Navigating the Gulf: Past & Present

St Marks National Wildlife Refuge

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Navigating the Gulf:
Past & Present -- FCAT Standards

Meets the social studies Sunshine State Standards for a student.

**Grades PreK-2:**
SS.B.1.1.2 uses simple maps, globes, and other three-dimensional models to identify and locate places.
SS.B.2.1.5 knows the modes of transportation used to move people, products, and ideas from place to place, their importance, and their advantages and disadvantages.

**Grades 3-5:**
SS.A.2.2.2 Understands developments in transportation and communication in various societies
SS.B.1.2.4 Knows how changing transportation and communication technology have affected relationships between locations.

**Grades 6-8 -- Meets the social studies Sunshine State Standards for a student:**
SS.A.2.3.4. Understands the impact of geographical factors on the historical development of civilizations.
SS.A.4.3.2 Knows the role of physical and cultural geography in shaping events in the United States

**Grades 9-12:**
SS.B.1.4.1 Uses a variety of maps, geographic technologies including geographic information systems and satellite-produced imagery, and other advanced graphic representations to depict geographic problems.
SS.B.2.4.6 Understands the relationships between resources and the exploration, colonization, and settlement of different regions of the world.
OBJECTIVES

1. Students will exhibit an understanding of the impact of transportation on the interactions between the Native Americans and European Explorers.

2. Students will be able to identify the importance of resources to the development of trade through Apalachee Bay.

3. Students will identify the influence of geographic and environmental factors such as hurricanes, rivers, coastline, etc on cultural development.

4. Students will use historic maps to understand the problems of navigation and its impact on the development of economics, trade, and population centers.

5. Students will demonstrate the use of modern directional finding aids.
Chronology of Sea Navigation in the Gulf

Part One: Colonial 1512-1821
Part Two: US Acquires Florida 1821-1865
Part Three: Danger in the Gulf 1870-1945
Part Four: Modern 1945-present
Purposes of Navigation

- Exploration
- Transportation
- Military
Components of Navigation

• Types of Vessels
• Ports
• Navigational Aids
Hazards to Navigation

- Weather
- Natural Obstacles
- Man-made
Navigating the Gulf: Past & Present

Thirty-five hurricanes have approached within 25 miles of St. Marks from 1852.
Navigating the Gulf: Past & Present

Ninety-Nine hurricanes have approached within 50 miles of St. Marks from 1852.
PART ONE:
Colonial Period 1519-1821

- SPAIN
- FRANCE
- ENGLAND

FRANCE
Native Americans

- From 12,000 B.C.- Lived along Coast
- Settlements & camps
- Shell middens
- Settlements moved inland
- Dugouts canoes
Native Americans: Apalachee

- Towns around Tallahassee
- Temporary fishing camps along coast
Spanish Explorers

- Columbus
- Cortez & Pizarro
- Ponce de Leon
Spanish Explorers In Florida

Hernando DeSoto 1539
Panfilo de Narvaez 1528
Narvaez Expedition 1528

Panfilo de Narvaez lands at Tampa in 1528

Encounters the Apalachee Indians
Fateful Decision for Narvaez

Tired from fighting the Apalachee, low on supplies, and unable to find his supply ships, Narvaez decides to leave Florida. They converted their weapons into tools, set up a working forge and constructed four crude wooden boats.
The End of the Narvaez Expedition

On 1529 they loaded the homemade ships and set off for Mexico. Only Four survived the journey.
The DeSoto Expedition

In 1539 he leads a large expedition of “700, men, women, horses and pigs” to colonize La Florida

Hernando DeSoto
The DeSoto Expedition

Landing near Tampa Bay, they travel up the Florida peninsula in search of gold and Treasure.

They occupy the main town of the Apalachee by force. DeSoto fortifies it and settles in for the winter.
DeSoto Sends for Supplies

Juan de Añasco with 80 cavalry returns back to Tampa Bay and the fleet
Supplies to DeSoto

Desoto's men find the remnants of Navarez’s camp. They hang large “yellow pennants” to mark the mouth of the St. Marks River.

Desoto's supply fleet sails from Tampa Bay and locates the expedition at the mouth of the St. Marks River.
Spanish Missions

San Luis de Talimali 1659-1704
Mission San Luis: Trade

Apalachee Province

Port on the St. Marks River

Furs

Food
Pirates on the Gulf

- French Pirates attacked the fort in 1680

As France and Spain competed in the Gulf of Mexico, San Marcos de Apalachee became an important port.
Fort San Marcos de Apalachee

- The wooden fort was rebuilt in 1718.
- The whole garrison, of about forty men were drowned in a hurricane in 1758. the fort was rebuilt out of stone.

A Tower was built across the river with a signal fire at the top, used for Navigation. Possibly the first lighthouse in the present United States.
England Divides Florida

Britain gained Florida from Spain in 1763.

West Florida extended from the Mississippi to the Apalachicola river. St. Marks was part of East Florida.
I767 the French brigantine *Le Tigre* shipwrecked near Dog Island. Only 2 survived after many difficulties.

Published in 1771, the “Shipwreck and Adventures of Monsieur Pierre Viaud” became very popular.
Panton Leslie Trading Post

After the Revolutionary War Florida is traded back to Spain in 1783.

The Panton Leslie Company of Scottish merchants headquartered in Pensacola developed a monopoly on the Indian Trade.

They had an important trading post to the Seminoles on the Wakulla River, three miles north of Ft. St. Marks.
William Augustus Bowles, a loyalist from Maryland, became a chief of the Lower Creeks. After raiding the Panton-Leslie trading post in 1792, a congress of Creeks and Seminoles elected him director general of the State of Muskogee in 1799. After a brief siege they capture the Spanish Fort at St. Marks in 1800.
The State of Muskogee licensed four “Privateers” that operated out of Apalachee bay attacking Spanish Coastal shipping.

The privateers were manned by “Seminole, Creeks, escaped Slaves, and French, English and Spanish sailors from the Carribean.”
In 1818 President Monroe sent Andrew Jackson with an army into Spanish Florida to subdue the Seminoles.

After seizing the Spanish fort at St. Marks, Andrew Jackson tried and executed two British citizens accused of inciting the Indians: Robert Armbrister and Alexander Arbuthnot, a 70-year-old Scottish Indian trader.
Milly (Malee), daughter of Francis the Prophet (Hillis Hadjo) saved the life of Duncan McKrimmon by pleading with her father. Her Father, Francis the prophet did not receive similar mercy when he mistook the U.S. Thomas Shields for a British ship and was captured and hung by General Jackson.
The End

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PART TWO:
US Acquires Florida 1821-1865
Territory of Florida

The United States acquired Florida from Spain in 1821.

Tallahassee was founded as the Capitol in 1824. Soon flourishing plantations were shipping cotton through the port of St. Marks.
The First Lighthouse at St. Marks

Due to navigational hazards, Congress authorized a lighthouse at the St. Marks river. It was completed in 1831.
2nd Lighthouse - 1842

- Capt J P Hungerford 2nd Keeper 1839
- Hurricane of 1843- 13 drowned at Lighthouse
In 1849 Robert E. Lee with the board of engineers made a survey for the construction of fortifications in Florida.
1851 Hurricane
The Civil War

The Confederates were determined to keep the port of St. Marks open. They built Ft. Williams near the lighthouse in 1861 and armed the steamboat Spray to protect the river.

The Union Blockading fleet was equally determined to close the port. The Union destroyed Ft. Williams. Above runaway slaves, escaping to the safety of the Union Blackade in 1862.
The Blockade

Salt was a valuable commodity to the South for preserving meat. There were many salt works in the Apalachee bay area.

The Union Blockading often sent raiding parties to destroy the salt works. Above the “Stars and Stripes on the Ochlocknee”
Battle of Natural Bridge

In March 1865 Union General Newton planned an offensive aimed at capturing Newport, St. Marks and Tallahassee.

His blockading fleet safely landed almost 1000 men near the Lighthouse, but they were unable to cross at Newport, the bridge was destroyed.

Newton attempted to cross the St. Marks river at Natural Bridge but was stopped by Confederate forces.

Newton's' amphibious force of 500 men was unable to negotiate the St. Marks river and had to turn back.
Part Three: Danger in the Gulf 1870-1945
Steamboat on the Bay "Walkatomica"

Bypassed by the railroad commercial shipping on the bay slowed after the Civil War.

However the passenger steamboat “Walkatomica” operated from St. Marks to:

Newport  Carrabelle  St. Teresa
Turpentine and lumber became an important industry, while some were shipped by boat, most went by the railroad.
Rebuilt after the Civil War, the lighthouse survived a major hurricane in 1871. Charles Fine became the keeper in 1891. In 1904 he disappeared and was replaced by his wife Sarah Fine.
By 1926, a porch, fence, and dock had been added to the Lighthouse. It still served as an important navigational beacon in the bay.
World War II

German submarines attacked Gulf shipping starting in 1942, some off the panhandle coast.
922nd Rescue Squadron

A small rescue squadron was stationed at St. Marks during WWII.

“US Army P-75”

The “Ruptured Duck”
Part Four: Modern 1945-Present
Shrimp Boats
Oceanographic Research ship
"Princess Mary"
Tugboat #1846
Leisure boating on the St. Marks
Hurricane Dennis

Recent Hurricane Dennis served as a remainder of the dangers on the Gulf Coast.
The End

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