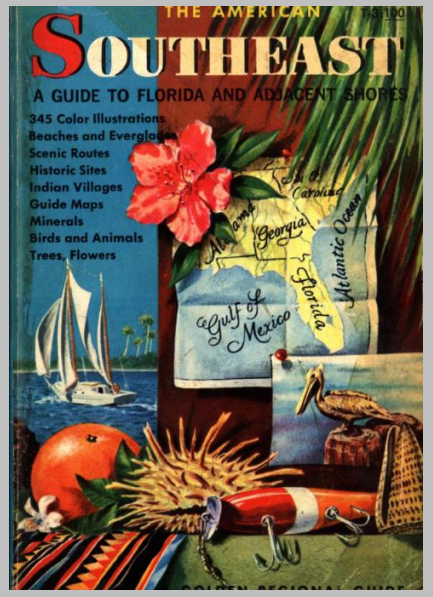
America’s Ancient Chiefdoms
3
De Soto in Florida, 1539

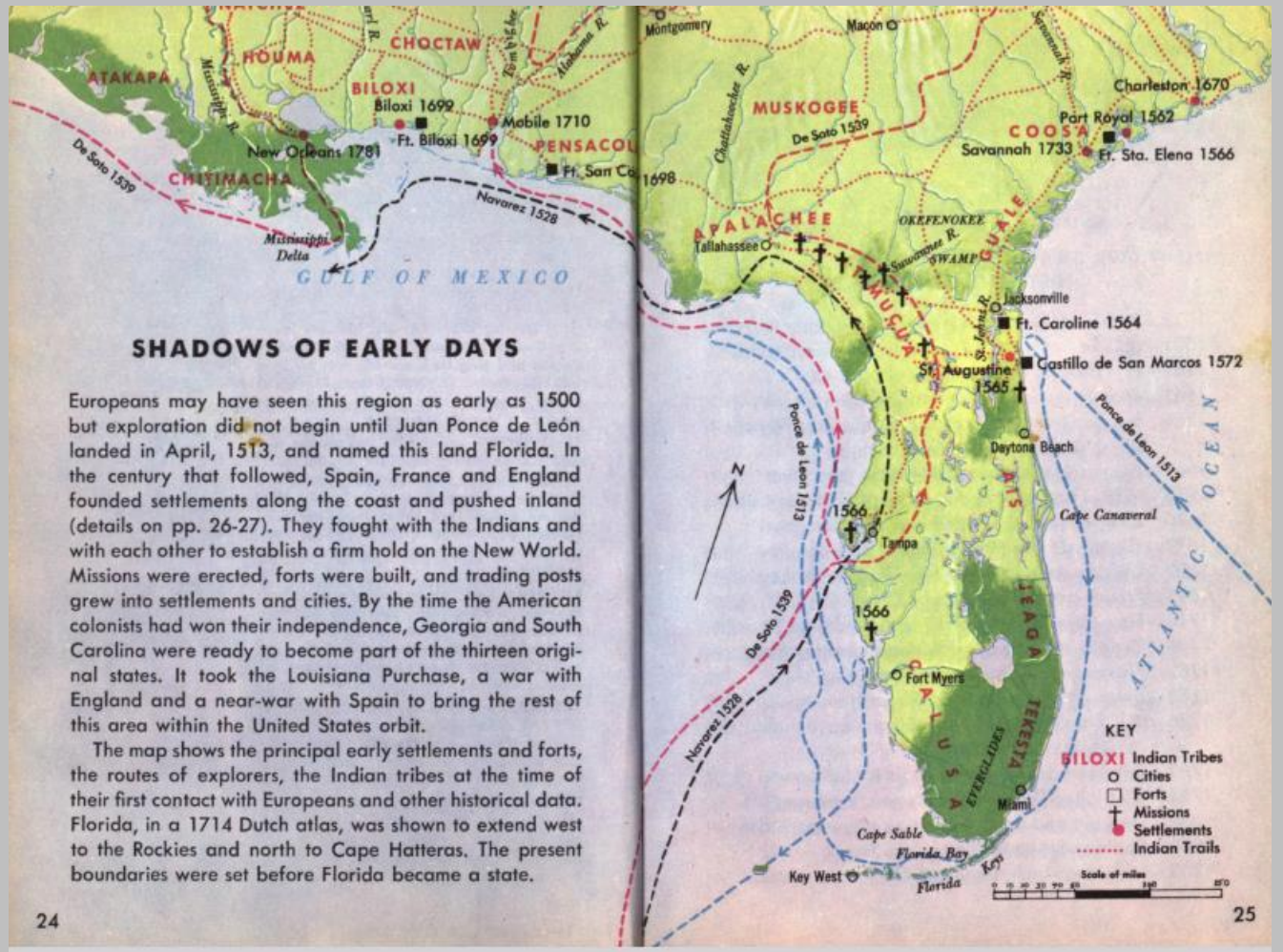
AMERICA'S ANCIENT CHIEFDOMS, 1539-1543:

CONQUISTADORS, PUEBLOS, AND MOUNDBUILDERS

Does anyone remember the small paperback Golden Guides, published from the 1950s through the 1970s? They covered everything from nature (Flowers, Birds, Stars, Reptiles and Amphibians) to regions and countries (The Southeast, the Southwest, The Rocky Mountains, Mexico, Israel). They combined useful information with accurately hand-drawn images of the topics covered.



The tourist information in these Guides reminds us of the days before interstate highways, chain motels, and Orlando theme parks!



SHADOWS OF EARLY DAYS

Europeans may have seen this region as early as 1500 but exploration did not begin until Juan Ponce de León landed in April, 1513, and named this land Florida. In the century that followed, Spain, France and England founded settlements along the coast and pushed inland (details on pp. 26-27). They fought with the Indians and with each other to establish a firm hold on the New World. Missions were erected, forts were built, and trading posts grew into settlements and cities. By the time the American colonists had won their independence, Georgia and South Carolina were ready to become part of the thirteen original states. It took the Louisiana Purchase, a war with England and a near-war with Spain to bring the rest of this area within the United States orbit.

The map shows the principal early settlements and forts, the routes of explorers, the Indian tribes at the time of their first contact with Europeans and other historical data. Florida, in a 1714 Dutch atlas, was shown to extend west to the Rockies and north to Cape Hatteras. The present boundaries were set before Florida became a state.

FLAGS OVER THE SOUTHEAST

1812 Louisiana admitted to the Union

The ways of life of the peoples of the two hemispheres were radically different in some ways, but similar in others.

What did the two cultures have in common?

—both were based on agriculture.

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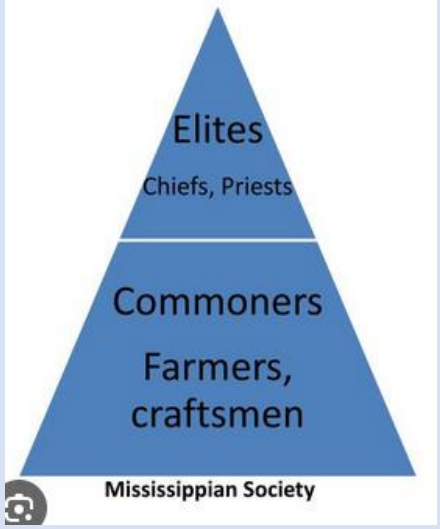
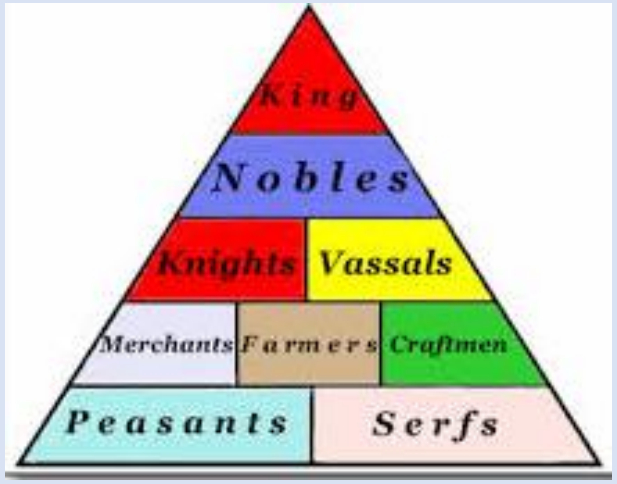
What did the two cultures have in common?

—hierarchic society, with an elite at the top and aristocrats in charge.





The ways of life of the peoples of the two hemispheres were radically different in some ways, but similar in others.

What did the two cultures have in common?

—belief in a world full of supernatural beings, spirits, powers.

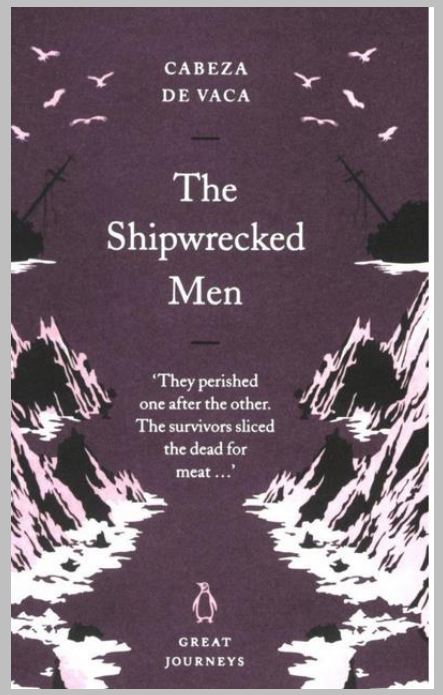
In Europe, debates over the nature and basic humanity of Indians were resolved in their favor. They were to be considered subjects of the King with souls to be saved by the Church.

Bartolome de las Casas, a conquistador turned Dominican monk, was the most influential advocate for humane treatment of the Indians.

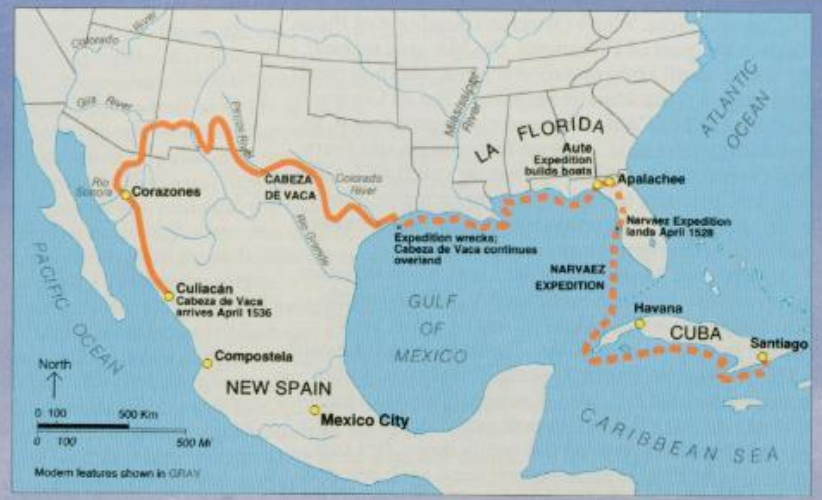
Brutal enslavement or loving paternalistic supervision were the two extreme alternatives considered by Europeans at that time. The idea of leaving the Indians alone to preserve their own traditional ways of life was unthinkable in that era.

Priests accompanied most expeditions of discovery. Like their countrymen, most clergy were poorly equipped to understand and tolerate the new societies they encountered in America. One clergyman who rose far above his time and place was Bartolomé de las Casas, who spoke out against abuse of the Indians but met with great opposition from vested interests.

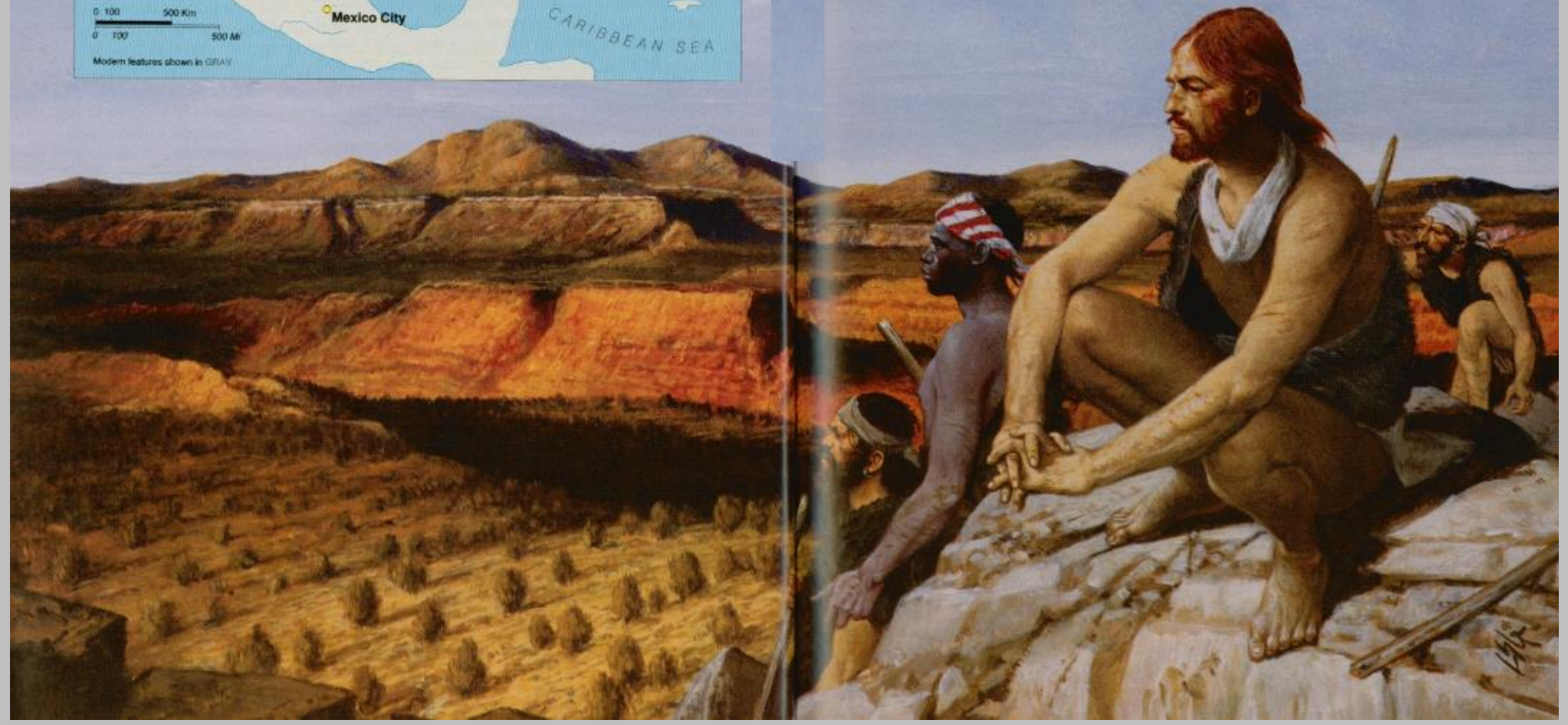

Cartier
1535
1534
Stadacona
(Quebec)
Hochelaga
(Montreal)
de Vaca
1536
CALIFORNIA
Sonora
San Miguel?
de Vaca
1533–36
Narvaez
1527–8
Cortez
1533
NEW GALICIA
SPANISH EMPIRE
NEW SPAIN
YUCATAN
Santo
Domingo
GUATEMALA
AD
1536


CABEZA
DE VACA
The
Shipwrecked
Men
'They perished
one after the other.
The survivors sliced
the dead for
meat …'
GREAT
JOURNEYS

The Incredible Journey of Cabeza De Vaca (1527-1536) (1...

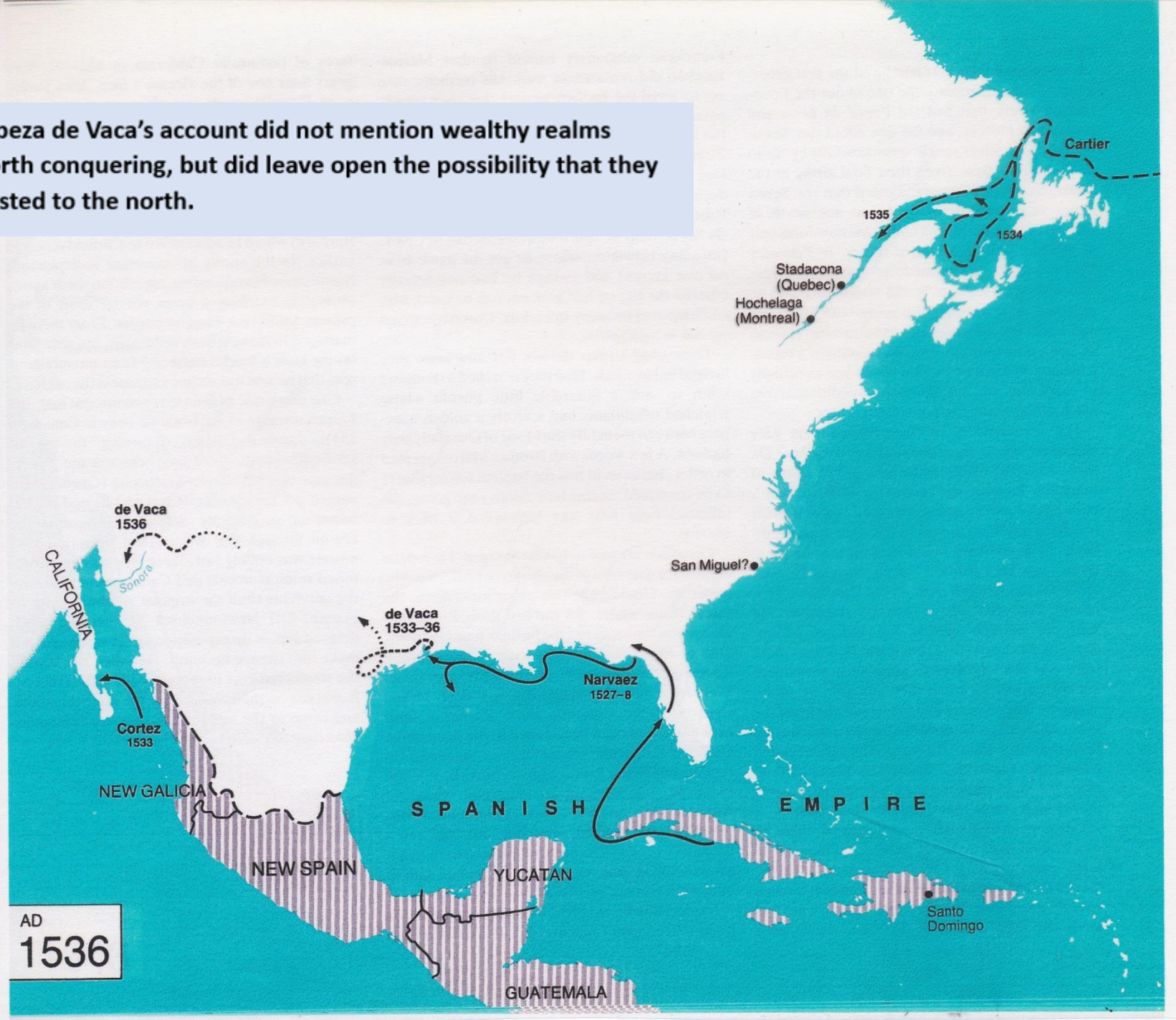


Cabeza de Vaca and three companions, sole survivors of the ill-fated Narváez expedition (1527), were the first Europeans to cross the North American continent. They spent 8 years traveling 6,000 miles through the interior of Florida, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and northern Mexico. The journey itself was an incredible feat of human stamina and pluck. Equally remarkable is Cabeza De Vaca's account of his adventure. *La Relación*, first published in 1542, revised Spanish conceptions about the size and nature of the continent north of Mexico. The book is also the first detailed description of native Americans. In his wanderings Cabeza de Vaca came to admire Indians, whom he came to see as fellow humans who could be won over only by kindness. His book—which can be considered the beginning of American literature—is a record of both a physical and a spiritual journey.



A movie (in Spanish) has been made showing Cabeza de Vaca's journey.

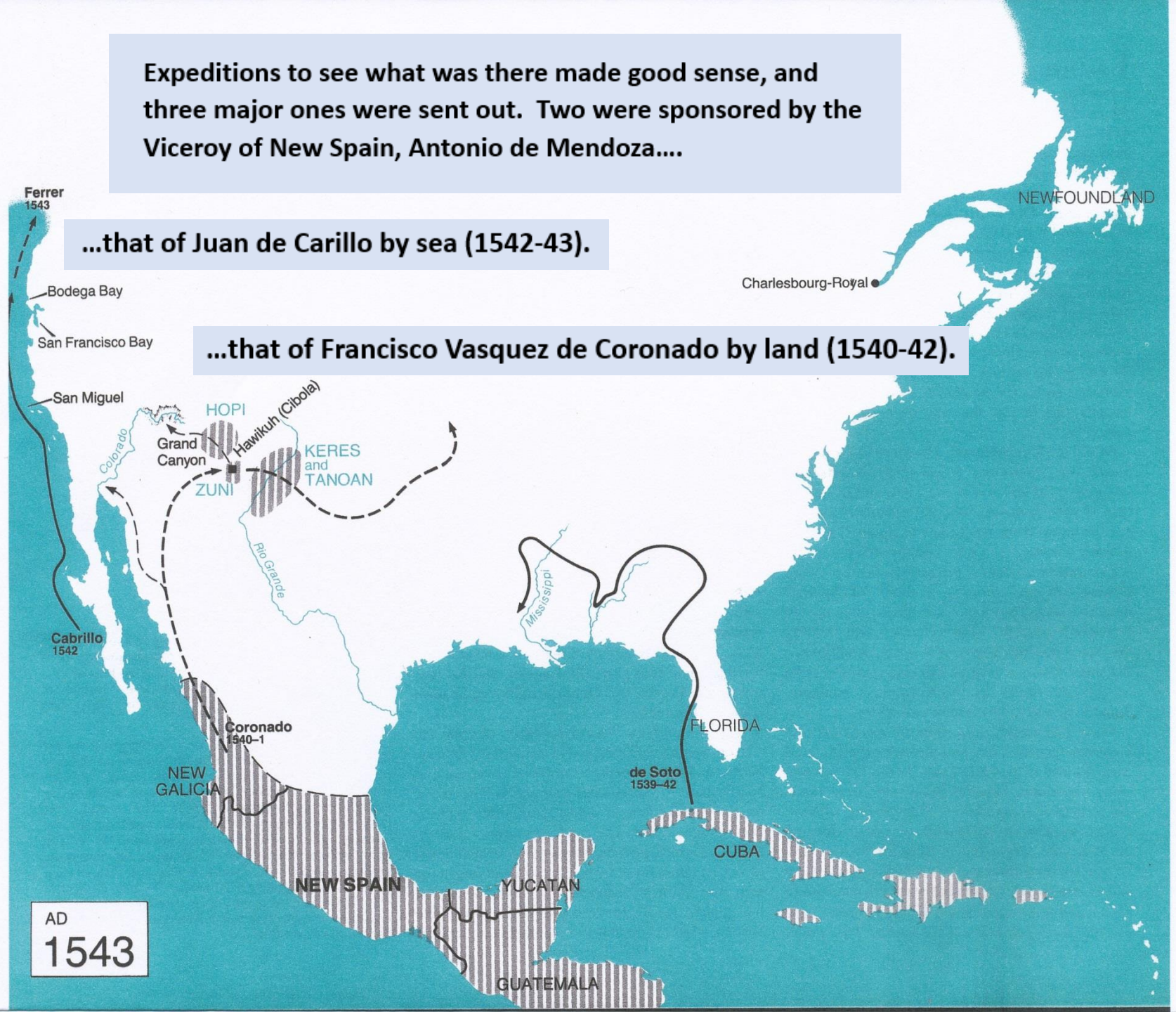
Cabeza de Vaca's account did not mention wealthy realms worth conquering, but did leave open the possibility that they existed to the north.



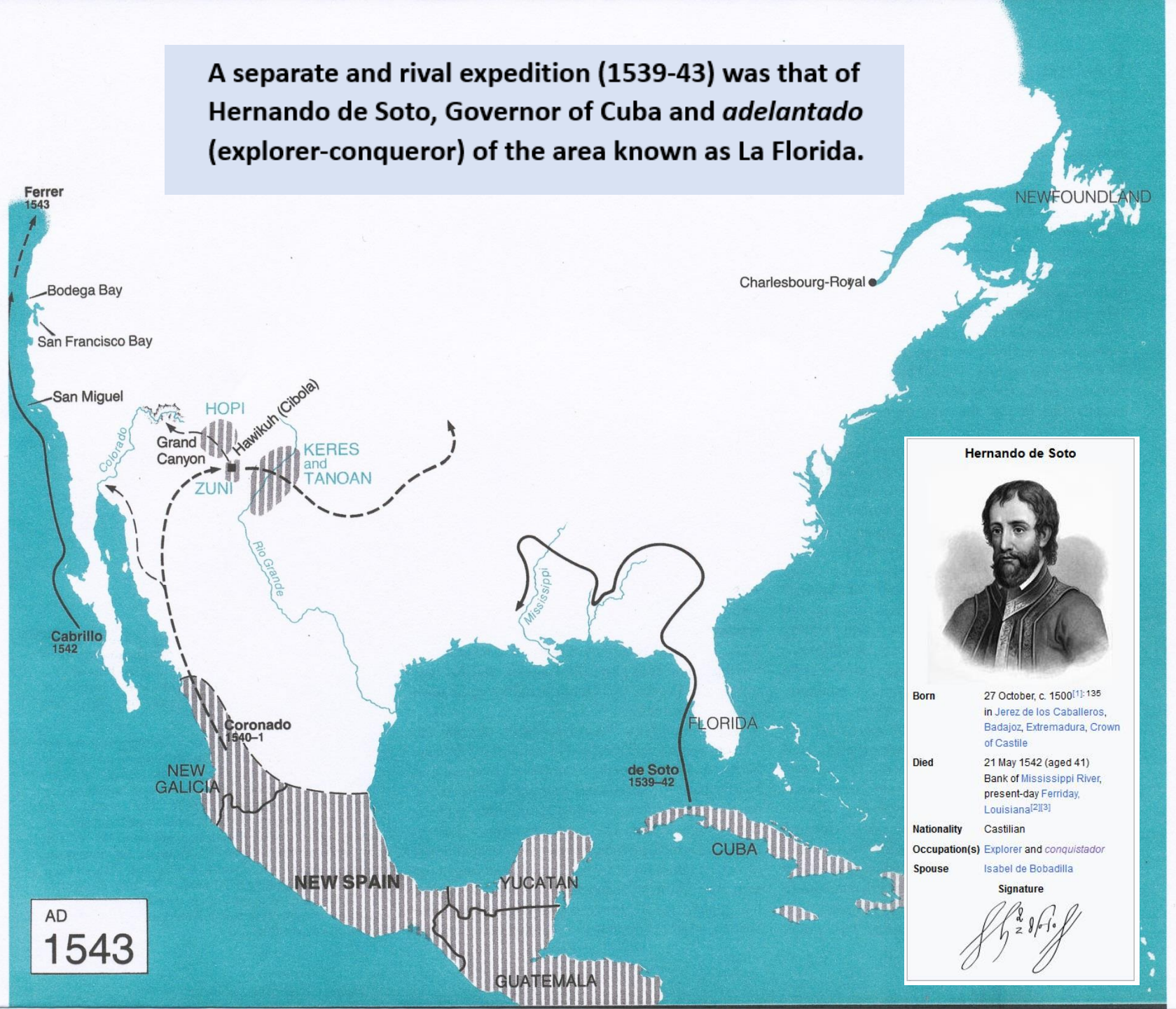
Expeditions to see what was there made good sense, and three major ones were sent out. Two were sponsored by the Viceroy of New Spain, Antonio de Mendoza….

…that of Juan de Carillo by sea (1542-43).

…that of Francisco Vasquez de Coronado by land (1540-42).



A separate and rival expedition (1539-43) was that of Hernando de Soto, Governor of Cuba and *adelantado* (explorer-conqueror) of the area known as La Florida.



Hernando de Soto

Born	27 October, c. 1500[1]:135 in Jerez de los Caballeros, Badajoz, Extremadura, Crown of Castile
Died	21 May 1542 (aged 41) Bank of Mississippi River, present-day Ferriday, Louisiana[2][3]
Nationality	Castilian
Occupation(s)	Explorer and *conquistador*
Spouse	Isabel de Bobadilla

Signature

These are conveniently summarized in this National Park Service booklet….

Timeline

1440-60
The Portuguese explore coast of Africa

1492
Moors defeated in Spain; Columbus lands in New World

1497
Vasco da Gama sails to India by way of Africa

1513
Ponce de León claims Florida for Spain

1519-21
Magellan's fleet sails around the world

1521
Cortés conquers the Aztecs

1528
Narváez attempts a colony in Florida

1529-36
The wanderings of Cabeza de Vaca

1532
Pizarro overthrows the Incas of Peru

1539-43
De Soto expedition

1540-42
Coronado expedition

1542-43
Cabrillo's voyage

1562
French Huguenots settle in Florida

1565
Menendez establishes St. Augustine

1584
Ralegh plants colony on North Carolina coast

1598
Oñate expedition into Southwest

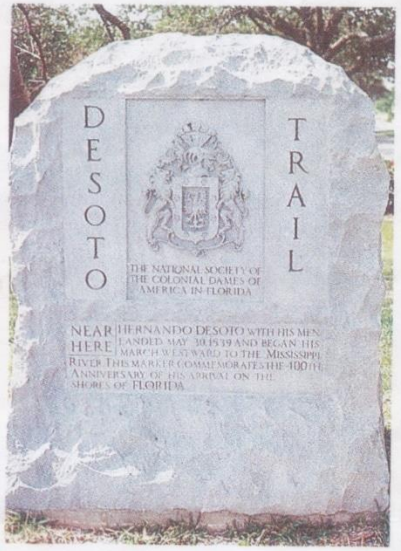
1607
English settle at Jamestown

1620
Pilgrims settle at Plymouth

First Expeditions North	1539	1540	1541	1542	1543
De Soto	Lands in Florida in late May; marches through upper Florida; major battle at Napituca; guerilla war with Apalachees; winter camp at Anhaica (Tallahassee)	Following Indian trails, expedition swings in a wide arc through Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Alabama, encountering major chiefdoms. Bloody battle at Mabila (central Alabama) in October	Winters among ancestral Chickasaw Indians of Mississippi and suffers attack by them; crosses Mississippi in May; travels in great loop through Arkansas; discovers buffalo hunters and a people who live in scattered houses and not in villages; endures severe winter at Autiamque	Reaches the rich chiefdom of Anilco; at nearby Guachoya, De Soto sends out scout parties who find nothing but wilderness; De Soto dies, is succeeded by Moscoso. After fruitless wandering in east Texas, Moscoso retraces route to Anilco	Winter camp at Aminoya on Mississippi; survivors—half the original number—build boats to float downriver; in September, they reach Pánuco River, in Mexico
Coronado		Departs from Compostela with an army of 300 cavalry and infantry, several hundred Indian allies, friars, and a long pack train. Alarcón sails up the Gulf of California with three vessels. Expedition penetrates American Southwest, reaches Háwikuh in July; engages the Zuñi in battle; Coronado wounded. Tovar explores Hopi villages in Arizona. Alarcón reaches mouth of Colorado River. Cárdenas sights the Grand Canyon. Alvarado marches to Acoma, Pecos, and beyond.	Journeys to Quivira (Kansas). Winters at Tiguex; puts down an Indian revolt.	The army departs for home in April, arrives in Mexico City in mid-summer. Coronado reports to Viceroy Antonio de Mendoza on expedition, resumes his governorship of Nueva Galicia. Months later Coronado is tried for mismanagement of expedition but acquitted.	
Cabrillo		Accompanies an exploring expedition up the northwest coast as *almirante* (second in command). Expedition abandoned after its leader is killed fighting Indians.	Gathers a new exploring fleet for Mendoza.	Dispatched by Mendoza to continue exploration of the northwest. *June:* Sails from Navidad, near Colima, Mexico. *September 28:* Sights "a sheltered port and a very good one." This is San Diego Bay, which he names San Miguel. *October:* Sails through the Channel Islands, suffers fall and injury. *November:* Reaches the northernmost point of the voyage, perhaps Point Reyes, California, but turns back.	*January 3:* Dies on San Miguel Island (Channel Islands). *February:* The fleet sails north again, perhaps as far as Oregon before turning back. *April:* Fleet arrives back at Navidad, nine months after embarking.

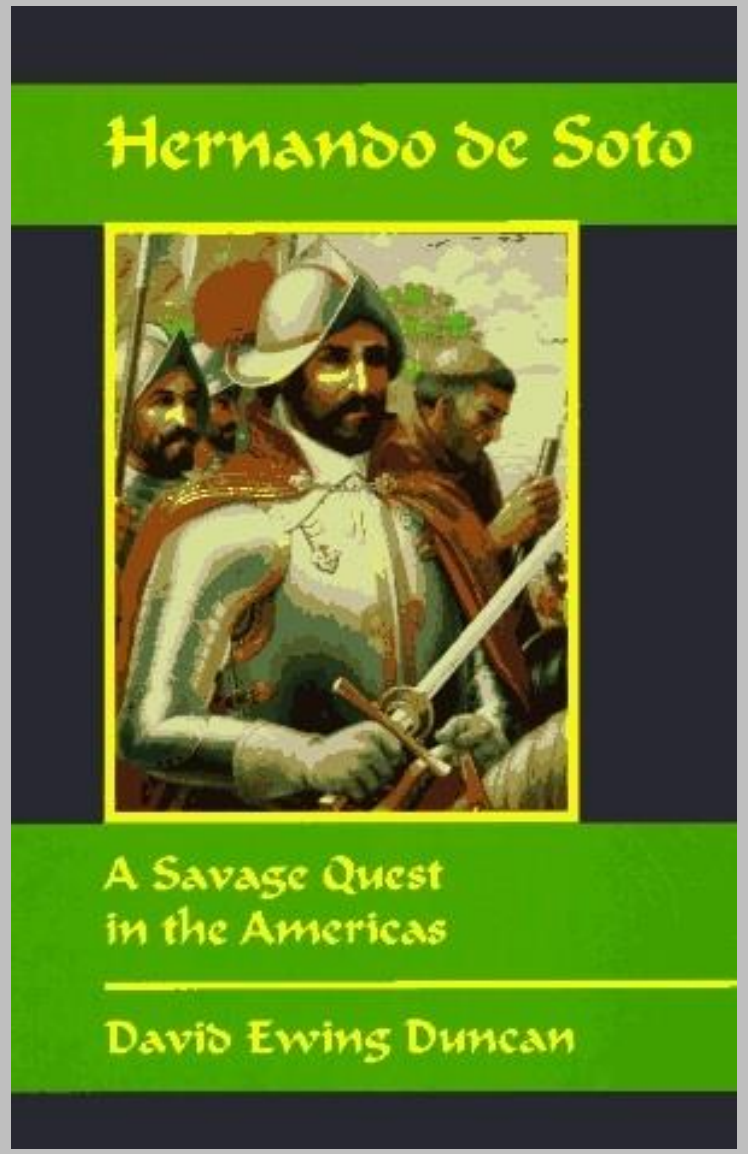
....which provides this timeline for all three.

De Soto’s story is most familiar in the Southern states, where he was regarded as a hero.

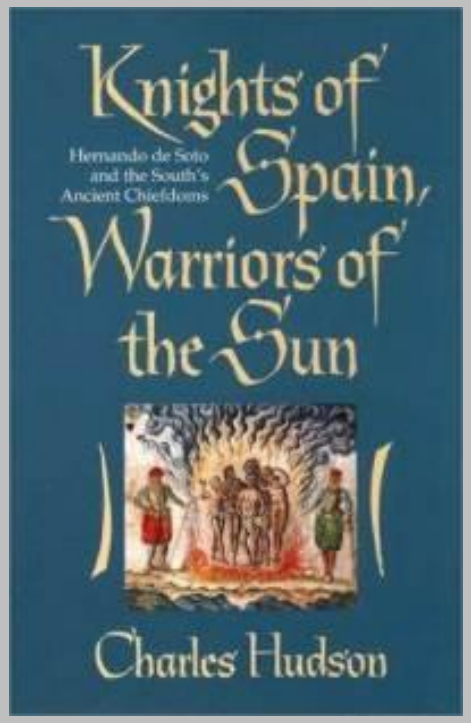


Looking toward 1939, the 400th anniversary of de Soto's landing, the U.S. Congress appointed a de Soto Commission to study the route. John R. Swanton of the Smithsonian Institution prepared the final report, which led to the placement of many historical markers, like this one near Bradenton, Florida.

It seems that anniversaries stimulate publication. The 1990s saw the 450th anniversary of the Coronado and De Soto entradas, and some of the works produced then are still the "go-to" accounts of their topics!

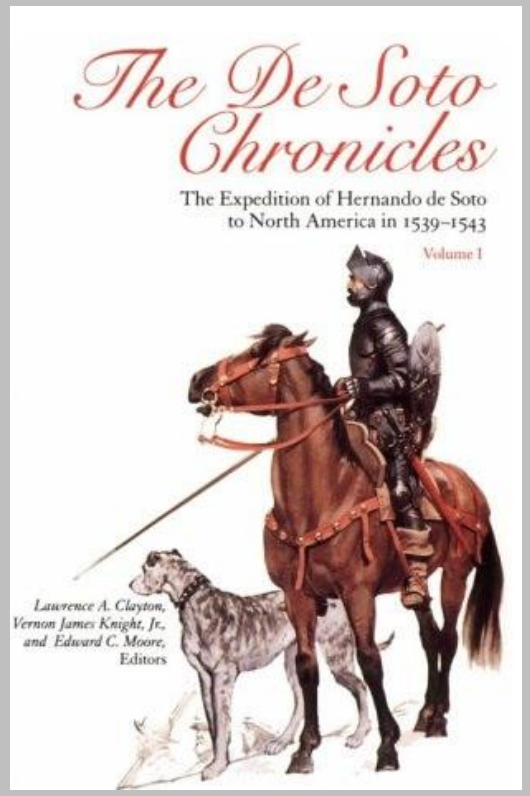


A good biography….



Charles Hudson's book tells the story of de Soto's expedition, and combines that with descriptions of archaeological finds and of the natural environment of the Southeast.

His paragraphs could almost be color-coded, with the main narrative in black, the archaeological paragraphs in red, and the descriptions of nature in green!



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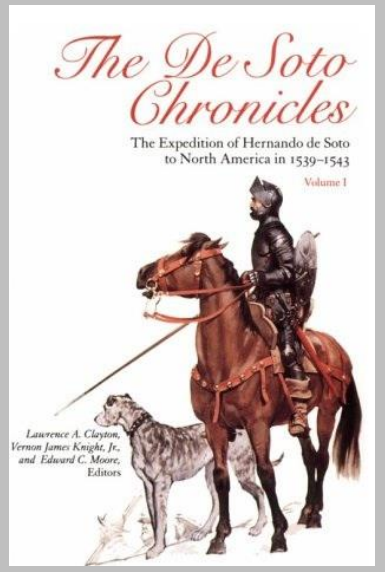
THE CAÑETE FRAGMENT: ANOTHER NARRATIVE OF HERNANDO DE SOTO
by
Eugene Lyon

There are four written sources of information (chronicles) describing de Soto's *entrada*. They are conveniently reprinted here, with notes and comments by modern historians.



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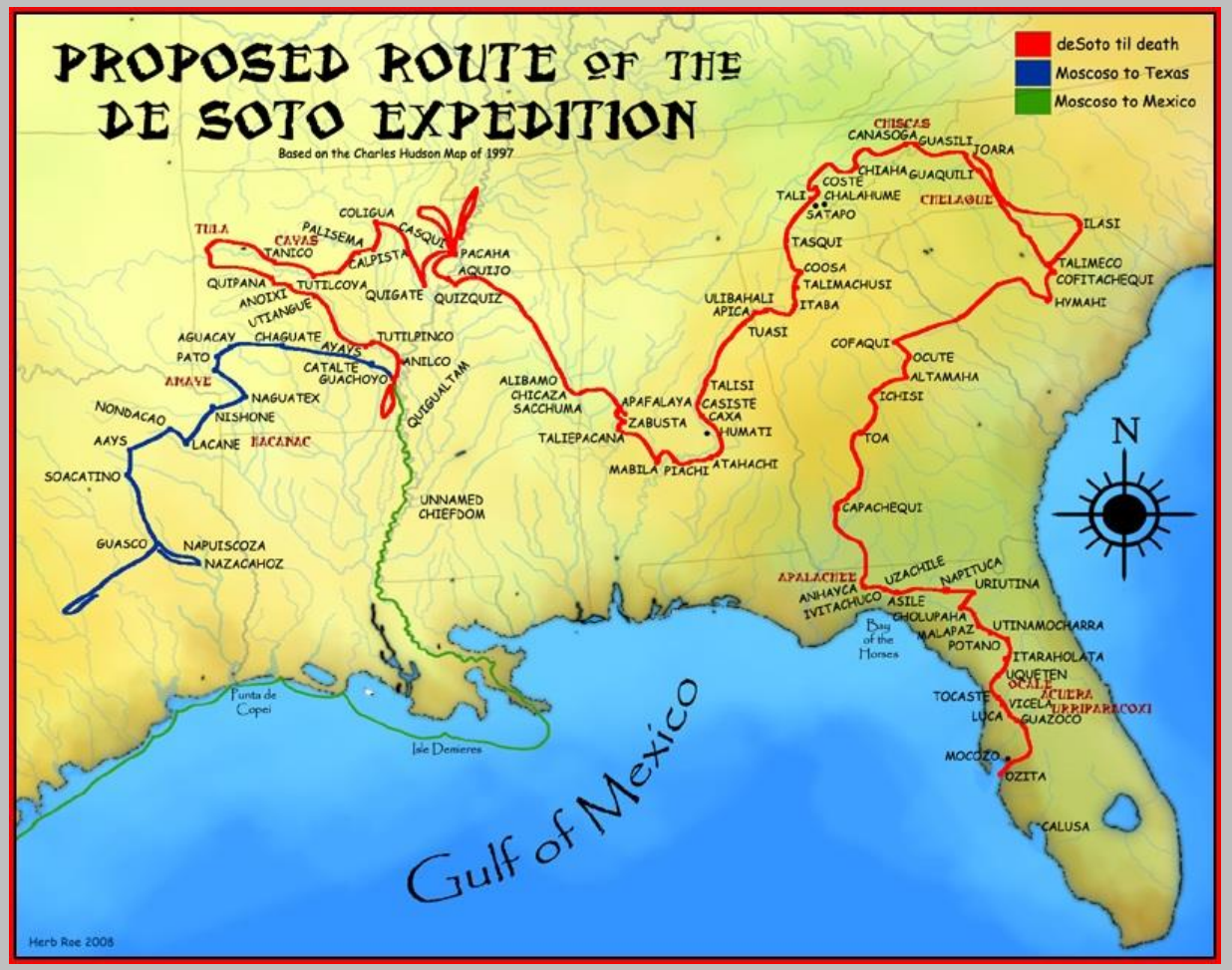
For anthropologists and archaeologists, the surviving De Soto chronicles are uniquely valued for the ethnological information they contain. These documents are the only detailed eyewitness record of the most advanced native cultural achievement in North America—the Mississippian culture—a culture that vanished in the wake of European contact. Scholars are now engaged in the exciting prospect of uniting the ethnological record displayed in the De Soto chronicles with modern archaeological, historical, and linguistic findings in order to yield the first comprehensive picture of southeastern Mississippian Indian chiefdoms at the time of European contact.



Locating the exact route of this expedition has been a scholarly game for many decades. It combines analysis of the written documents with analysis of archaeological finds.

This is not a trivial pursuit! Knowing the exact route means knowing where to look for earliest evidence of the enormous changes that "first contacts" produced in North America. This includes radical population decline due to epidemic diseases, and the impact of new plants, animals and technologies.

Charles Hudson's route is widely accepted, but debates continue about portions of it…..

Beware crackpot websites! They may look impressive, but are the product of a single eccentric mind.

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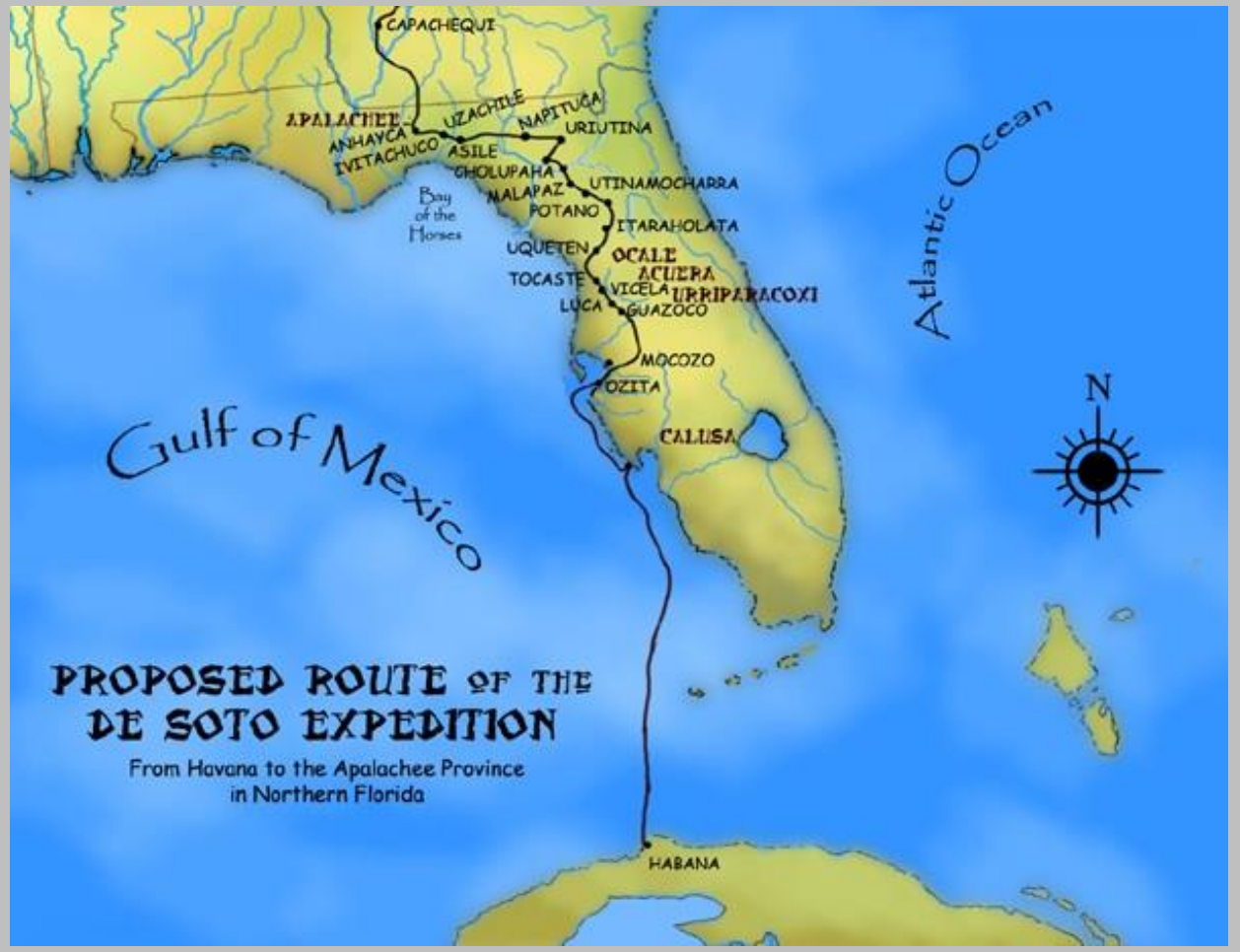
De Soto was one of the few successful conquistadors, taking part in Pizarro's conquest of Peru, winning a fortune, and returning to Spain a wealthy and honored man.

He wanted more glory and honor.

In Spain, de Soto had talked extensively with Cabeza de Vaca and tried to persuade him to join the expedition. He refused.

Cabeza de Vaca's accounts were reticent and ambiguous about the possibility of great wealth in La Florida. He would turn aside probing questions, saying that his information was for the King only.



Cuba would be the springboard for this campaign. De Soto held the title of Governor and used Cuba as his base of operations.

It was understood that he would appoint a Deputy Governor to be the actual administrator, and that his other title of adelantado authorized him to locate and conquer valuable lands in La Florida.

His Deputy Governor would be his highly competent wife Doña Isabel, daughter of one of the more ruthless conquistadors (Pedrarias).

De Soto's wide experience as a conquistador helped with the all-important task of deciding what and who to take on his expedition.

This would be a real-world counterpart to the popular computer game "Oregon Trail," whose players must decide what supplies, equipment, and skills to acquire. Once on the Trail, unpredictable events and accidents will happen. If they can't be dealt with, it's "Game Over."

The entrada included—

—competent senior officers, many of them relatives or acquaintances (master of the camp and second in command Luis de Moscoso; captain general Nuño de Tovar; captain of the foot Juan Rodríguez Lobillo, and others).

—the royal factor Luis Hernández de Biedma (representing the King's interests and guaranteeing the "royal fifth" of any treasure).

—De Soto's private secretary Rodrigo Rangel.

(Both Biedma and Rangel later wrote accounts of the entrada)

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—Between 650 and 700 soldiers, many with experience in war.

—(De Soto made sure that some of them were skilled specialists: farriers [for horses' hooves], carpenters, shoemakers, blacksmiths, tailors, caulkers, trumpeters [for sending signals in battle].)

—at least seven Catholic priests (administering the sacraments was considered essential; missionary work in this expedition was not).

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—Trained war hounds and their handlers (unknown number).

—About 300 pigs and their swineherds.

—A few mules and wagons.

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—About 300 pigs and their swineherds.

—A few mules and wagons.

—A few women brought along as servants or companions.

—Unknown number of slaves and servants.

—Four Timucuan Indians from Florida, captured in an earlier reconnaissance, taught Spanish, and used as interpreters.

About those pigs:

Here is Charles Hudson's account.

. The pig is a forest animal (fig. 13), and in the sixteenth century *porqueros* normally kept their herds in forests, where they could feed on acorns and chestnuts. Sometimes these herders were called *vareadores*, after the *varas*, wooden flails or sticks, which they used to flail nuts out of trees for the pigs to eat. The value of forests in sixteenth-century Europe were sometimes measured in terms of how many swine they could support.

In general the pigs would fare better on the expedition than the men, horses, and dogs. Pigs can subsist on almost anything they encounter in the forest—

Pigs are the most efficient food producers that can be herded. (Chickens are more efficient than pigs, but no one has ever devised a way to herd chickens.)

Wild boars are not migratory animals, and their domesticated relatives cannot be herded from place to place as easily as cattle or horses. But they are gregarious animals, and they like to stay together. Although they are not to drive, they can be led, and they can be conditioned to respond to sound.

About those pigs:

Here is Charles Hudson's account.

Pigs are unusually fecund. A female as young as nine months old may become pregnant, and she can give birth to as many as twelve in a litter. She normally has two litters per year. Thus a herd of pigs can increase prodigiously within a few years. Within a few weeks after birth, young pigs forage with their mothers, but they are mainly dependent on their mother's milk until they are two and a half to three months old. The mothers are unusually alert and protective of their young.

In sixteenth-century Spain shepherds drove herds of pigs along with their much larger herds of sheep. They ate pork not only for sustenance but also to remove any suspicion that they were Jews. These shepherds could drive their herds as much as fifteen to eighteen miles per day over a good road or trail, but if there was no trail, they traveled shorter distances.[37]

About those horses:

Were any of the Spanish horses destriers?

A destrier (French word) was a highly-trained war horse, not used for ordinary riding.

Destrier War Training

A Destrier horse was typically quite intelligent, being able to understand his rider's commands and respond to them accordingly.

War Horse Armour

For instance, a Destrier was trained to inflict damage and injury on the enemy on the battlefield and a Destrier was trained to spot and sense an enemy for this purpose. It could bite or kick on the command of its rider and usually moved with extraordinary agility by making use of its very powerful hindquarters.

Destrier The War Horse Summary

The Destrier was a specific type of horse used in medieval times. It was typically used as a warhorse and during jousting competitions. A Destrier was extensively trained for these purposes and was never used for other tasks such as regular riding or in hauling carriages.

Typically, a Destrier rose to a height of 14 to 16 hands, had a short back but a very strong hindquarter, and was very agile. It was able to move rapidly and respond to a knight's commands by putting its weight on its hindquarters.

About those horses:

Were any of the Spanish horses destriers?

A destrier (French word) was a highly-trained war horse, not used for ordinary riding.

Next week we'll watch a short film showing what these horses can do, and see a brief clip from the only movie I've seen that portrays destriers in combat, using movements similar to modern dressage.

[Hint: the movie, like our conquistadors' narrative, takes place in the 16th century….but not in the New World or in Europe!]

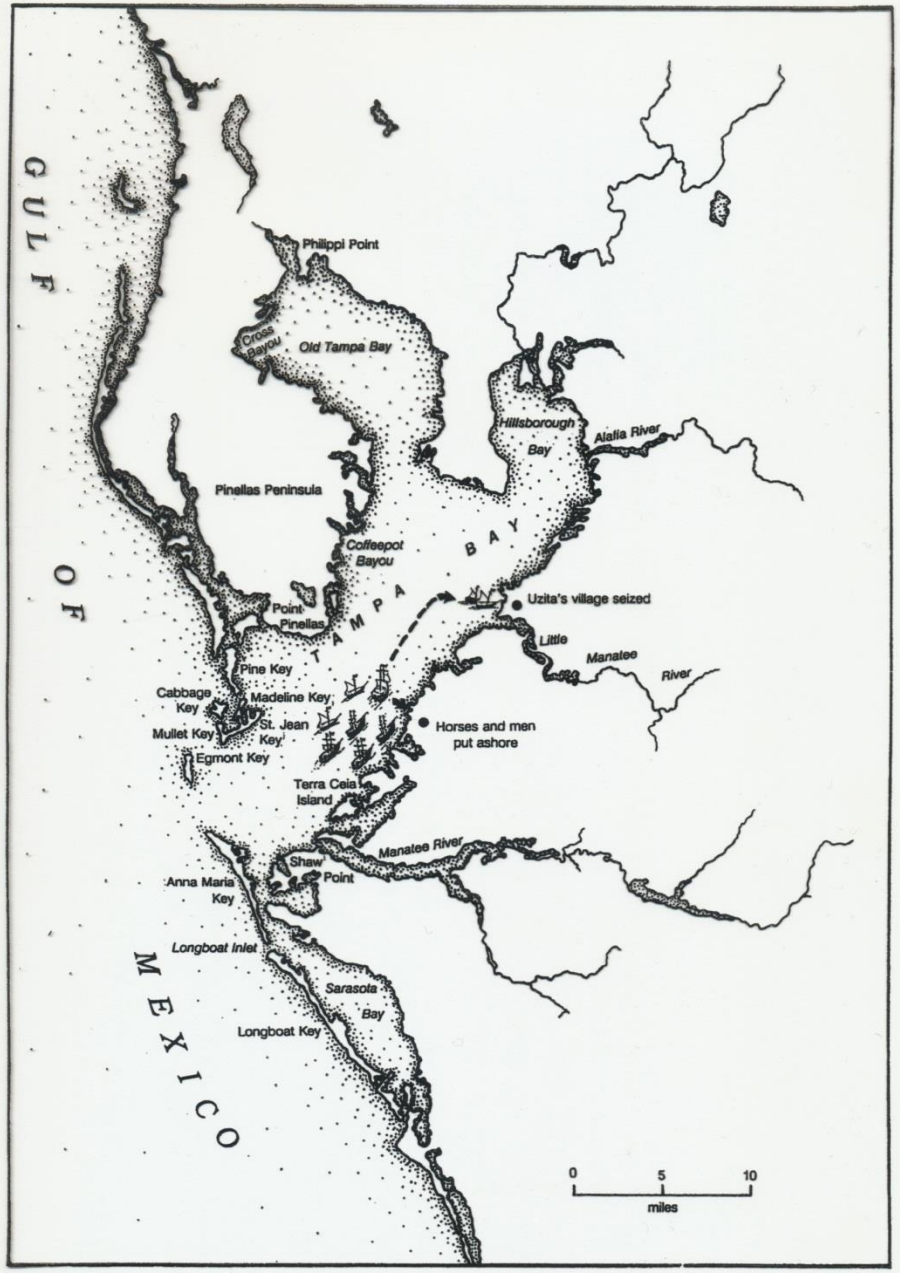


Figure 11

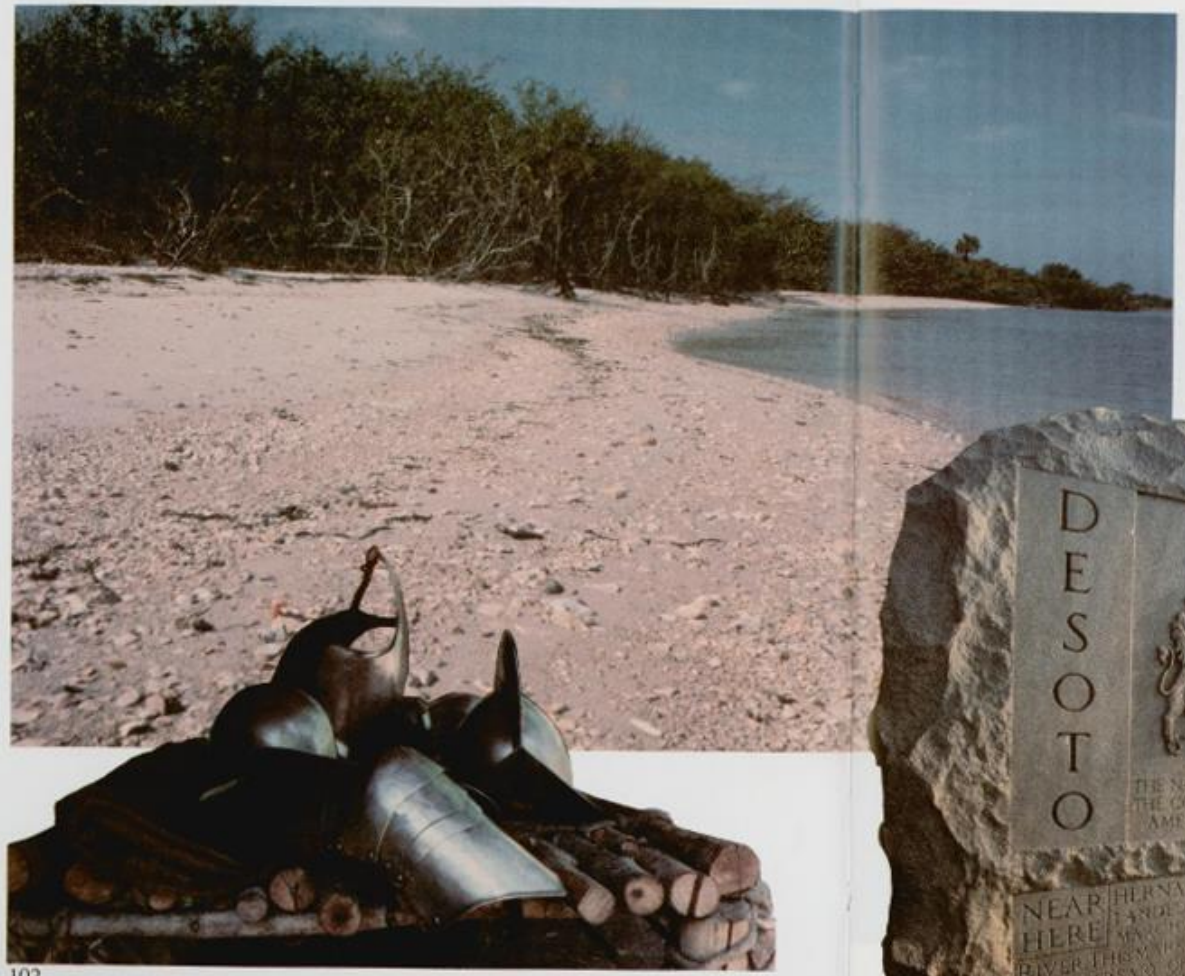
Unloading the horses and men and seizing the village of Uzita near the mouth of the Little Manatee River

De Soto National Memorial, Florida

De Soto National Memorial commemorates the first major European penetration of the southeastern United States. De Soto's purpose, sanctioned by the King, was to conquer the land Spaniards called *La Florida* and settle it for Spain. He failed in both objects. There was no rich empire in the north, only a succession of chiefdoms, and his practice of looting villages and grabbing hostages alienated native inhabitants and turned his march into a siege. The lasting significance of the expedition was the information it yielded about the land and its Mississippian people in a late stage of that remarkable civilization.

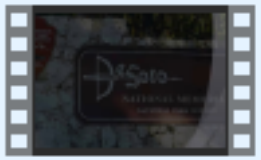
The park was established in 1949 on the south shore of Tampa Bay. De Soto's fleet may very well have sailed by this point in May 1539 to a landing spot farther around the bay. Attractions at the park include replicas of the type of weapons carried by the expedition and thickets of red mangrove, the so-called Florida land-builder. The journals tell of De Soto's men cutting their way inland through mangrove tangles.

For more information about the park and its programs, write:
Superintendent
De Soto National Memorial
P.O. Box 15390
Bradenton, FL 34280



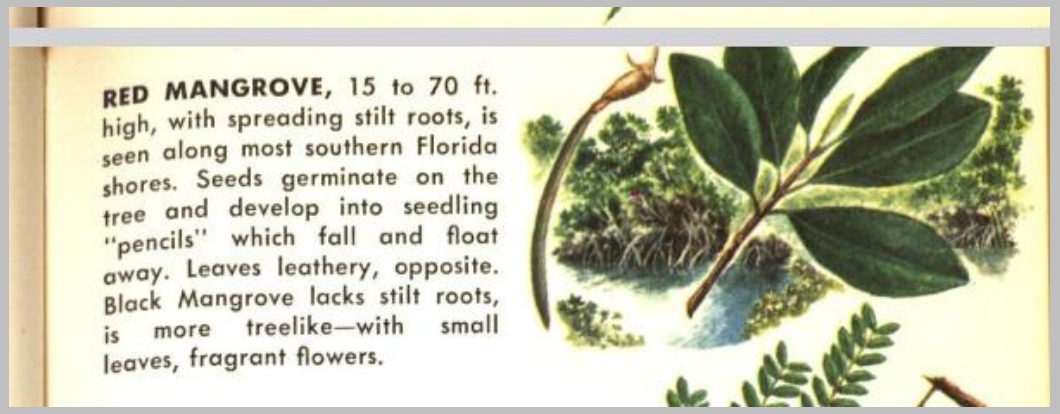
Demonstrations in winter give insight into military life and the Spanish world-view in the 16th century. De Soto's army may well have come ashore at a spot on Tampa Bay that resembled this beach within the park (far left). Below: replica armor and an early marker commemorating De Soto's bold march.


North
Visitor Center
De Soto Point
Memorial Trail
Tabby House Ruin
De Soto Monument
MANATEE RIVER
Parking
Replica Spanish Camp (Camp Ucita)
DE SOTO NATIONAL MEMORIAL
0
0.1 Kilometer
0
0.1 Mile
Holy Eucharist Monument
Memorial Cross
Trail
Beach
RIVERVIEW POINTE
Mangrove swamp
To 64 (Manatee Ave) 2mi 3km

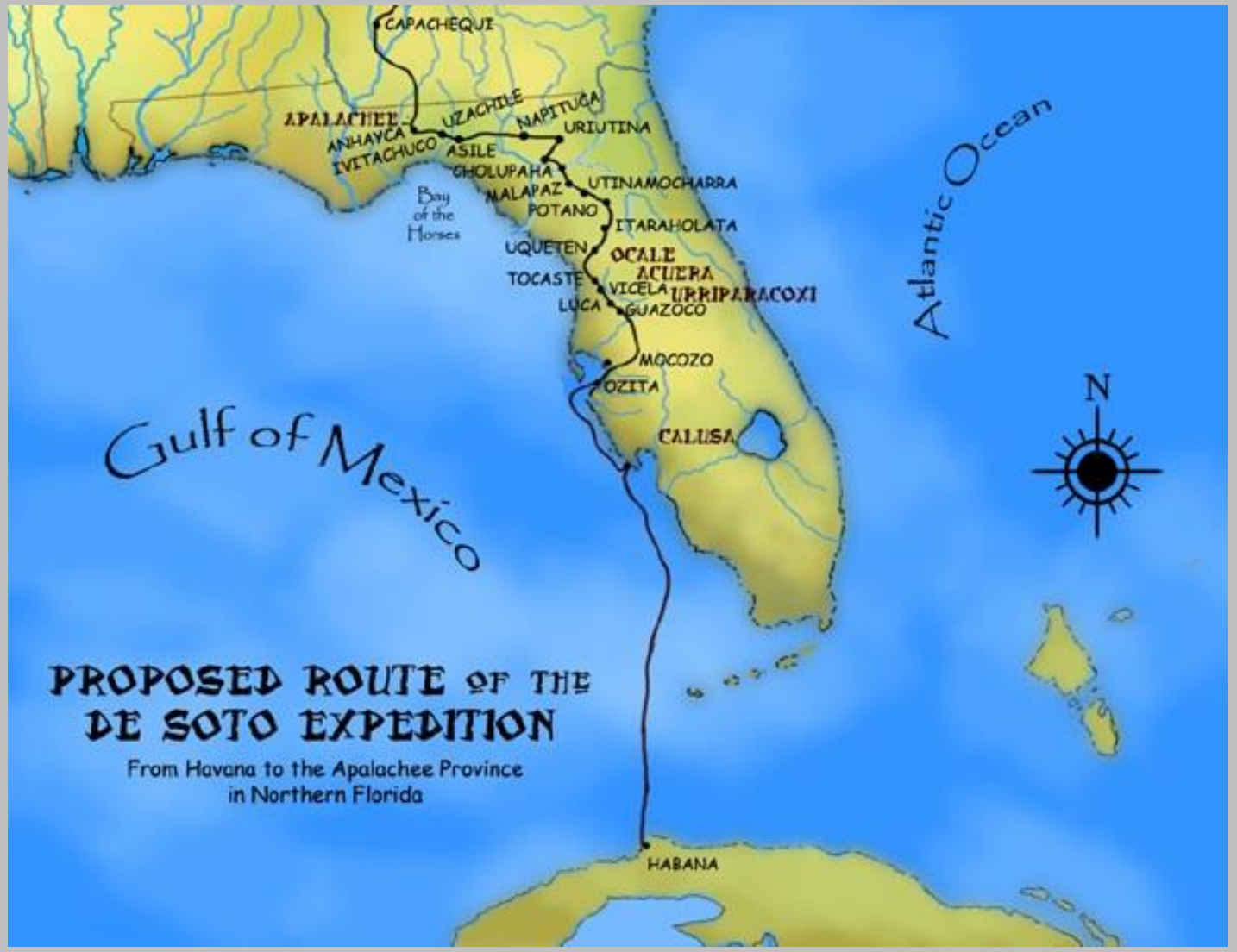


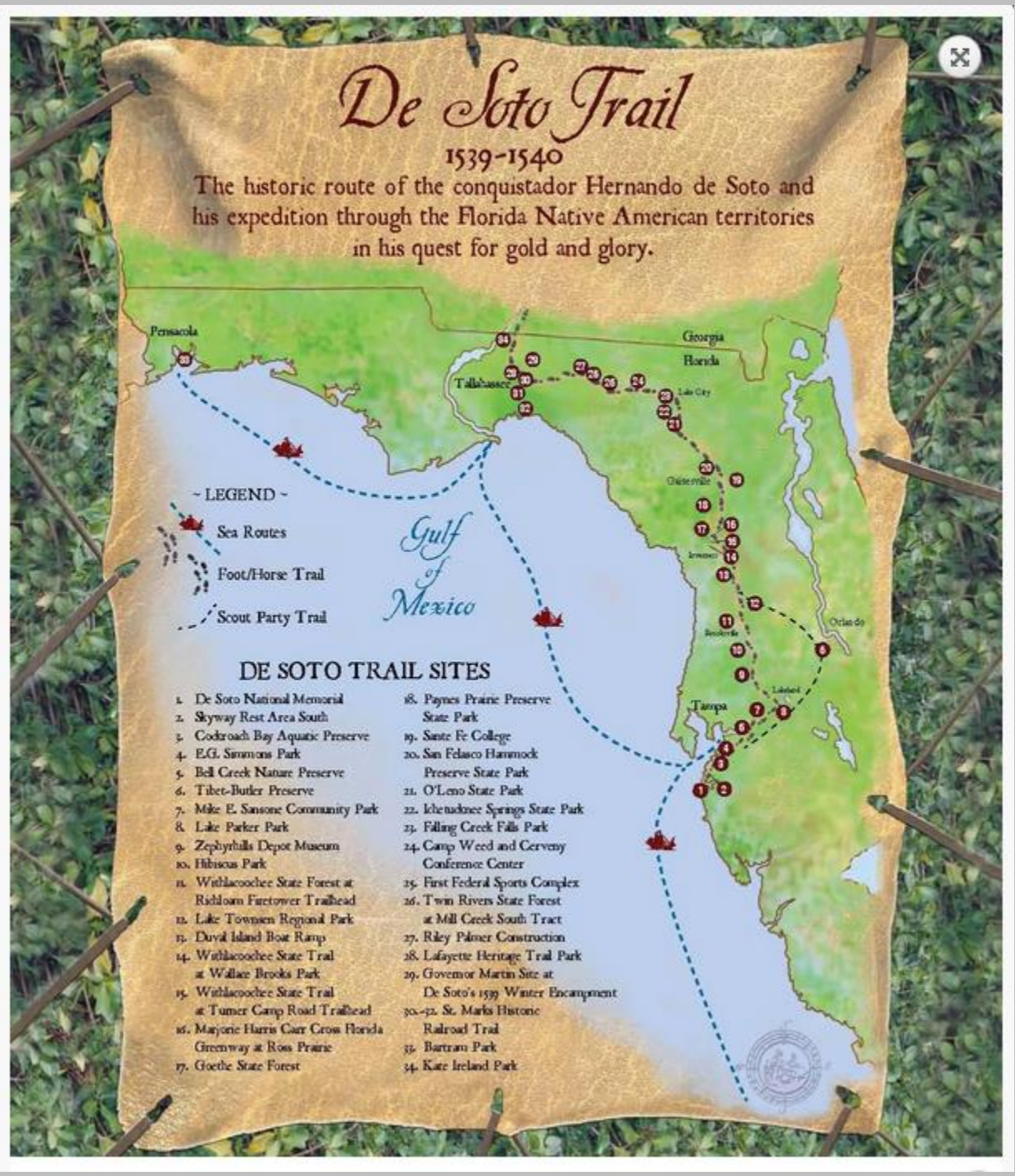
De Soto National Memorial in Bradenton, FL (1080p)

Red mangroves in their element.



RED MANGROVE, 15 to 70 ft. high, with spreading stilt roots, is seen along most southern Florida shores. Seeds germinate on the tree and develop into seedling "pencils" which fall and float away. Leaves leathery, opposite. Black Mangrove lacks stilt roots, is more treelike—with small leaves, fragrant flowers.


CAPACHEQUI
APALACHEE
ANHAYCA
IVITACHUCO
UZACHILE
ASILE
NAPITUCA
URIUTINA
CHOLUPAHA
UTINAMOCHARRA
MALAPAZ
POTANO
ITARAHOLATA
UQUETEN
OCALE
ACUERA
TOCASTE
VICELA
URRIPARACOXI
LUCA
GUAZOCO
MOCOZO
OZITA
CALUSA
HABANA
Bay of the Horses
Gulf of Mexico
Atlantic Ocean
N
PROPOSED ROUTE OF THE DE SOTO EXPEDITION
From Havana to the Apalachee Province in Northern Florida


De Soto Trail
1539-1540
The historic route of the conquistador Hernando de Soto and his expedition through the Florida Native American territories in his quest for gold and glory.
Pensacola
Tallahassee
Georgia
Florida
Lake City
Ocala
Orlando
Tampa
Lakeland
Brooksville
Inverness
~ LEGEND ~
Sea Routes
Foot/Horse Trail
Scout Party Trail
Gulf of Mexico
DE SOTO TRAIL SITES
1. De Soto National Memorial
2. Skyway Rest Area South
3. Cockroach Bay Aquatic Preserve
4. E.G. Simmons Park
5. Bell Creek Nature Preserve
6. Tibet-Butler Preserve
7. Mike E. Sansone Community Park
8. Lake Parker Park
9. Zephyrhills Depot Museum
10. Hibiscus Park
11. Withlacoochee State Forest at Richloam Firetower Trailhead
12. Lake Townsen Regional Park
13. Duval Island Boat Ramp
14. Withlacoochee State Trail at Wallace Brooks Park
15. Withlacoochee State Trail at Turner Camp Road Trailhead
16. Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway at Ross Prairie
17. Goethe State Forest
18. Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park
19. Santa Fe College
20. San Felasco Hammock Preserve State Park
21. O'Leno State Park
22. Ichetucknee Springs State Park
23. Falling Creek Falls Park
24. Camp Weed and Cerveny Conference Center
25. First Federal Sports Complex
26. Twin Rivers State Forest at Mill Creek South Tract
27. Riley Palmer Construction
28. Lafayette Heritage Trail Park
29. Governor Martin Site at De Soto's 1539 Winter Encampment
30.-32. St. Marks Historic Railroad Trail
33. Bartram Park
34. Kate Ireland Park

"What we have here is a failure to communicate."

Problems finding good interpreters plagued this expedition throughout its history. At the beginning, de Soto had four captured Timucuan Indians who had been taught some Spanish, but----

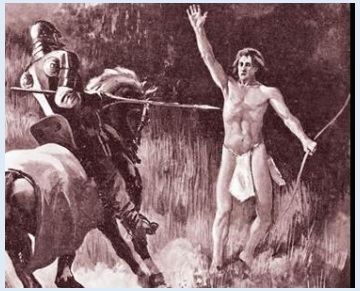
De Soto and his men found themselves in a country with no adviser or informant who could tell them where anything was located. There were trails, but no one knew which ones to follow. De Soto sent out one of their captive Indian translators to establish contact with the local Indians, but evidently this man did not return. Foolishly, they did not take the precaution of chaining the other three translators, and during the night of June 3, two of them escaped through the carelessness of two soldiers who were supposed to have guarded them.[38]

The Spaniards evidently captured at least one Indian who was subject to Ozita. They interrogated him, presumably using their lone remaining translator. The captive attempted to tell them about a matter that Añasco's captive translators had already told them about in a garbled way. He seemed to say that a Spaniard was living among some Indians near where their camp was. The captive kept uttering the word "Orotiz," which caused the Spaniards much delight, because what he was saying seemed to contain the Spanish word *oro*, "gold," and that is what they all wanted to discover.[39]

"What we have here is a failure to communicate."

A few days later, a scouting party of horsemen skirmished with a band of Indians. One of them shouted—

"Sirs, for the love of God and of St. Mary, do not kill me; I am Christian, like you, and I am a native of Seville, and my name is Juan Ortiz."[43] He was the "Orotiz" their captive had told them about. His Spanish was so rusty that Gallegos and his companions could hardly understand him. He begged for the Spaniards to stop attacking his Indian comrades, some of whom had run back to their chief Mocozo with news of the encounter. At Ortiz's prompting, Gallegos sent another Indian messenger to Mocozo, informing him that the attack had been a mistake.[44]



At first appearance, Juan Ortiz was indistinguishable from his Indian comrades. He was deeply tanned by the sun; he was dressed as the Indians were dressed; he carried a bow and arrows; and his arms were tattooed just as theirs were.[45] Because he had not spoken Spanish for the twelve years he had been held captive, he now spoke it haltingly. It was more than four days before he ceased mixing Indian words into his Spanish. Gradually, as he regained fluency in his native language, his story began to unfold.[46]

Rescue of Juan Ortiz, Captured by Indians and Saved from the Stake by a Florida Pocahantas. Drawing by Alfred Russell

“What we have here is a failure to communicate.”

Ortiz was a survivor of the ill-fated Narvaez expedition.

Ortiz could speak the languages of both Uzita and Mocoso (which were mutually unintelligible). The language of Mocoso was apparently a dialect of the Timucua language, which made Ortiz very useful to de Soto. As the expedition traveled up the Florida peninsula, it passed through chiefdoms that spoke various dialects of the Timucua language, until the expedition crossed the Aucilla River, and entered the Apalachee Province. From that point the expedition relied on Timucua speakers who could translate from other languages, with Ortiz then providing a translation into Spanish.[10][11]

Juan Ortiz died sometime during the winter of 1541–1542, while the expedition was camped at the town of Autiamque in what is now Arkansas.[12]

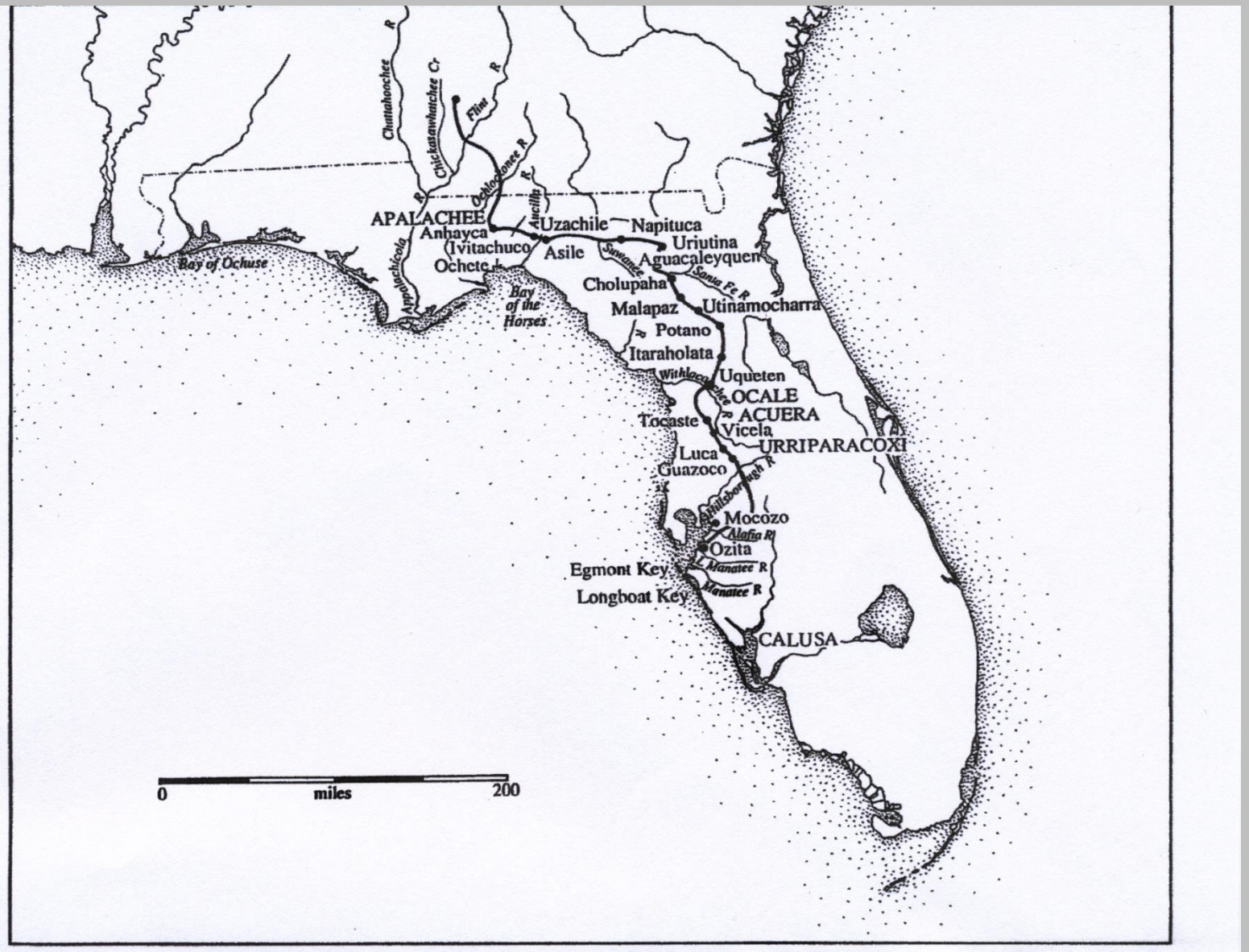
“What we have here is a failure to communicate.”

Beyond Florida, de Soto had to rely on a chain of captive interpreters, with Juan Ortiz finally providing a translation into Spanish.

The farther the expedition got from Florida, the longer the chain and the greater the chance of miscommunication.

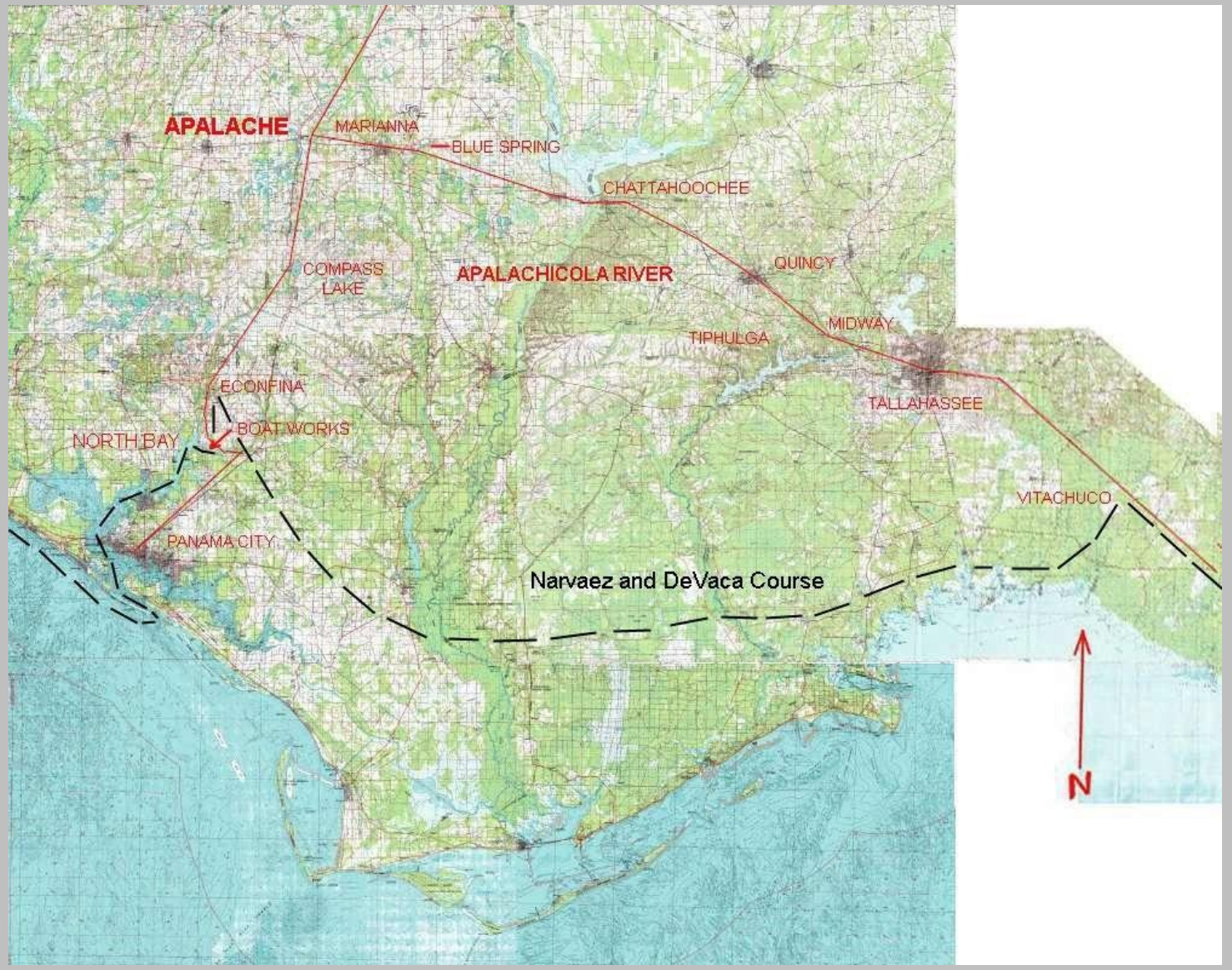
Have you ever played the game of whispering a sentence to the person next to you, having it relayed around the table, then hearing how it changed when it gets back to you?

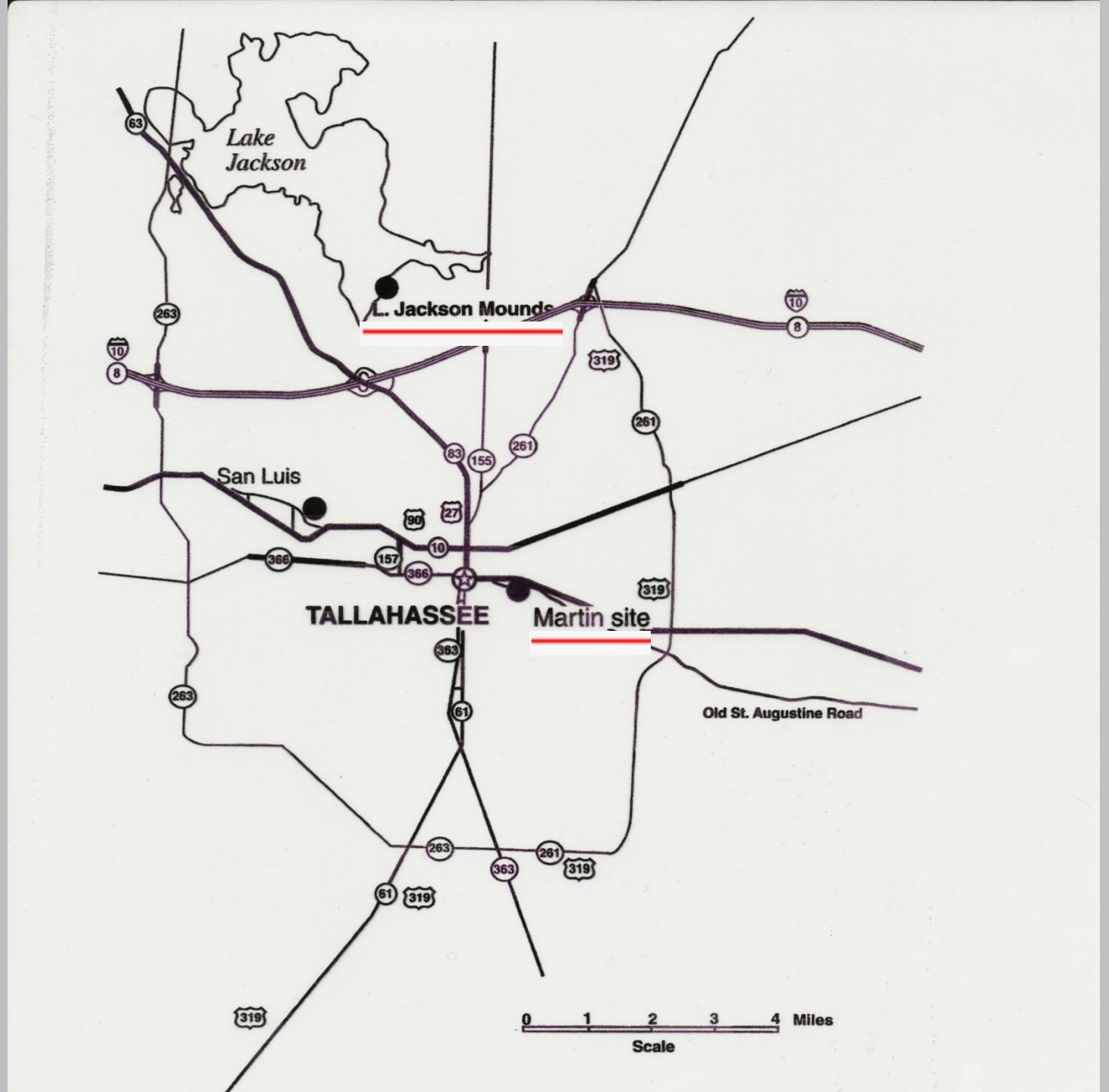
Map 5. De Soto's route from Ozita to Apalachee, 1539–1540.

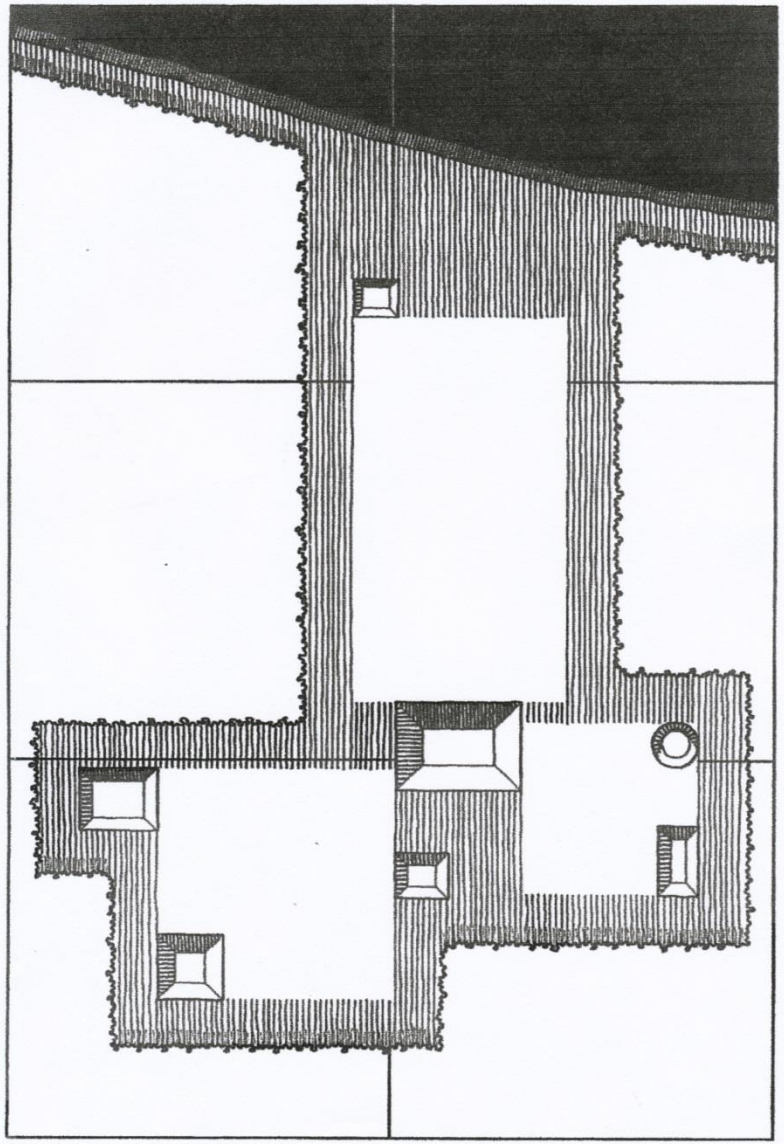


In his march through Florida, de Soto began his pattern of seizing chiefs or members of a chief's family, forcing them to provide men (and women) as porters and bearers (and for other purposes).

In October 1539 the Spanish force reached the land of the Apalachee, the most powerful of the local tribes. They evicted the population from the chief town and used it for winter quarters, 1539-40.


APALACHE
MARIANNA
BLUE SPRING
CHATTAHOOCHEE
COMPASS LAKE
APALACHICOLA RIVER
QUINCY
MIDWAY
TIPHULGA
ECONFINA
TALLAHASSEE
NORTH BAY
BOAT WORKS
VITACHUCO
PANAMA CITY
Narvaez and DeVaca Course
N


Lake
Jackson
L. Jackson Mounds
San Luis
TALLAHASSEE
Martin site
Old St. Augustine Road
63
263
10
8
83
155
261
319
90
27
366
157
363
61
0 1 2 3 4 Miles
Scale



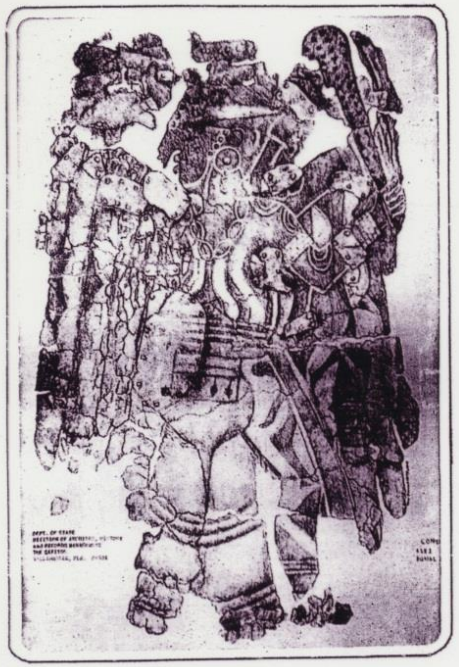
63. Lake Jackson site, Leon County, Florida; Late Mississippian period, A.D. 1300–1600.

1 lake Jackson Mounds

It is thought that the principal Apalachee chief lived at the Lake Jackson site (fig. 19), and subsidiary chiefs lived at single-mound centers and perhaps elsewhere. For much of Apalachee's existence, there may have been two major centers of power—one in the western part of Apalachee's territory, another in the eastern part. Seemingly, just prior to the Narváez and De Soto entradas—in about 1500—a major change occurred within the Apalachee chiefdom. At this time the Lake Jackson site was abandoned and the seat of power of the principal chief moved to Anhayca, the center encountered by De Soto and his men. From the chroniclers' accounts it is clear that Anhayca had a plaza surrounded with houses, like Mississippian towns elsewhere.[6] But it evidently had no mound, a fact revealed to us by archaeology, and that is somewhat perplexing, given the town's importance. We do know, however, that Mississippian mounds were a part of Apalachee culture. They exist at the Lake Jackson site and at other Apalachee sites, and it is in northern Florida where Garcilaso de la Vega first describes the kind of mounds the expedition encountered in their later travels through Mississippian chiefdoms.

64. Drawing of a hawk dancer from a repoussé copper breastplate, Lake Jackson site, Leon County, Florida. Drawing by Calvin Jones. Courtesy of the Florida Division of Historical Resources, Tallahassee.

65. Rubbing of a dancing figure from a copper breastplate, Lake Jackson site, Leon County, Florida; Mississippian period, A.D. 1300–1600. Courtesy of the Florida Division of Natural Resources, Tallahassee.



2 Tallahassee, the First Winter Encampment

Tallahassee, the First Winter Encampment

Anhaica: De Soto's First Winter Camp, 1539–40

The only site linked with certainty to De Soto is *Anhaica*, once the principal town of the Apalachee Indians.

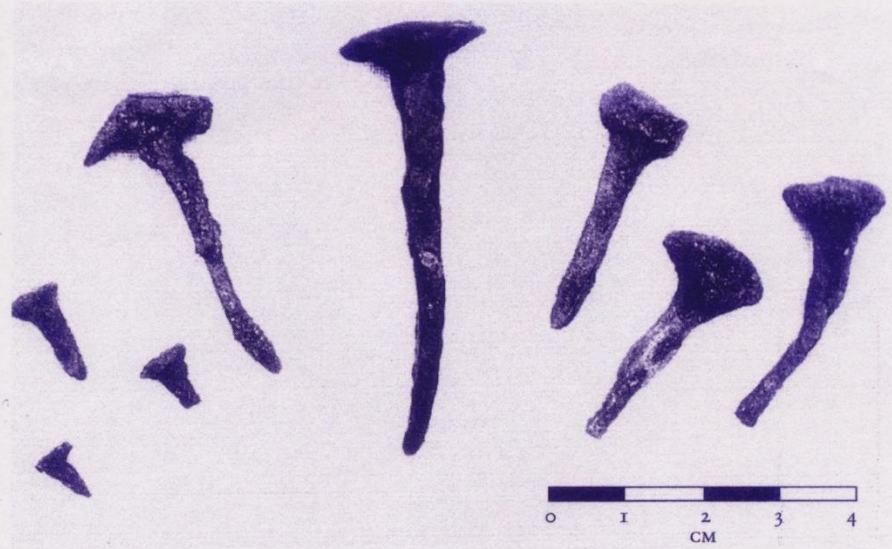
This numerous and powerful people resisted the Spaniards' intrusion into their country in autumn 1539, harassing the march and burning villages to deny food to the army. At *Anhaica* De Soto found an abandoned town of "250 large and good houses." The Spaniards settled in and spent five months here. They scoured the countryside for provisions, seizing quantities of maize, pumpkins, beans, and dried persimmons. The Indians raided the town twice and set fires. When the army departed in spring, they carried enough maize to last them across 200 miles of wilderness.

The exact site of *Anhaica* lay unknown for 450 years. It was discovered by accident in 1987 by archeologist Calvin Jones while searching in downtown Tallahassee, Florida, for a 17th-century Spanish mission. Digging on land planned for development, he and others recovered many 16th-century Spanish artifacts (iron, coins, olive jar fragments, beads, the mandible of a pig) in context with Apalachee pottery. Analysis left no doubt that this was the site of De Soto's first winter camp.

Artifacts from the Tallahassee site: bits of chain mail (top left), an arrow point (above); a copper coin minted in Spain between 1505-17; the metal tip of a cross bow dart. Digging also turned up fragments of olive jars of the type shown at left. The chain mail shirt at center above shows the type of body armor worn by Spaniards in the first decades of the New World conquest. The jar and shirt were not found at the site.

Pottery made by the native peoples who lived at Anhaica prior to the de Soto expedition's occupation.

5.10. Chain mail (Florida Department of State).



.14. Wrought nails (Florida Department of State).

The Spaniards were impressed with the fruitfulness of Apalachee country. They found plenty of corn, beans, and squash, enough to feed the entire army, the servants, and the horses for five months without going a league and a half from Anhayca. The forests were abundant with mulberries, and the oak trees covered the ground with acorns; several kinds of stone fruits abounded; and the fish were excellent.[8]

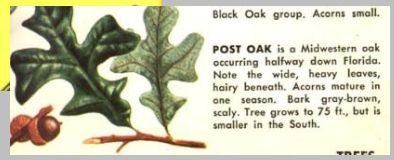
Several kinds of forest covered the Tallahassee hills. Perhaps the most distinctive type was that made up of very large magnolia and beech trees, accompanied by various understory trees.

SOUTHERN MAGNOLIA is the best known of the magnolias for which the South is famous. A tree 60 to 80 ft. high, it has a heavy gray trunk, thick twigs and large, deep green leaves, rusty below. Creamy flowers of early summer mature into conical fruits.

AMERICAN BEECH is a stately and beautiful tree. Our native species is best known. Copper Beech and Weeping Beech are European varieties which are often planted as ornamentals in parks. Beech prefers rich bottomland or

A second type, and the one most favored by the Apalachees, was the pine-oak-hickory forest, with stands of shortleaf pine, post oak, Spanish oak, and mockernut hickory, with a lush understory of grasses, shrubs, saplings, and numerous dogwoods with their spring displays of white flowers.

SHORTLEAF PINE or Yellow Pine, prized southern timber tree, has needles in clusters of two or three; small clustered cones; bark in scaly plates—gray to reddish. Prefers dry, upland soil.



Black Oak group. Acorns small.

POST OAK is a Midwestern oak occurring halfway down Florida. Note the wide, heavy leaves, hairy beneath. Acorns mature in one season. Bark gray-brown, scaly. Tree grows to 75 ft., but is smaller in the South.

On the margins of these deciduous forests, and perhaps particularly on the margins of Apalachee agricultural fields, were clumps of red mulberry trees; wild plum trees, with their tart, red-skinned, yellow-fleshed fruits; black cherry trees with their small, almost black, slightly bitter fruit; and sassafras trees with their fragrant leaves and roots, which would in time be treasured by the European newcomers.

MULBERRIES are small or medium-sized trees cla lated to Hackberry (p. 60) and Osage-orange (

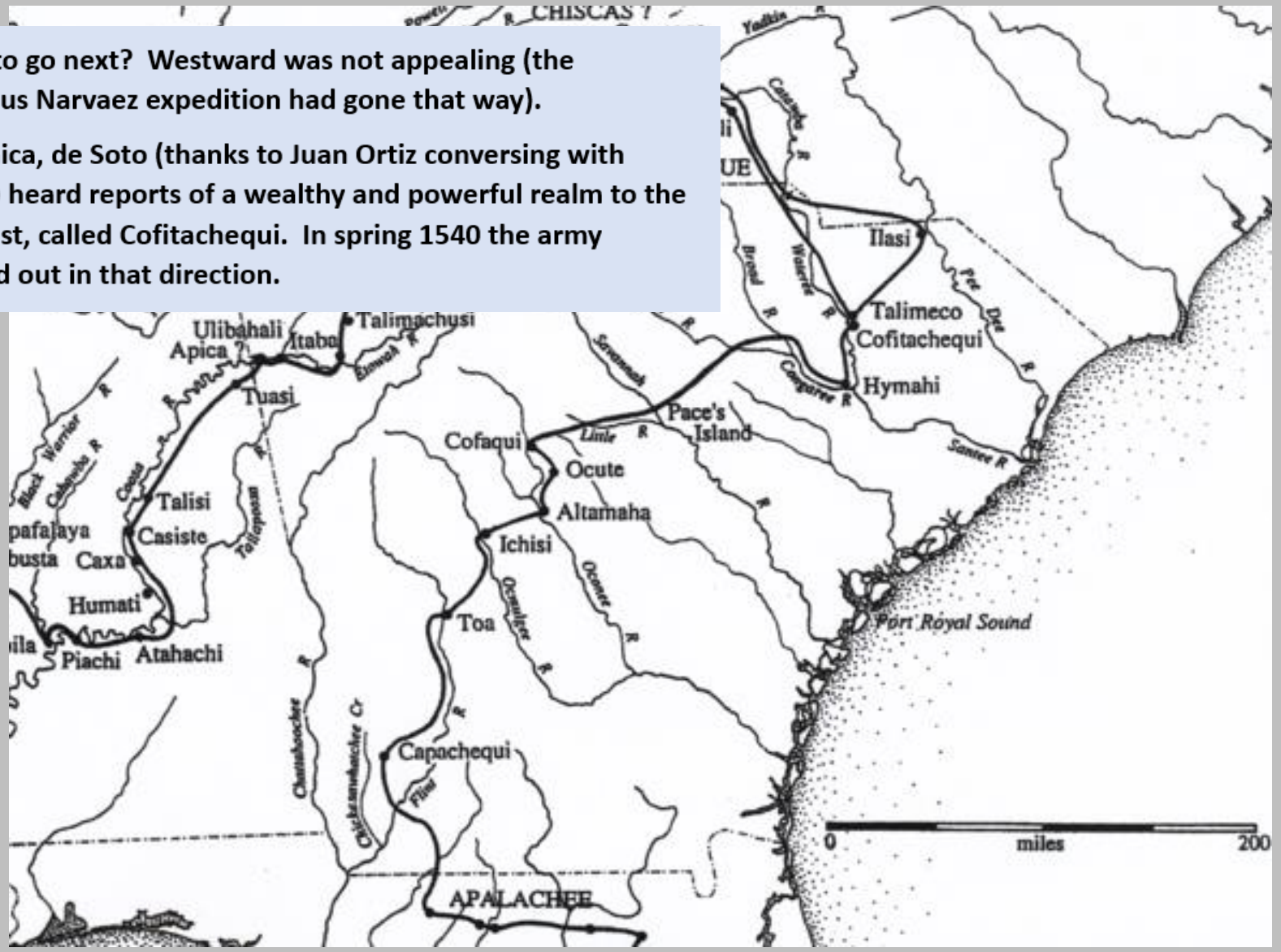
SASSAFRAS, called Green Stick by the Indians because of its bright green twigs, is a common eastern tree or shrub with peculiar, mitten-shaped, three-lobed leaves. Some

A fourth type of forest, reaching into Apalachee country from both the north and the south, was the pine barrens (fig. 18), a southern pine forest comprised almost exclusively of very tall, widely spaced longleaf pines with a thick blanket of fibrous wiregrass on the forest floor. The pine barrens were created and sustained by frequent fires, most of which were started by lightning strikes that could leave a fire smoldering for days inside the rotted trunk of a tree before it broke out into a conflagration.

LONGLEAF PINE has long needles (12 in.) in clusters of three, and long (6 to 10 in.) spiked cones. Bark gray, twigs heavy. Attractive young trees are cut for Christmas decoration. Wood hard, heavy.

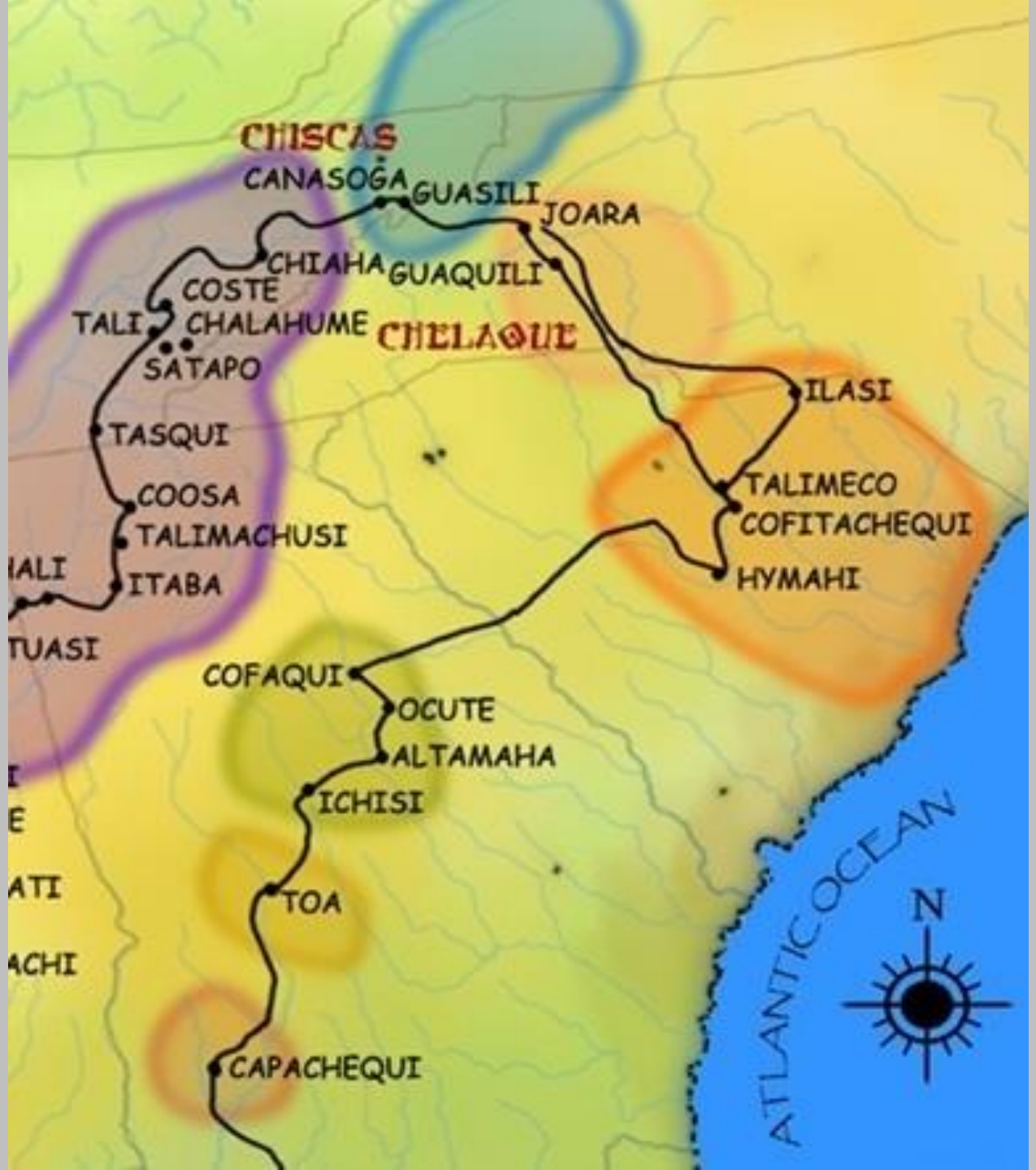
Where to go next? Westward was not appealing (the disastrous Narvaez expedition had gone that way).

At Anhaica, de Soto (thanks to Juan Ortiz conversing with Indians) heard reports of a wealthy and powerful realm to the northeast, called Cofitachequi. In spring 1540 the army marched out in that direction.



A SEARCH FOR TREASURE.

SO far as written records tell us, Hernando de Soto and his companions in arms were the first white men to enter and explore the territory now known on the map as the State of Georgia. Tradition has small


CHISCAS
CANASOGA
GUASILI
JOARA
CHIAHA
GUAQUILI
COSTE
TALI
CHALAHUME
CHELAQUE
SATAPO
ILASI
TASQUI
TALIMECO
COOSA
COFITACHEQUI
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HYMAHI
ITABA
COFAQUI
OCUTE
ALTAMAHA
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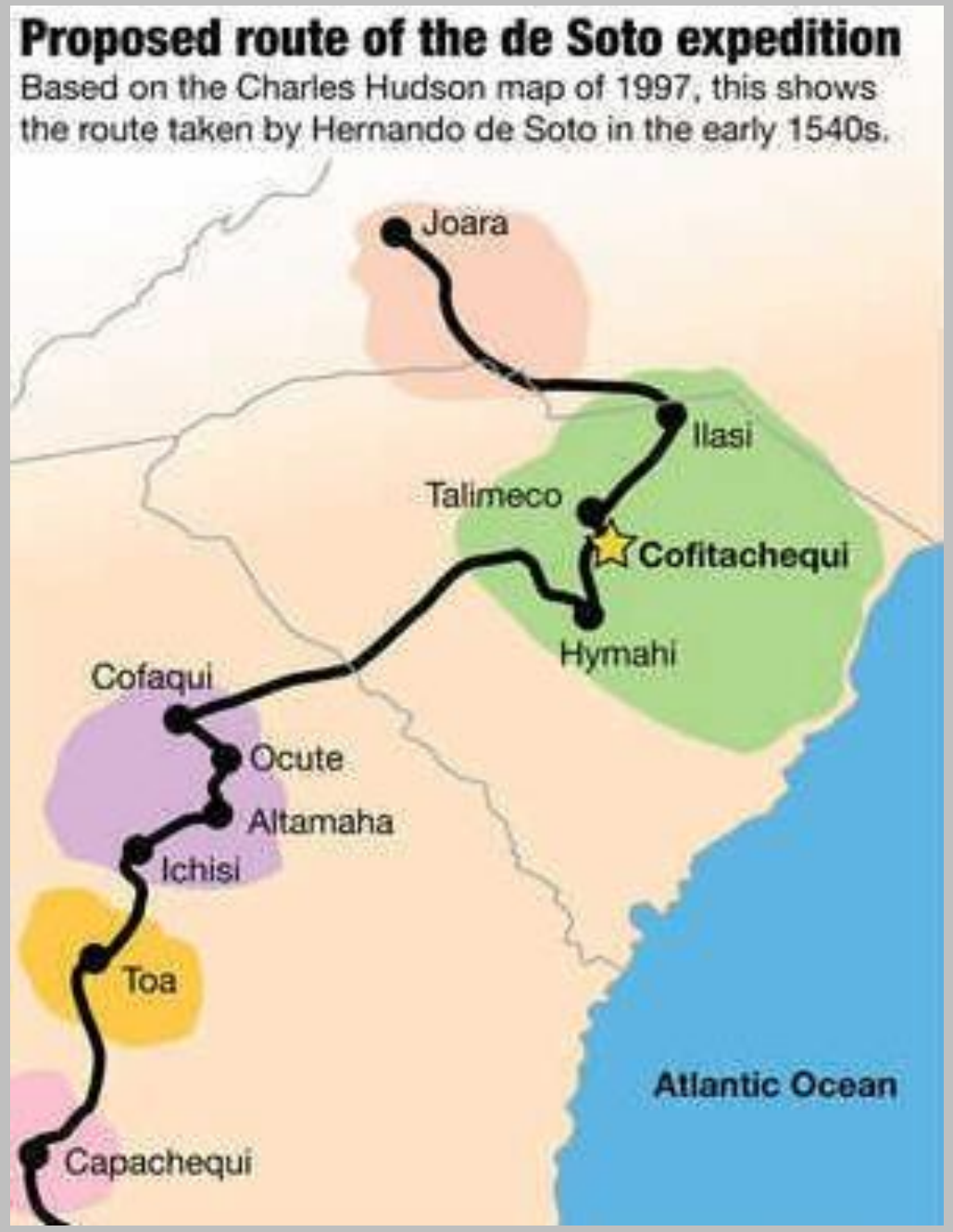
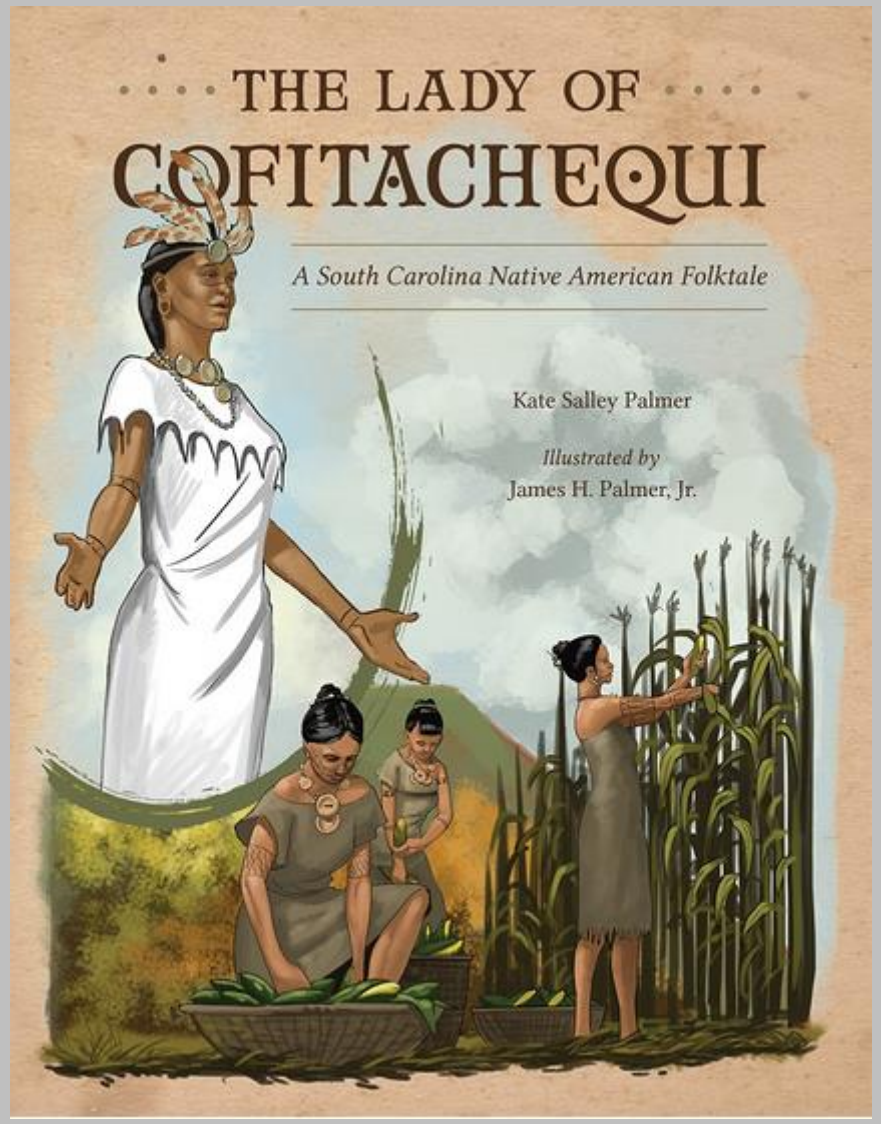
TOA
CAPACHEQUI
ATLANTIC OCEAN
N


Proposed route of the de Soto expedition
Based on the Charles Hudson map of 1997, this shows the route taken by Hernando de Soto in the early 1540s.
Joara
Ilasi
Talimeco
Cofitachequi
Hymahi
Cofaqui
Ocute
Altamaha
Ichisi
Toa
Capachequi
Atlantic Ocean

Cofitachequi

Fig. 29. Diorama of the Mulberry site (Cofitachequi). (South Carolina State Museum)

The female cacique of Cofitachequi, apparently a woman of considerable authority, greeted De Soto's army with ceremony and gifts of food and clothing. Though she had befriended the expedition, she was seized as a hostage and guide but eventually escaped.


THE LADY OF
COFITACHEQUI
A South Carolina Native American Folktale
Kate Salley Palmer
Illustrated by
James H. Palmer, Jr.

Kofitachikee