John Bachmann (dates), *Bird's Eye View of Florida and Part of Georgia and Alabama*, (New York, 1861). Color lithograph

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Created by Swiss-born artist John Bachmann, this map provides a "bird's eye view" of Florida and parts of Georgia and Alabama and is one of six designed to show this particular viewpoint of the Confederate States. Notable details include the Florida Railroad from Fernandina to Cedar Key (right center), the Kissimmee River chain of lakes and the upper reaches of the St. John's River system. Also depicted are several fortifications from the Third Seminole War (1855-1858) – all but three forts do not have flags on their flag poles, denoting their occupation by Confederate forces. The exceptions are Fort Dallas (present-day Miami), Fort Henry (on the edge of the Everglades), and Key West. The ships around the Florida peninsula also represent the approximate locations of blockading squadrons used to halt the flow of goods in and out of the region.

Who is the cartographer?

John Bachmann (1814-1896) was a Swiss-born lithographer and artist who learned his trade as a journeyman in Switzerland and Paris before immigrating to the United States in 1847. He is best known for his bird's eye view drawings of American cities.

Essential Questions

- Aerial photography was not available when Bachmann created his maps. How do you think people perceived Florida when they saw this map?

- How does Florida's geography influence the Civil War effort on both sides?