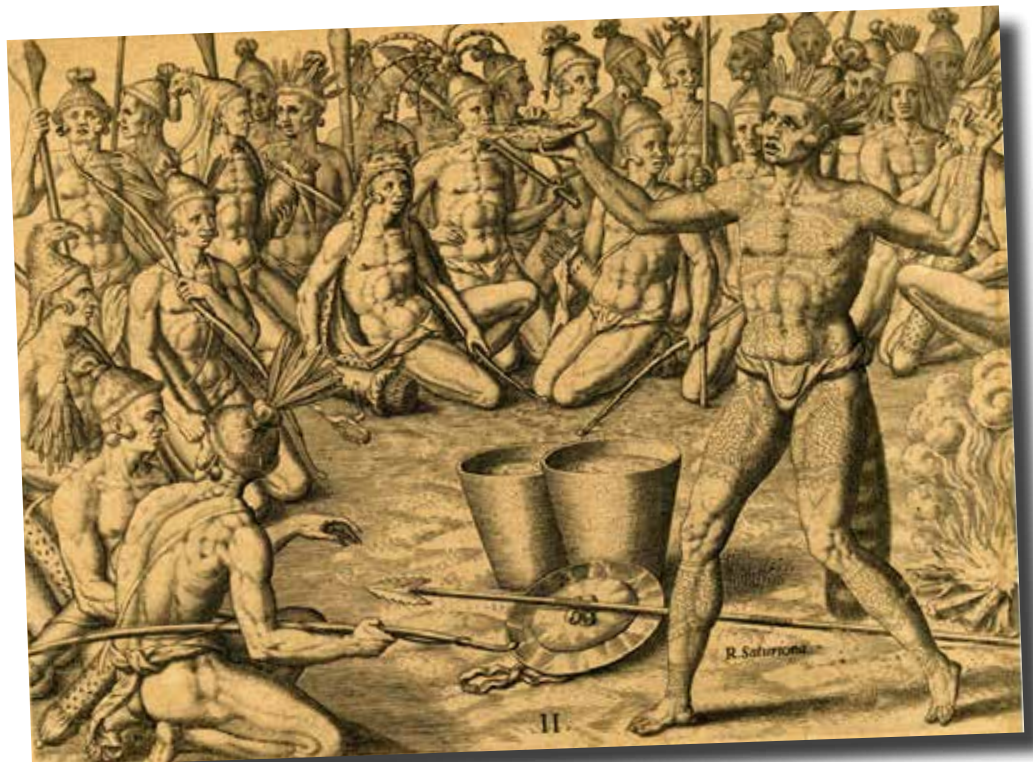
ORANGE COUNTY REGIONAL
**HISTORY
CENTER**

DOWNTOWN ORLANDO

TheHistoryCenter.Org

The Timucua who lived here in Central Florida had the most frequent and longest-lasting encounters with the Spanish. These two groups could not have been more different from each other! Spanish soldiers often wore many layers of clothes and heavy armor, while the Timucua wore little more than loincloths and tattoos. The Spanish were used to eating meat from cattle they raised, while the Timucua largely lived off wild game and fish, as well as crops they raised. And whereas the Spanish understood life in terms of strictly defined social structures, the Timucua had little structure or political unity among their various groups.

The Timucua were adept warriors, and at first they succeeded in resisting the strength of the Spanish forces. The Spanish were used to warfare on open ground, but the Timucua would strike by surprise and quickly slip away into the Florida wilderness. Additionally, the Spanish armor and weapons were strong, but they were also heavy and bulky and didn't do well against indigenous peoples who were light on their feet and lightning-fast with their arrows.



But the Timucua could not compete with the diseases the Spanish unwittingly brought with them. After the arrival of the Spanish, the number of Timucua became smaller with each passing year. Eventually, those who survived began to live among the Spanish or moved on to join other tribes.

A Clash of Cultures ACTIVITY

Make your own armor to get a feel for what these restrictive garments would have been like for the Spanish exploring Florida!

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

What you'll need:

- Paper grocery bag
- Scissors
- Duct tape (decorative if you have it)
- Markers, crayons, construction paper, or any other materials you would like to use to decorate your armor



A Clash of Cultures

WHAT TO DO:

1. Start with a side of the bag that is not folded, and place that face up in front of you.
2. Cut just this side of the bag all the way up the middle, from the opening all the way to the folded bottom of the bag. Make sure you do not cut through the whole bag – just the one side.
3. Open the bag and cut a wide hole for your neck into the bottom of the bag.
4. Cut circles for arm holes in each side of the bag. (This part can be tricky – make sure to ask for a grown-up to help.)
5. Use duct tape to decorate your armor and make it strong. The side of the bag that has no cuts in it will be the front.
6. Decorate your armor to make it unique!



History AT HOME

ORANGE COUNTY REGIONAL
**HISTORY
CENTER**

DOWNTOWN ORLANDO

TheHistoryCenter.Org

This lesson helps reinforce the following Florida State Standards for K-5th grade:

- SS.1.A.2.1 Understand history tells the story of people and events of other times and places.
- SS.1.A.2.2 Compare life now with life in the past.
- SS.2.A.2.3 Describe the impact of immigrants on the Native Americans.
- SS.2.A.2.4 Explore ways the daily life of people living in Colonial America changed over time.
- SS.2.A.2.5 Identify reasons people came to the United States throughout history.
- SS.4.A.1.2 Synthesize information related to Florida history through print and electronic media.
- SS.4.A.3.1 Identify explorers who came to Florida and the motivations for their expeditions.
- SS.4.A.3.2 Describe causes and effects of European colonization on the Native American tribes of Florida.
- 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.5.A.3.2 Investigate (nationality, sponsoring country, motives, dates and routes of travel, accomplishments) the European explorers.
- SS.5.A.3.3 Describe interactions among Native Americans, Africans, English, French, Dutch, and Spanish for control of North America.

