



STOCKCERO TEACHING KIT (142)

TEXT: *La Colonia Francesa de Florida (1562-1565)*

AUTHOR: Jacques Le Moyne de Morgues

EDITOR: Jean-Paul Duviols

1. FRENCH AMBITION AND THE CHALLENGE TO SPAIN:

Defying Monopoly: The French expeditions to Florida, spearheaded by Admiral Gaspard de Coligny and led by captains like Jean Ribault and René Laudonnière, directly challenged Spain's claim of exclusive rights to the New World (based on the Treaty of Tordesillas). This was a period of intense colonial rivalry.

Huguenot Refuge and Strategic Base: The French colony was largely comprised of Huguenots (Calvinists), seeking both a refuge from religious persecution in France and a strategic base to disrupt Spanish galleon routes. This intertwining of religious and geopolitical motivations is key to understanding the endeavor.

2. THE SPANISH RESPONSE AND THE "MATANZAS" MASSACRE:

Felipe II's Resolve: King Felipe II of Spain viewed any non-Spanish presence in North America as a direct threat to his empire and an act of heresy. He was determined to eradicate the "Lutheran" settlement.

Pedro Menéndez de Avilés: The arrival of the Adelantado Pedro Menéndez de Avilés marked a brutal turning point. His forces massacred the French colonists at Matanzas (meaning "slaughters"), asserting Spanish dominance through extreme violence, framed as a religious cleansing.

3. LE MOYNE DE MORGUES: ARTIST AS ETHNOGRAPHER AND PROPAGANDIST:

Eyewitness Account: Jacques Le Moyne de Morgues, a painter on Laudonnière's second expedition, was one of the few survivors of the Florida colony. His detailed illustrations and narratives provide invaluable first-hand ethnographic observations of the Timucua Indians.

"The Beautiful Savage": Le Moyne's engravings often depict an idealized image of the Timucua, presenting them as "beautiful savages" in a "paradise lost." This aesthetic choice, influenced by Renaissance ideals, contributed to shaping European perceptions of indigenous peoples, often overlooking the tragic realities of colonization.

Propaganda: Both Le Moyne's original work and Theodor de Bry's subsequent publication of his engravings served a propagandistic purpose, promoting colonial ventures and appealing to European audiences with vivid (and sometimes idealized) images of the New World.

4. THEODOR DE BRY'S "GRAND VOYAGES" AND HISTORICAL IMPACT:

Shaping European Imagination: Theodor de Bry's acquisition and publication of Le Moyne's watercolors as part of his influential "Grand Voyages" series ensured their wide dissemination across Europe. These illustrated travelogues became a primary



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source for European understanding of the Americas, influencing art, literature, and colonial policy for centuries.

Influence on English Colonization: The text highlights how Ribault's attempts to secure English support and the ultimate fate of the French colony significantly influenced Queen Elizabeth I's interest in North American ventures. Crucially, these events provided intelligence and a cautionary tale that would later inform Walter Raleigh's efforts to establish the first English colonies in Virginia.

PART 2: TOPICS FOR CLASS DISCUSSION

Colonial Rivalries and "What Ifs": Discuss the geopolitical context of 16th-century North America, focusing on the rivalry between France and Spain. How might the history of the continent have changed if the French colony in Florida had succeeded?

Religious Motivations in Colonization: Analyze the role of religious conflict (Huguenots vs. Catholic Spain) in the establishment and destruction of French Florida. How did religious zeal fuel both colonial ambition and brutal suppression?

The Artist's Gaze: Documentation vs. Idealization: Examine Le Moyne de Morgues' engravings of the Timucua Indians. What details suggest ethnographic accuracy, and what elements point to European aesthetic biases or propagandistic intent? How does his portrayal contribute to the concept of the "beautiful savage"?

The Atlantic World's Interconnectedness: How did the failure of French Florida directly influence later English colonial aspirations, particularly for Walter Raleigh and the establishment of Virginia? What lessons (or warnings) could the English have drawn from the French experience?

Cannibalism and Survival in the New World Narratives: The text briefly mentions the anthropophagy among desperate French colonists. Compare this with Hans Staden's account of Tupinambá cannibalism (from the "Before Jamestown" bundle). How do these different accounts of cannibalism shape European perceptions of "civilization" and "barbarism" in the New World?

PART 3: SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- **Le Moyne de Morgues, Jacques.** *Brevis narratio eorum quae in Florida Americae provincia Gallis acciderunt, secundain illam Navigatione, duce Renato de Laudonniere classis Praefecto.* Francofurtii ad Moesnum. Anno MDXCI. (Primary Source)
- **Laudonnière, René Goulaine de.** *L'Histoire notable de la Floride située ès Indes Occidentales, contenant les trois voyages faits en icelle par certains Capitaines et Pilotes François, decrits par le capitaine Laudonnière qui y a commandé l'espace d'un an trois moys.* Paris, 1586. (Primary Source)
- **Menéndez de Avilés, Pedro.** *Cartas sobre Florida (1555-1574).* Edición, introducción y notas de Juan Carlos Mercado. Iberoamericana, Madrid, 2002. (Primary Source - Spanish perspective)
- **Hulton, P.** *The Work of Le Moyne de Morgues. A Huguenot Artist in France, Florida and England.* London, British Museum Publications, 1977. (Secondary Source)
- **Lestringant, Franck.** *Le Huguenot et le Sauvage. L'Amérique et la controverse coloniale en France, au temps des guerres de religions (1555-1589).* Paris, 1990. (Secondary Source)



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- **Duviols, Jean-Paul.** “*Théodore de Bry et ses modèles français,*” in *L’image de l’Amérique latine en France depuis cinq cents ans. Caravelle n° 58.* (p. 7-16). Presses Universitaires du Mirail, Toulouse, 1992. (Secondary Source - Editor of this edition)

PART 4: QUIZ BANK (Multiple Choice)

Which European nation initially attempted to establish a colony in Florida (1562-1565) as described in this work?

- A) Spain
- B) England
- C) France
- D) Portugal

Correct Answer: C

The French colonists in Florida were primarily of which religious group?

- A) Catholic
- B) Lutheran
- C) Huguenot (Calvinist)
- D) Puritan

Correct Answer: C

Who was the Spanish leader responsible for the brutal destruction of the French colony in Florida?

- A) Juan Ponce de León
- B) Hernando de Soto
- C) Pedro Menéndez de Avilés
- D) Francisco Pizarro

Correct Answer: C

Jacques Le Moyne de Morgues is most famous for his depictions of:

- A) Spanish military victories
- B) English settlements in Virginia
- C) Timucua Indian life and customs
- D) Aztec rituals

Correct Answer: C

How did the events surrounding the French colony in Florida ultimately influence English exploration and colonization efforts?

- A) They discouraged further European colonial ventures in North America.
- B) They led to a long-lasting alliance between France and England.
- C) They provided Queen Elizabeth I with strategic information and fueled English interest in establishing their own colonies.
- D) They resulted in Spain ceding Florida to England.

Correct Answer: C



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EXPLORE RELATED COLLECTIONS:

Before Jamestown: Early New World Encounters (3 Books): This title is a core part of this bundle, alongside works by Thomas Hariot & John White and Hans Staden, exploring the diverse European perspectives on the Americas prior to English permanent settlement.

Colonialism & First American Chronicles Collection: This book is also integrated into our broader collection, offering a comprehensive look at the foundational narratives and colonial encounters that shaped the early history of the Americas.

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