

**Gerónimo de Chaves (1524– ?), *La Florida* from the *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* of Abraham Ortelius, *Additamentum* of 1584 (1591 or 1592 Latin edition)**

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Crafted by Gerónimo de Chaves, this chart one of the maps collected by Abraham Ortelius for the additions to his monumental 1570 atlas, *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum*. A map of *La Florida* (upper right) appears on a single sheet with maps of Peru and parts of eastern Mexico – it is the first-known printed map of a North American region with the name “La Florida” applied to the entire southeast. The labels were influenced by the findings of the Hernando de Soto expedition (1539–1543), and locate many Indian settlements. While Cape Canaveral (“C. de Canaveral”) is named, there continues to be no mention, perhaps for security reasons, of Saint Augustine, the most important Spanish base on the North American mainland.

**Who is the Cartographer?**

Abraham Ortelius, the Royal Geographer of Phillip II of Spain, commissioned Geronimo de Chaves to produce this map of La Florida. Chaves taught cartography at the Seville School of Navigation, giving instruction to the adventurous sailors who led Spanish voyages to the New World. He succeeded Sebastian Cabot as "Piloto Mayor de la Casa de la Contratacion" – Chief Pilot for the repository of Spain's secret maps of their explorations and conquests.

**Essential Question**

How has our understanding of the geography of Florida changed since Chaves made his map?