

Activities

#1 Florida Fusion is the Real Story of the Past 500 Years

Historian Dr. Gary Mormino calls Florida a ‘global incubator’ – a place where ‘cultures crashed into each other causing tragedy, but also offering new opportunities’. By the time that Herrera crafts his map, a fusion of sights and sounds are changing the landscape of Florida. In this activity, students will use the Internet to read an article about Florida Fusion by historian Dr. Gary Mormino, and use Herrera’s map as a guide to craft their own map of Florida Fusion.

Materials

- *Florida Fusion is the Real Story of the Past 500 Years* by Dr. Gary Mormino
TampaBay.com, May 11, 2013.

<http://www.tampabay.com/news/perspective/florida-fusion-is-the-real-story-of-past-500-years/2119950>

- Herrera’s map of Florida
- Drawing materials

Directions

1. Read the article by Dr. Mormino, and make a list of the ingredients found in a ‘Florida Fusion’. You may have some ideas of your own about ingredients to add.
2. Use the Herrera map to help you outline the shape of Florida on drawing paper.
3. Orient the map with direction aids.
4. Add Florida Fusion to the map with pictures, labels, colors... Be creative.

Antonio de Herrera y Tordesillas (1549–1625), *Description del Destricto del Audiencia de la Española* from his *Descripción de las Indias Occidentales*

#2 Fountain of Lies

Perhaps the best-known myth in Florida is the story of Ponce de Leon and his discovery of the Fountain of Youth. In this activity students read the article *Ponce de Leon Never Searched for the Fountain of Youth* by Matthew Shaer and learn how an invented story becomes history. Students will use the Internet or books to locate another Florida curiosity or legend and make a poster to convince others to visit the location.

Materials

- *Ponce de Leon Never Searched for the Fountain of Youth* by Matthew Shaer, Smithsonian.com, June 2013 .

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history-archaeology/Ponce-De-Leon-Never-Searched-for-the-Fountain-of-Youth-208345831.html>

- Access to the Internet or a library for research
- Poster board and drawing materials

Directions

1. Read the article by Shaer, and decide for yourself why the myth of the Fountain of Youth remains a part of Florida history.
2. Use the Internet or a library to find information about other curiosities, oddities, myths or legends associated with Florida places. Choose a place that is compelling to you and learn about it.
3. Make a poster inviting other people to visit your chosen place. The poster should tell other people why the place you chose is an important part of Florida history, despite its folklores.