



Topic: Rene Laudonniere Builds Fort Caroline

Level: 8th-11th grade

Site of Activity: Classroom pre-activity, 15 minutes

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

Theme: Society and Culture

Goal and Objectives:

Students will understand how interactions of societies and cultures have influenced Florida's history dating back to the 1500s by:

1. Identifying problems encountered by the French at Fort Caroline as described in the reading passage below.
2. Reviewing specific sentences from the passage below and choosing the correct meaning of particular words.

Sunshine State Standards

SSA 634

Materials Needed:

1. Background Reading (attached)
2. Worksheet (attached)
3. Pencil and paper

Background:

Rene Laudonniere led an expedition of 304 Huguenot colonists. The Huguenots were excited about moving to a new colony where they would have freedom to worship. Life was difficult for the Protestant Huguenots in Catholic France.

When they arrived at the mouth of the St. John River in Florida, they stopped there and built a triangle-shaped fort for protection. They called it Fort Caroline. At first, the colony prospered. The French ships were well stocked with cattle, supplies, and tools. Laudonniere set out to explore the interior of this new territory.

Initially he established good relations with the Timucuan Indians. Soon, however, supplies ran short and the French colony was unable to get food from the natives. Some of the colonists no longer believed in Laudonniere's leadership. They stole boats and sailed south to become pirates and raid Spanish treasure ships. Most of the colonists at Fort Caroline decided to go home to France. The French colony was in trouble.

Rene Laudonniere builds Fort Caroline

Directions: Answer the following questions after discussing the passage in class. You may re-read parts of the passage as you answer.

1. What problems did the colonists of Fort Caroline encounter under the leadership of Rene de Laudonniere? Use details and information from the passage to support your answer.

READ, THINK, AND EXPLAIN

2. Read the sentences below and circle the correct answer to the question below.

At first, the colony prospered. The French ships were well stocked with cattle, supplies, and tools.

What does the word prospered mean (circle one)?

- Diminished
- Failed
- Acted
- Thrived