

# Summary: Spain Rules Florida Again

## The Second Spanish Period

Britain gave Florida back to Spain after the American Revolution. This began Florida's Second Spanish Period. Spain ruled Florida as two colonies. Settlers in West Florida grew tobacco, indigo, and cotton. In East Florida, plantation owners used slaves to grow rice, cotton, and corn.

After the American Revolution, newcomers came to Florida for different reasons. Some British settlers came to start farms or businesses. Others came to see if the United States would fail and return to British rule. Then they would return to their homes up North. Free blacks came from Caribbean islands hoping for a better life. Enslaved Africans were forced to come to Florida.

## A Chance for Freedom

During the Second Spanish Period, Florida gave enslaved Africans a chance for freedom. Spanish laws let slaves buy their freedom or earn it by serving in the Spanish military or by agreeing to practice Catholicism. Many southern enslaved Africans escaped to Florida.

## Life Under Slavery

Free blacks could work and become successful. Enslaved blacks worked long, hard hours for no pay. Overseers treated them cruelly. Most slaves lived in tiny cabins with dirt floors. In contrast, British planters wore fine clothes and lived in large, beautiful homes.

Many enslaved Africans fought against slavery. They ran away to live among the Seminole. Sometimes they slowed down work by breaking tools or pretending to be sick. Some slaves attacked and even killed cruel owners and overseers during revolts.

Enslaved Africans kept their culture alive. They brought African traditions and mixed them with European traditions. African American culture began to spread across Florida.



### Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

**overseer** *noun*, the person who directed the work done by enslaved Africans

**revolt** *noun*, when people try to take power away from someone else

**tradition** *noun*, a custom or idea passed on from one generation to the next



### After You Read

**REVIEW** What were some reasons newcomers came to Florida after the American Revolution?

Highlight the paragraph that tells the answer.

**REVIEW** In what ways was life different for slaves and free blacks in Florida?

What could free blacks do? What did slaves do? Draw a box around two sentences that tell the answers.

**REVIEW** Contrast life on a plantation for enslaved Africans and British planters. How did slaves live? How did British planters live? Highlight the sentences that tell the answers.