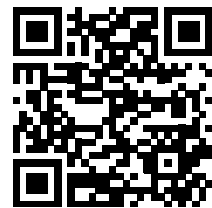


name: _____

class: _____

date: _____

Exploring Spanish Florida



During the Age of Exploration, European _____ were eager to discover new lands. Spain, one of the leading maritime powers, focused its attention on the _____. In the early 16th century, Spanish explorers landed on the peninsula they named Florida. This _____ became an important part of Spain's vast colonial empire.

The Spanish aimed to convert the indigenous _____ to Christianity. They established missions throughout Florida, where friars taught the native _____ about the Christian faith. However, these efforts often led to conflict between the Spanish and the local _____.

Fortifications were built to protect the Spanish settlers from attacks by both the natives and other European _____. St. Augustine, founded in 1565, is notable as the oldest continuously inhabited European-established _____ in the continental United States.

The strategic location of Florida made it a key player in Spain's maritime _____. Ships carrying silver and other treasures from Mexico to Spain often sailed close to Florida's _____. To safeguard this precious cargo, the Spanish Crown maintained a strong military presence in the _____.

Over time, the presence of the Spanish in Florida influenced the area's cultural and _____ landscape. Spanish-style buildings and forts became common sights.

The intermingling of Spanish and native _____ created a unique cultural blend that is still evident in Florida today.

Despite its _____, Spanish control over Florida was continually challenged.

Throughout the 17th and 18th centuries, the _____ and the French made several attempts to seize the territory. Ultimately, Spain ceded Florida to the United _____ in 1821, but the legacy of its colonial period continues to influence the state.

- significance
- region
- routes
- States
- powers
- population
- traditions
- tribes
- settlement
- architectural
- nations
- shores
- Americas
- British
- region
- people