

## Interesting History

### One Book

De Bry's *Grands Voyages* contained the earliest known European images of Florida's native people. The illustrations helped shape perceptions of the New World and the people who lived there for decades. The images are historically significant, but also highly controversial. Many details do not match what archaeologists now know about the Indian cultures, flora and fauna of that time. Exploring Florida, a social studies resource for students and teachers features many engravings that reflect the drawings that Le Moyne made while traveling in Florida. <http://fcit.usf.edu/florida/photos/native/lemoyne/lemoyne.htm>



**“The Manner of Makinge  
Their Boates”**



**“Their Way of Killing  
Crocodiles”**

**Interesting Art**

**Fanciful Fish and Mysterious**

**Ships**

As the number of expeditions increased, so did the demand for maps.



Cartographers recognized the need for practical, accurate maps but also understood the rising popularity of including additional artistic flourishes. Maps embellished with a few ships and sea creatures were more appealing than those without. Many cartographers had never sailed the seas so they used their imaginations, fueled by secondhand stories to create fanciful decorations for their maps.

### How Engravers Worked

De Bry was a master engraver and known for his work with copper plates. Engraving was a difficult task since the drawing had to be engraved backward as a mirror image so the impression would be correct when applied to paper.

Copper plates were engraved so that the incised lines could hold the ink. Copper was the metal of choice because it was soft and less expensive than silver or gold – it also allowed for the reproduction of very fine lines and details. Lines were engraved, the deeper the line, the more ink it held and the bolder the line appeared on a map. The entire plate was covered in ink and then wiped with a rag, leaving ink in the engraved lines. The copper plate was applied to a sheet of paper with great pressure, causing the ink in the grooves to be transferred to the paper, creating the map.

Different people were hired to do the line work, lettering and shading. Watercolors were hand-washed over a map so that the lettering and lines were still visible. Women were often hired to do the coloring and they used camelhair brushes to apply the paint.