

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Dry Tortugas National Park
Florida





WELCOME TRAVELER!

You have just arrived at Fort Jefferson on Garden Key, part of a group of islands known as the Dry Tortugas. As you explore this place, ask yourself, “How can artifacts reveal the stories of a place?”

As you search Garden Key for artifacts, record your observations in this Expedition Journal. Remember that an artifact is something that provides evidence. Justifications are the reasons why the artifacts support the statement. Then, using your expertise as an explorer of this national park, write a persuasive letter about the value of Dry Tortugas National Park.

Fort Jefferson became a national monument in 1935 and later expanded to be Dry Tortugas National Park in 1992. What evidence can you find that this place is managed by the National Park Service?

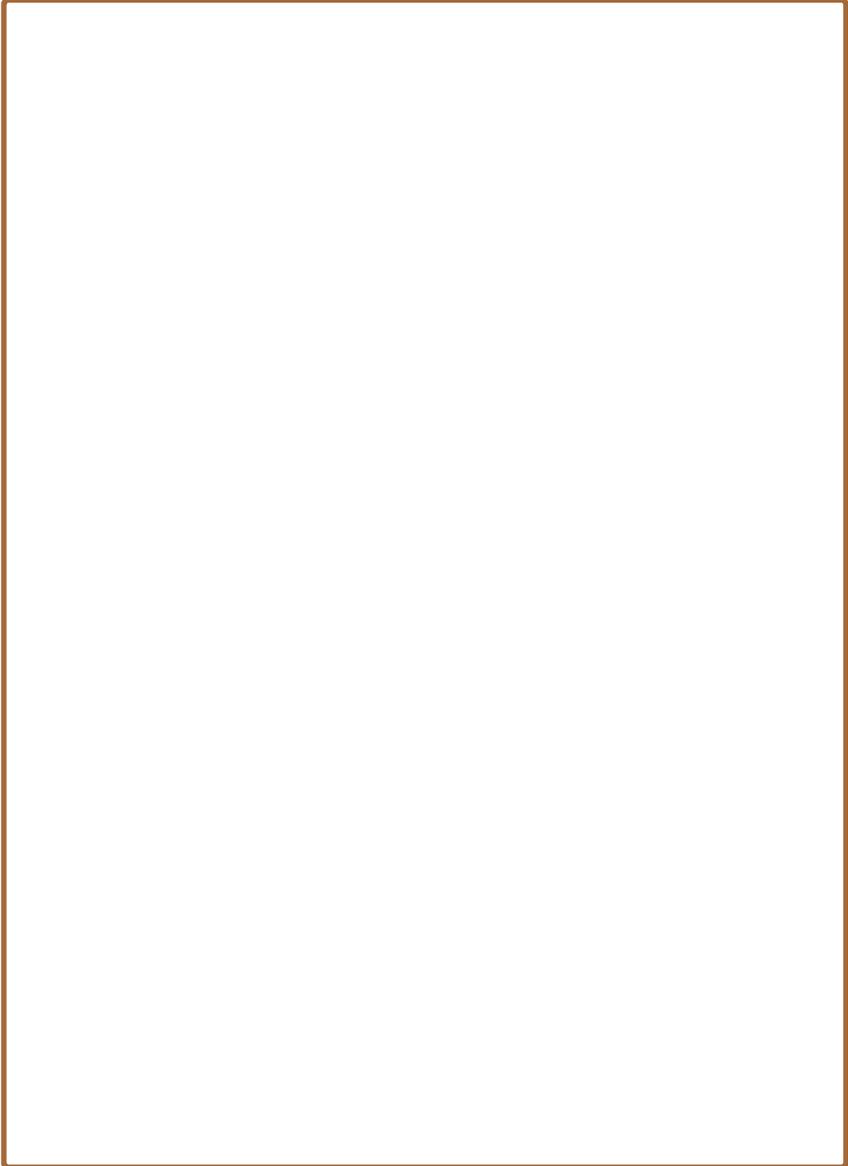
Dry Tortugas is a national park.

Artifact	Justification (Why & where?)

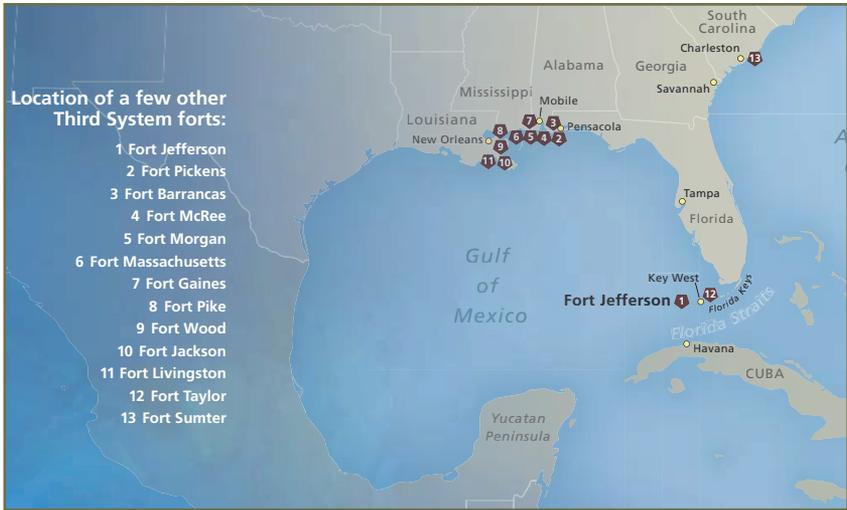
Ask a “how” or “why” question about Dry Tortugas National Park.

Use your observations of the current landscape to draw or describe how the island looked before Ponce de Leon discovered it in 1513.

Dry Tortugas is a natural landscape.



Fort Jefferson was constructed between 1846-1876 as part of the Third System of Seacoast Defense.



- Location of a few other Third System forts:**
- 1 Fort Jefferson
 - 2 Fort Pickens
 - 3 Fort Barrancas
 - 4 Fort McRee
 - 5 Fort Morgan
 - 6 Fort Massachusetts
 - 7 Fort Gaines
 - 8 Fort Pike
 - 9 Fort Wood
 - 10 Fort Jackson
 - 11 Fort Livingston
 - 12 Fort Taylor
 - 13 Fort Sumter

Fort Jefferson was built for coastal defense.

Artifact	Justification (Why & where?)

Ask a “how” or “why” question about the fort.

During the Civil War, Fort Jefferson was used as a prison.
What evidence can you find that prisoners were detained here?



Fort Jefferson was used as a prison.

Artifact	Justification (Why & where?)

Ask a “how” or “why” question about Fort Jefferson’s use as a prison.

In its history, the islands of the Dry Tortugas have served many purposes. How is this place significant to people of the world today?

Artifact	Justification (Why?)

Ask a “how” or “why” question about its current uses.

SPECIAL MISSION	Archaeologists use artifacts to understand the
	history of a place. Find two artifacts that tell YOU
	the story of Dry Tortugas National Park.

Artifact	Justification (Why & where?)

Ask a “how” or “why” question about your special mission.
