

Thomas Jefferys (c. 1710-1771), *Florida from the Latest Authorities*, map-frontispiece of William Roberts, *An Account of the First Discovery, and Natural History of Florida With a Particular Detail of the several Expeditions and Descents made on that Coast*. (London, 1763). Copper-engraving.

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## Overview

Thomas Jefferys, one of the most important British engravers of the mid-1700s, and writer William Roberts produced a book promoting the newly acquired Florida territory. Published at the end of the French and Indian War, the book showcases the new region England gained from Spain, France's ally, through the Treaty of Paris (1763). The Treaty temporarily ended Spain's 250-year ownership of Florida as Spain traded the territory in order to regain British-captured Havana. Among the maps included in the book is this image of St. Augustine – founded in 1565 by the Spanish and now the oldest permanent European settlement in the United States. The map gives a detailed look at the town 200 years after it was established and also shows surrounding rivers, locations of nearby Indian towns and channels with league depths leading out to the Atlantic Oceans.

### Who is the Cartographer?

Thomas Jefferys (1719-1771) was an important British engraver, geographer and map publisher in the mid-1700s. While Geographer to King George III, he produced maps of England's various possessions in North America. Jefferys worked with William Roberts, a writer and enthusiastic promoter of Florida, although Roberts never visited the state. In 1763—when the Treaty of Paris was signed, ending Spain's 250-year ownership of Florida— Jefferys and Roberts produced a book that gave England a detailed look at its new territories. The book featured Jefferys' maps, and was intended to promote settlement and investment. This map of St. Augustine is included in the book.

### Essential Questions

Places like Fort Matanzas and Fort Mose are relatively unknown today. Why do you think that Jefferys and Roberts included them on their map of St Augustine?

Why are places like Fort Matanzas and Fort Mose relatively unknown and who might benefit if their history is uncovered and preserved today?