

FLORIDA BECOMES A U.S. TERRITORY

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Summary:

After the British returned Florida to Spain, Florida came under Spanish rule for a second time. During this second period, which lasted almost 40 years, Spain had no money to support the Florida government and few soldiers to enforce the laws. Spanish Florida was a refuge for runaway slaves and Native Americans. The United States government along with General Andrew Jackson attacked Spanish Florida in order to gain the land as a territory. Students will use 4 websites to discover how the United States acquired Florida as a territory, who the key people were in the acquisition, and the important role Andrew Jackson played.

Objectives:

1. Students will develop an understanding of the U.S. territorial acquisition from 1803-1853.
2. Students will describe the events that led to Florida becoming a part of the United States.
3. Students will identify the treaty that gave Florida to the United States.
4. Students will explain the changes in Florida when it became a territory.

U.S. History Event or Time Period:

Early 1800's during the U.S. expansion and the "Manifest Destiny" (U.S. acquires Florida from Spain.)

Grade Level:

Fourth / Fifth Grade

Materials Needed:

Activity sheet, Florida Becomes a Territory for each student
Computers with internet access for each student (or pair of students),
U.S. outline map

Lesson Time:

Lesson 1- 30-45 minutes for students to read and do activity page, Florida Becomes a State.
Lesson 2 -45-60 minutes for students to research information on the internet and complete the scavenger hunt.

Lesson Procedures:

This lesson should be used in conjunction with other related lessons (United States History, Florida History, Westward Expansion etc.)

1. Teacher will run off copies of the Reading Activity Sheet, the US Map, and the scavenger hunt and the final assessment.
2. Teacher will hand out the Reading Activity Sheet and students will read and discuss.
3. The teacher will hand out the U.S. map of the United States.
4. Using a pull down map in the classroom, students locate the Mississippi River. Discuss North, South, East, and West and the Westward expansion of America. Discuss the Manifest Destiny. Have students speculate what would have happened to the Native Americans living on the lands that Americans wanted to acquire.
5. Students will draw and label Mississippi River on their maps then identify and label each of the territories acquired for the United States.
6. The teacher will provide copies so that students can complete the scavenger hunt. ESE or ESOL students could work with a partner.
7. The teacher has the students complete the online test.
8. The teacher gives the students the final assessment.

Optional: The teacher can have the students write an essay or short story using the information they received from the scavenger hunt.

Activity

Florida Becomes a Territory

In the early 1800's the United States stretched from the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River. Many Americans wanted to move into lands west of the Mississippi River that was claimed by several other Nations. Some believed that it was a natural fate for these lands to be acquired for the United States. This right to take over territories from other nations was the Manifest Destiny or natural outcome of Americans desire to move into these lands.



The leaders of America used a variety of methods to acquire territory for the United States. Sometimes they bought territory or made agreements with the leaders of other countries. One time territory was added after a war.

Most of the land we know today as Florida was at one time under Spanish rule but Americans living in the Southeast wanted the United States to take over Florida.

Slaves in Georgia would run away to Florida settlements or hide with the Seminoles, a tribe of Native Americans in Florida. The Seminoles and runaway slaves often attacked the Georgia landowners and then fled back into Florida. To end these Seminole raids, General Andrew Jackson and his army came to Florida in 1817.



Seminoles from Florida and run away Slaves attacking a settlement in Georgia.

Andrew Jackson not only put an end to the Seminole raids but also went on to capture two Spanish forts including the one at Pensacola, which was the capital of Spanish Florida. They realized that they could not keep the United States from talking over the Florida territory so in 1819 Spain agreed to sell Florida to the United States. The Adams-Onis Treaty was approved by Spain and the United States in 1821.

Andrew Jackson served as the military governor of the newly acquired territory of Florida. After Florida became a territory of the United States, big changes followed. A new capital was built in Tallahassee and new farms were started. Within 10 years many white Americans moved to Florida. The Seminoles were ordered by the government to move out of Florida to reservations in the west, but many Seminoles refused. The Seminole Indian War was fought against the United States and most of the Seminoles were either killed or forced to leave their homeland and settle in the west. A few fled to the south and hid in the Everglades.

Activity

Scavenger Hunt

<http://fcit.usf.edu/florida/docs/f/florterr.htm>

1. How many times did the Spanish flag fly over Florida?
2. Why did the United States want to acquire Florida from Spain?
3. How much did Spain receive for Florida?
4. Who was appointed military governor of the two Florida's?
5. Where did the transfer of authority take place?
6. When did General Jackson come into Pensacola?

<http://odur.let.rug.nl/~usa/p/aj7/about/bio/jacko8.htm>

7. As Major General, what was Andrew Jackson's salary?
8. Why was Spanish Florida a danger to the U.S.?
9. Who negotiated a treaty to buy Florida for five million dollars?

<http://www.floridamemory.com/OnlineClassroom/governors>

10. Name 6 governors of the Florida territory.

<http://www.floridamemory.com/OnlineClassroom/governors/history.cfm>

11. When did the ceremonies of transfer from Spain to the United States take place in Pensacola?
12. How many months did Jackson stay in Florida?

<http://www.floridahistory.org/floridians/territo.htm>

13. Why did Adams choose Jackson as military governor?
14. Did the Spanish trust Jackson?
15. Who did Jackson throw in jail?
16. Who stripped and burned their homes to the ground?

<http://www.floridamemory.com/OnlineClassroom/governors>

Click on Quiz



Activity

Scavenger Hunt –answer key

<http://fcit.usf.edu/florida/docs/f/florterr.htm>

1. How many times did the Spanish flag fly over Florida? **2 times**
2. Why did the United States want to acquire Florida from Spain? **For peace & safty from the Indians**
3. How much did Spain receive for Florida? **5 million dollars and payment of certain claims**
4. Who was appointed military governor of the two Florida's? **General Andrew Jackson**
5. Where did the transfer of authority take place? **Government House in St. Augustine**
6. When did General Jackson come into Pensacola? **Transfer ceremonies**

<http://odur.let.rug.nl/~usa/p/aj7/about/bio/jacko8.htm>

7. As Major General, what was Andrew Jackson's salary? **\$2400 a year**
8. Why was Spanish Florida a danger to the U.S.? **escaped slaves lived in a fort**
9. Who negotiated a treaty to buy Florida for five million dollars? **John Quincy Adams**

<http://www.floridamemory.com/OnlineClassroom/governors>

10. Name 6 governors of the Florida territory. **Jackson, DuVal, Eaton, Call, Reid, Branch**

<http://www.floridamemory.com/OnlineClassroom/governors/history.cfm>

11. When did the ceremonies of transfer from Spain to the United States take place in Pensacola?
July 17, 1821
12. How many months did Jackson stay in Florida? **3 months**

<http://www.floridahistory.org/floridians/territo.htm>

13. Why did Adams choose Jackson as military governor? **He knew the region and would attract the confidence of those most likely to settle there**
14. Did the Spanish trust Jackson? **No**
15. Who did Jackson throw in jail? **Don Jose Callava**
16. Who stripped and burned their homes to the ground? **Spanish**

Assessment:

1. Before Florida became a part of the United States it was mostly under the rule of what other nation?

2. The _____ were a tribe of Native Americans living in Florida.
3. Why did Andrew Jackson come to Florida in 1817?

4. _____ was the capital of Spanish Florida.
5. Why did Spain finally agree to turn over Florida to the United States?

6. After Florida became a territory of the United States, a new capital was built in _____.
7. What group of people joined the Seminoles in Florida?
8. What was the name of the document that signed over Florida to the United States?

9. Who was the first military governor of Florida?

10. Explain the changes that took place in Florida when it became a territory.

Assessment:

11. Before Florida became a part of the United States it was mostly under the rule of what other nation?

Spanish

12. The **Seminoles** were a tribe of Native Americans living in Florida.

13. Why did Andrew Jackson come to Florida in 1817?

to end the Seminole raids

14. **Pensacola** was the capital of Spanish Florida.

15. Why did Spain finally agree to turn over Florida to the United States?

Then realized that they did not have enough power or resources to keep Florida

16. After Florida became a territory of the United States, a new capital was built in

Tallahassee

7. What group of people joined the Seminoles in Florida? **Runaway slaves**

8. What was the name of the document that signed over Florida to the United States?

The Adams-Onis Treaty

9. Who was the first military governor of Florida?

Andrew Jackson

10. Explain the changes that took place in Florida when it became a territory.

The new capital was built in Tallahassee.

New farms were started.

Within 10 years many new Americans were moving to FL.

Seminoles were ordered to move out of Florida but many refused and were either killed or fled to the Everglades to hide.

Resources:

1. History Alive! America's Past, Teachers' Curriculum Institute
2. <http://fcit.usf.edu/florida/docs/f/florterr.htm>
3. <http://odur.let.rug.nl/~usa/p/aj7/about/bio/jacko8.htm>
4. <http://www.floridamemory.com/OnlineClassroom/governors>
5. <http://www.floridamemory.com/OnlineClassroom/governors/history.cfm>
6. <http://www.floridahistory.org/floridians/territo.htm>