

Summary: Colonial Times

The English and French Claim Land

In the mid-1600s, Florida was a poor colony with few people. England and France both wanted Florida. They wanted Florida so they could have more land in North America.

In the 1600s, English settlers moved into Carolina, then part of Spanish Florida. They attacked Spanish settlements. English pirates attacked too. Spain did not have enough soldiers to stop the attacks. In 1670, Spain agreed to create a border between English Carolina and Spanish Florida.

The French moved into Florida too. Explorers looked for rivers to use for trade, travel, and food. The French thought if they controlled the rivers, they could control the land. Soon France began attacking Florida. In 1698, the French planned to build a fort at Pensacola Bay. The Spanish found out and quickly built a Spanish fort there.

Spain Loses Ground

England kept attacking Florida. In 1702, South Carolina Governor Moore led an army to St. Augustine. The English tried to capture the fort there. Spanish troops arrived and forced the English to leave. Later, Moore attacked Spanish missions in northern Florida.

It was hard for Spain to make Florida strong for two reasons. First, Florida did not have many people. Second, Spanish investors did not want to spend money on Florida. They earned good profits by investing in richer Spanish colonies in Mexico and the Caribbean.

In 1715, Creek Indians began a migration to Florida. They became part of the Seminole nation. Enslaved Africans from Carolina also escaped to Florida to be free. These new people made Florida stronger, but they could not stop the English and French from attacking.

In 1733, England started the colony of Georgia and claimed more Spanish land. In 1740, Georgia's Governor Oglethorpe led an attack on St. Augustine. The attack failed, but Spain's control over Florida grew weaker.



Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

investor *noun*, a person who puts money into a business to earn a profit
profit *noun*, the money left over after all the costs of the business are paid
migration *noun*, a move people make from one area to another



After You Read

REVIEW Why did England and France want to gain control of Florida? Circle the sentence that tells why they wanted Florida.

REVIEW Why was it difficult for Spain to make Florida a strong colony? Highlight two reasons why it was hard for Spain to make Florida strong.