

Vincenzo Coronelli (1650–1718). Gore showing part of North America from his *Libro dei globi* (Book of Globes) (Venice, ca. 1693).

Overview

This visually striking map is a gore, or globe segment – terrestrial globes had been produced in Europe from the late 15th century onward, but Coronelli carried globe making to a new level. This gore was designed for a 42-inch globe and shows the name “Florida” (lower right) across the southeastern part of North America, as well as the words “Tegesta Provincia” (named for the Tegesta tribe) on the Florida peninsula. The map also shows the central part of North America in the period just after the general outline of the Great Lakes had been discovered. Items of note – Canada appears to stretch far south of the Great Lakes into the central United States and the Mississippi River empties farther west of its actual position (lower left).

Who is the Cartographer?

Three hundred years ago, Franciscan Monk Vincenzo Coronelli (1650–1718) made hand crafted globes of all sizes. Some could fit in a pocket; others were much larger. He created two extra large globes for Louis XIV of France. At more than 15 feet in diameter, they had trap doors so craftsmen could work on them from inside.

Coronelli was a shrewd businessman and used his connections with the King of France to elicit information about some of Europe’s leading scientists and explorers. The result was not only the creation of the largest printed globes of the 17th century but also a whole series of maps, atlases, star charts and even the first alphabetically arranged dictionary.

Essential Questions

How is looking at a globe different from looking at a flat map?

Why would Coronelli want to include drawings of people, plants and animals that are over 100 years old on his map?

