



Topic: Kingsley Plantation during Changing Times and Colonization

Level: 8th-11th grade

Site of Activity: Classroom pre-activity, (15) minutes

Designed by: Pamela James, Teacher to Ranger to Teacher, Sandalwood High School

Goal: Students will become aware of the influence of societies and cultures had on Florida history.

Theme: Careers in the National Park Service

Objectives:

1. Students will understand how interactions of societies and cultures have influenced Florida's history dating back to the 1500s by reading background information and completing the concept map.
2. Students will understand that while slavery is the main story at Kingsley Plantation, there were other eras including colonization and the United States expansion.

Sunshine State Standards

SSA 634

Materials Needed:

1. Background Reading
2. Changing Times worksheet
3. Pencil

Background Reading:

The United States acquired Florida from Spain in 1821. Harsh political, economic, and social reforms swept in with the new government. The Spanish had relatively liberal policies regarding issues of race, but American territorial law brought many changes. At a time when many slaveholders feared slave rebellions, oppressive laws were enacted and conditions for Florida's black population, free and enslaved deteriorated.

Zephaniah Kingsley was against the restrictive laws, arguing the importance of free blacks in society. He advocated Spain's three class system, where enslaved people existed at the bottom tier, free blacks the middle, and white people as the top class. His pleas were ignored, and over the next two decades, laws were enacted that severely restricted the civil liberties of free blacks.

Despite the danger of being ostracized, Kingsley crusaded to alter the views of southern law makers. He wrote a series of editorials, speeches, and addresses, which became public and widely circulated. He became best known for his Treatise, published in four editions between 1828 and 1834. His words were read throughout the North and the South. Kingsley's writings warned of the dangers of a society based on racial prejudice, but at the same time, advocated the continuance of slavery.

Frustrated that his words were rejected, and to escape what he called a "spirit of intolerant prejudice," Kingsley moved his family to Haiti, the only free black republic in the hemisphere, in 1837. There, Kingsley established a colony for his family and some of his former slaves. In 1839, Fort George Island was sold to his nephew. Zephaniah Kingsley continued to own slaves until death.

Directions:

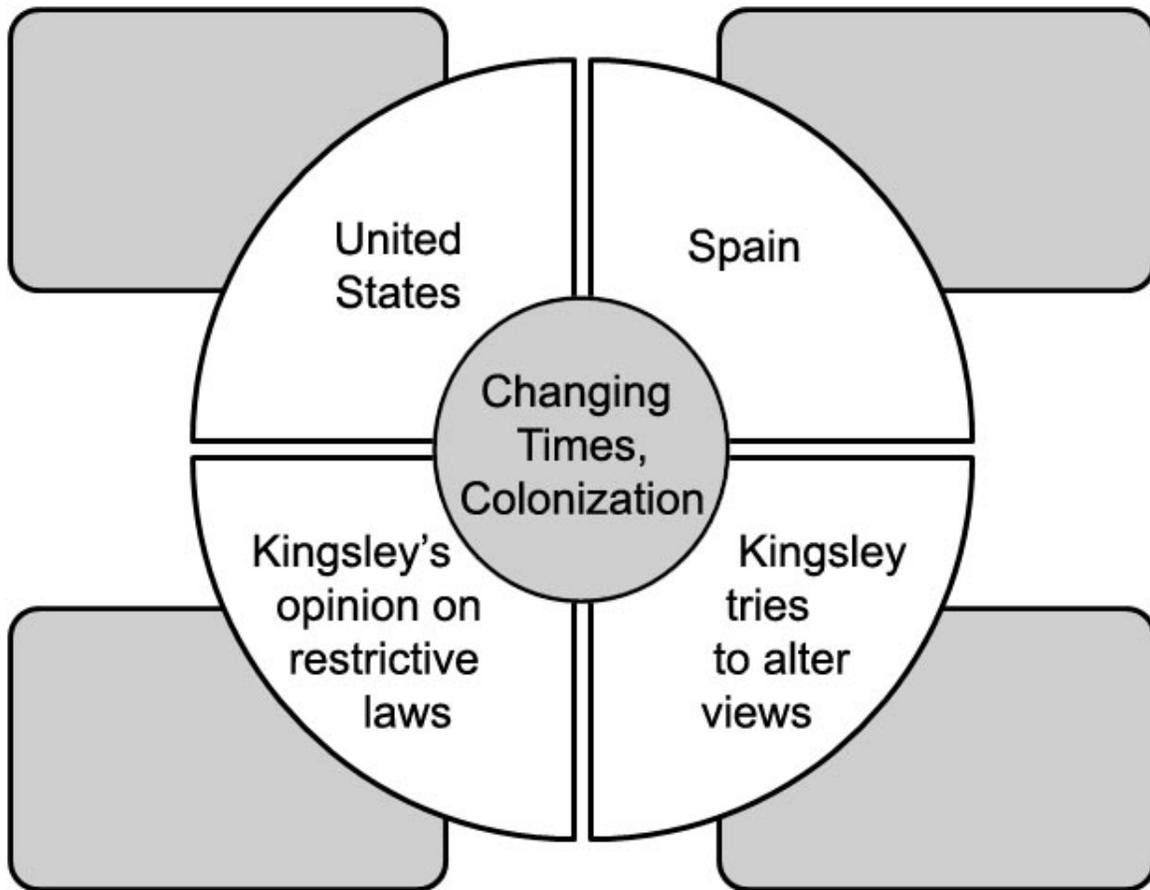
Students will read background information above and complete a concept map.

Student Name _____

Date _____

Class _____

Develop a concept map. In the center circle is the concept (changing times, colonization). After reading the background information above students will use the passage to give details under the following headings: United States, Spain, Zephaniah's opinion on restrictive laws, Kingsley tries to alter views, and actions taken by Kingsley as a result of his frustration. Write in the gray boxes or on a separate piece of paper.



What did Kingsley do after his words were rejected?

A large, empty rounded rectangular box provided for the student to write their answer to the question above.