

# Summary: Spanish Rule

## New Allies

Life was hard for the Spanish colonists in Florida. Pirates attacked them from the sea. American Indians also attacked them. The Spanish wanted to make the Florida Indians their allies. The colony needed peace to grow and succeed.

The colonists met with local chiefs to talk about peace. Many chiefs wanted peace too. The chiefs agreed to trade for food and to help the Spanish fight their enemies. They signed written agreements to show they were allies.

The Spanish still fought Indians who would not become Catholics. Many Indians died in these battles. Many others died of diseases from Europe. As a result there were fewer and fewer American Indians in Florida.

## Missions and Presidios

Spanish missionaries came to Florida to start missions in Indian villages. The first missionaries were called Jesuits. The Indians didn't trust the Jesuits. Later a group of priests called Franciscans came. The Franciscans were different from the Jesuits. They wanted the Indians to become Catholics, but they didn't try to change everything about the Indians' lives.

Many missions had presidios nearby. The missions offered Indians gifts and protection from their enemies. Chiefs began to invite the Franciscan missionaries to their villages. Thousands of Indians converted to the Catholic religion and lived in peace with the Spanish.

## Mission Life

The village missions usually had one priest. He taught the Indians the Catholic religion, how to read and write Spanish, and how to grow crops using tools such as axes and hoes. In return, the Indian villagers had to work for the mission and the colony. They carried goods, built roads and buildings, farmed and did household jobs for the missionaries and soldiers.

The Indians taught the Spanish to grow beans, corn, and squash. The Spanish brought these crops back to Europe.

The missions and presidios helped Spain control large parts of Florida. The Spanish used the Indians to build and defend their colony.



### Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

**ally** *noun*, a person or group who has joined with another to meet the same goal

**missionary** *noun*, a person who travels to a foreign country to teach religion

**mission** *noun*, a place a missionary sets up to teach religion to local people

**presidio** *noun*, a fort guarded by a group of soldiers



### After You Read

**REVIEW** Why did the Spanish want to make Florida Indians their allies?

What did the colony need to grow? Highlight the sentence that tells the answer.

**REVIEW** Why were the Franciscan missions successful? Circle the

sentence that tells how the Franciscans were different from the Jesuits.

**REVIEW** In what ways did the Spanish missions affect life in Florida and Europe? Draw a box around

the sentence that tells what priests taught the Indians.

Underline the sentence that tells what the Indians taught the Spanish.