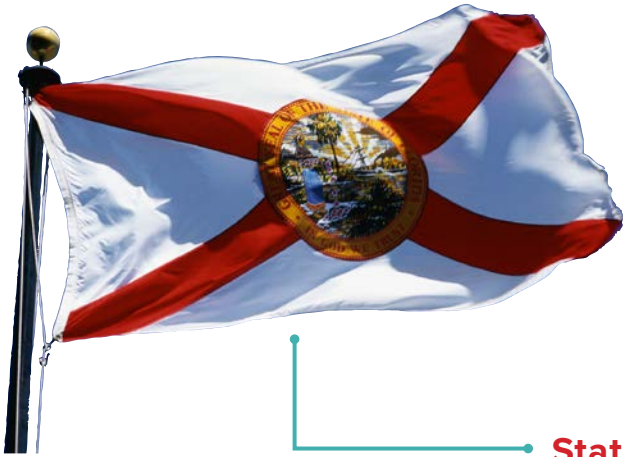
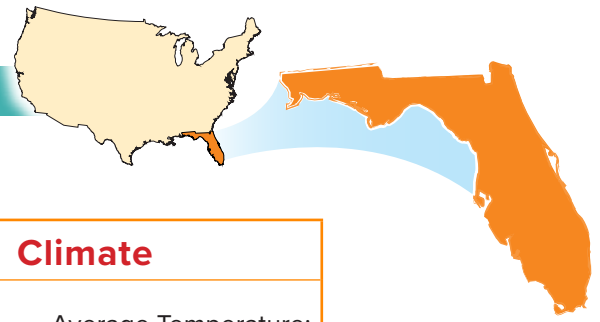


# Florida Portfolio Pack

## Fact Sheet



### State Flag

The Florida state flag shows the state seal in the center of a red cross.



### State Flower

Orange Blossom



### State Capital

Tallahassee



Capitol Building

### Climate



Average Temperature:  
73.4°F (23°C)



Average Yearly Precipitation:  
52.9 in. (134.4 cm)



### State Animal

Florida Panther



### State Bird

Mockingbird



### State Tree

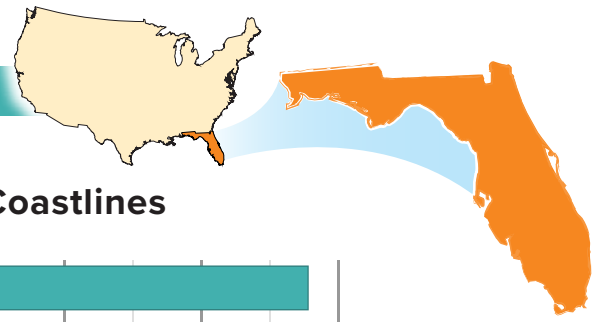
Sabal Palm



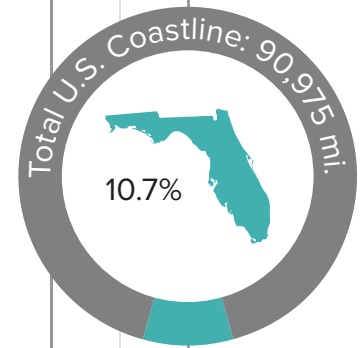
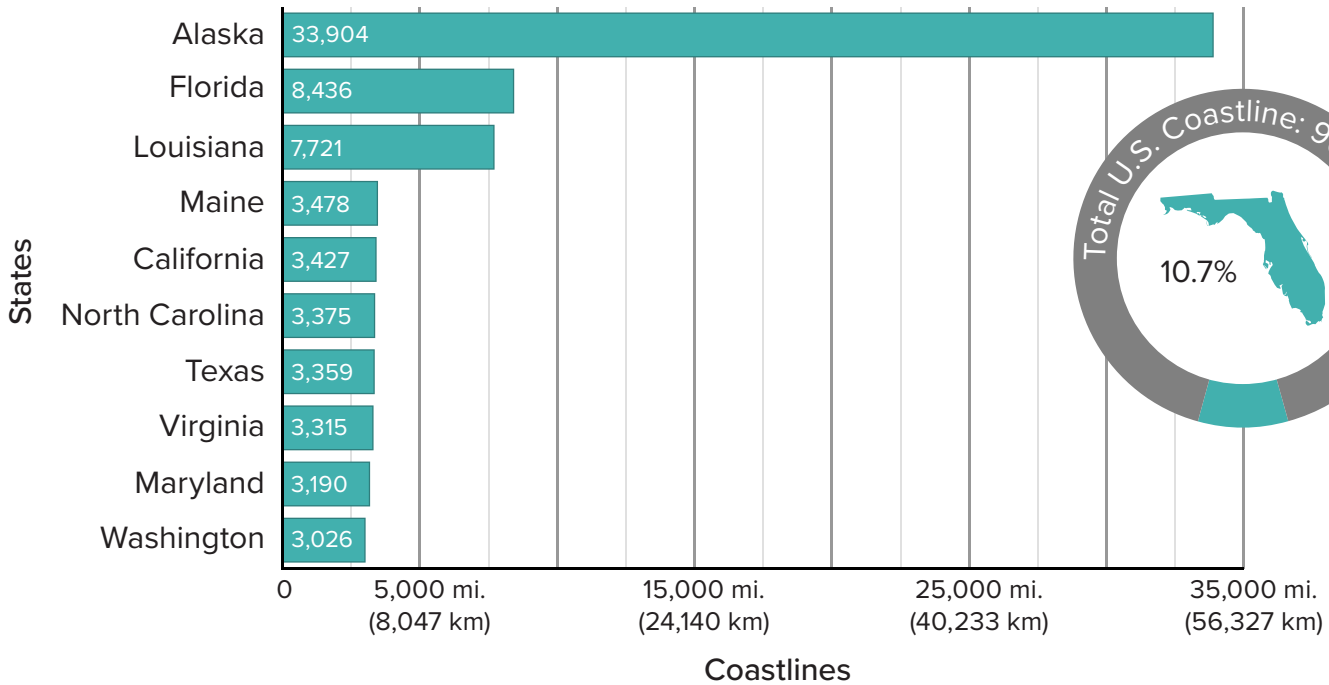
### State Motto

In God We Trust

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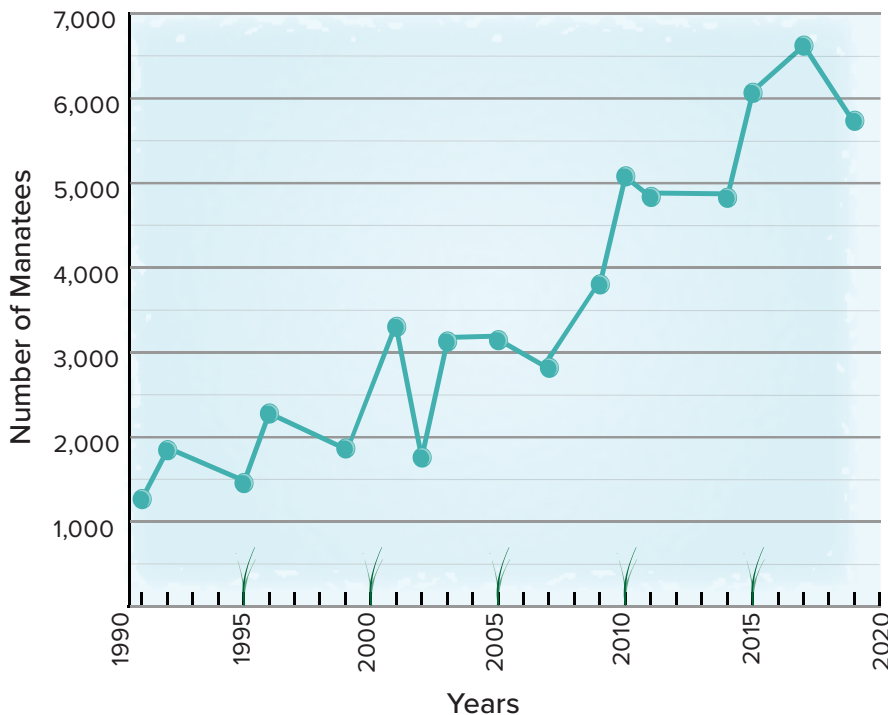
### Top Ten Longest State Coastlines



Source: NOAA Office for Coastal Management

### Manatees Observed in Aerial Survey 1991–2019

The Florida manatee is no longer on the endangered species list. It was removed from the list in 2017 after conservation efforts were successful!



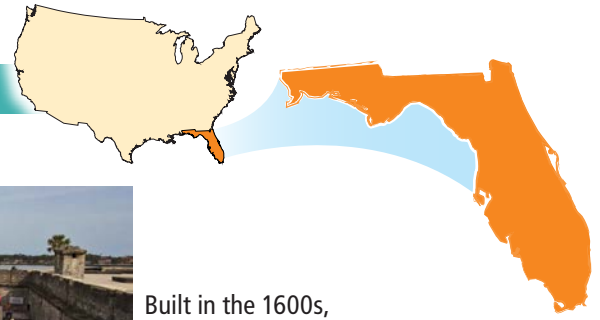
Source: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission



Photo Credit: © Naluphoto/Dreamstime.com

The Florida manatee is a gentle, plant-eating aquatic mammal. An average adult grows to about 10 feet (3 m) long and can weigh up to 2,000 pounds (907 kg).





### Places

Kennedy Space Center



The Kennedy Space Center opened in 1962 and still launches spacecraft today.

The Everglades



The Florida Everglades is home to more than twenty threatened or endangered species, including the manatee, the American crocodile, and the Florida panther.

Castillo de San Marcos



Built in the 1600s, Castillo de San Marcos in St. Augustine, Florida, is the oldest masonry fort in the United States.

Walt Disney World



Walt Disney World opened in Orlando, Florida, in 1971. More than fifty million people visit the park each year.

Photo Credits: Top (group): top left: © Andy Lidstone/123RF, top right: © Jose Fuste Raga/Corbis Documentary/Getty Images, bottom right: © Wangkun Jia/Dreamstime.com; bottom (group): left: © PPhoto69/Getty Images Plus/Getty Images, top right: © BrianLarsen/istock/Thinkstock, center right: © Carlton Ward/National Geographic/Getty Images, bottom right: © felixmizionikov/istock/Thinkstock

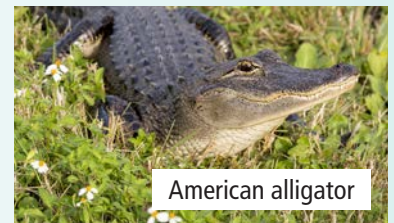
## FUN FACTS

- Florida is home to spring training for fifteen Major League Baseball teams.
- Central Florida, from Tampa to Titusville, is called Lightning Alley.
- Everglades National Park is the largest mangrove ecosystem in the Western Hemisphere.
- The telephone area code of Cape Canaveral around the Kennedy Space Center is 321, which represents the countdown to launch spacecraft.



Mangrove forest

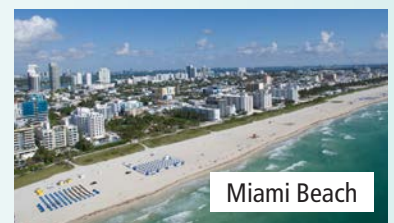
- Walt Disney World is the size of San Francisco, California, and is its own city.
- South Florida is the only place in the United States where crocodiles and alligators live together.
- You are never more than 60 miles (97 km) from salt water anywhere in Florida.
- The Florida Keys, one of the state's main tourist attractions, are a group of nearly 1,700 small islands about 15 miles (24 km) south of Miami.



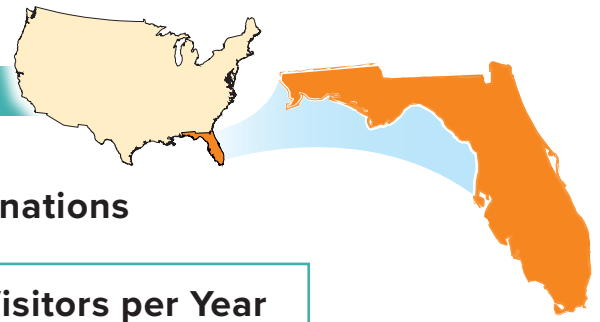
American alligator



Crocodile



Miami Beach



### Popular Florida Tourist Destinations

Attraction and Location	Visitors per Year (as of 2018)
<b>Magic Kingdom:</b> Orlando	20,492,000
<b>Epcot:</b> Orlando	12,400,000
<b>Universal Studios:</b> Orlando	10,700,000
<b>Busch Gardens:</b> Tampa	4,100,000
<b>Kennedy Space Center:</b> Merritt Island	1,500,000
<b>Everglades National Park:</b> South Florida	1,000,000
<b>Castillo de San Marcos:</b> St. Augustine	800,000
<b>Salvador Dali Museum:</b> St. Petersburg	400,000
<b>Dry Tortugas National Park:</b> Florida Keys	80,000

### Top U.S. Citrus Producers

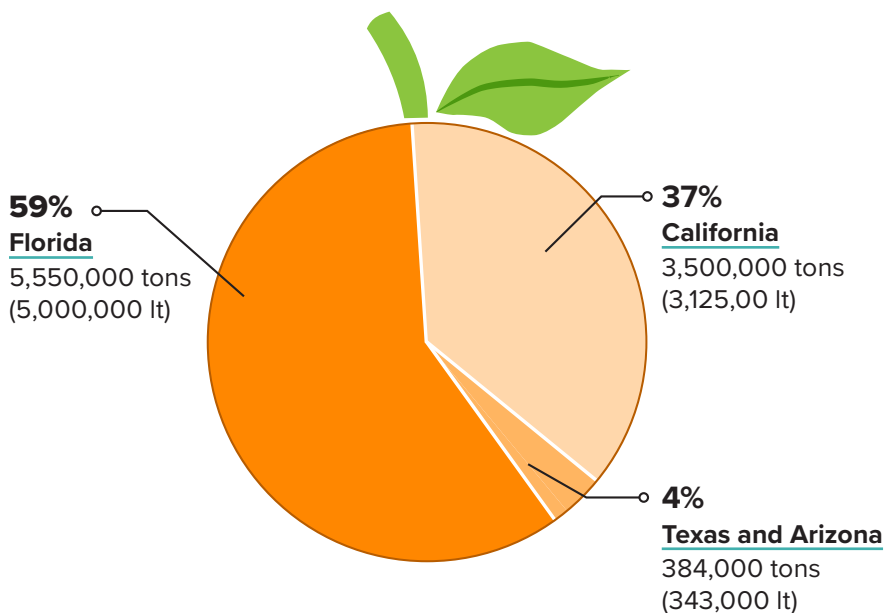
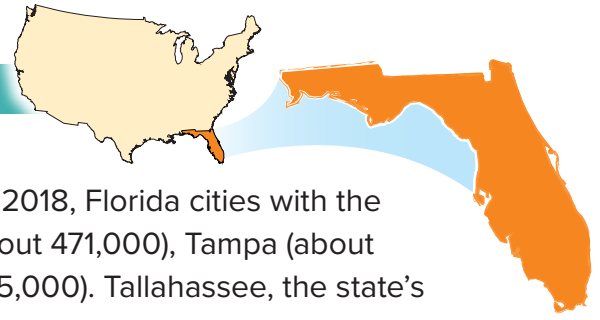


Photo Credit: © iStock.com/ritchiedigital

Florida produces more than 70 percent of all citrus in the United States.

# Florida Portfolio Pack

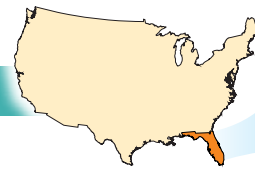
## State Map



As of 2019, Florida's population was 21.3 million people. As of 2018, Florida cities with the largest populations were Jacksonville (about 904,000), Miami (about 471,000), Tampa (about 393,000), Orlando (about 286,000), and St. Petersburg (about 265,000). Tallahassee, the state's capital, had about 194,000 people.







### St. Augustine, Florida

In September 1565, Spanish explorer Pedro Menendez founded the city of St. Augustine in northeastern Florida. It is the oldest city in North America that has always had people living in it. The city is named after Augustine of Hippo, a philosopher who lived in the fourth century. The Spanish built missions in Florida, including St. Augustine. The goal of the Spanish was to spread their language, culture, and religion to other parts of the world.

At different times in its history, the city of St. Augustine has been under the control of Spain, England, and the United States. For a long time, it was the northernmost part of Spain's empire in the New World. From 1763 to 1783, the British ruled Florida. In 1783, when the American Revolution ended, Spain took back Florida from England. After the First Seminole (SEM-uh-nohl) War in 1819, the United States paid Spain five million dollars for Florida, making St. Augustine an American city.

Today, about thirteen thousand people live in St. Augustine. Services and industries there include tourism and the manufacture of planes and boats. Tourism has been a big part of the city's economy since the 1880s. Hotels and restaurants provide visitors with food and lodging as they explore the city.



St. Augustine is on a peninsula between two saltwater rivers. It has more than 42 miles (67.6 km) of beaches.

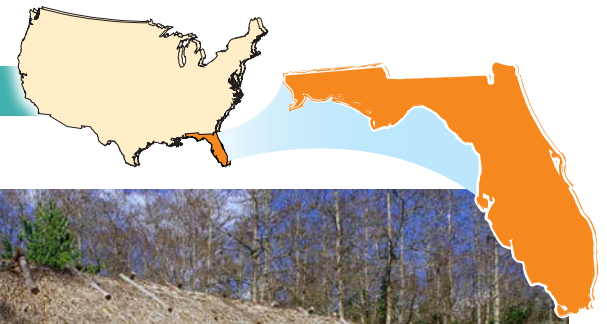
One big attraction is a fort called Castillo de San Marcos (kas-TEE-yoh DEH SAN MAR-kohs). Castillo de San Marcos was built in the late 1600s near the southern tip of the peninsula. It is the oldest masonry fort still standing in the United States and is now a national monument. It is made of *coquina* (ko-KEE-na)—rock composed of broken seashells. Spanish builders used coquina because it was fireproof and easy to find. The fort was active until 1900 and was never captured by an enemy.

Florida's sunny weather makes the city of St. Augustine very popular. State parks, Spanish-style buildings, and great beaches are just a few of the fun places to visit there. In 2015, St. Augustine celebrated its 450th anniversary!



Castillo de San Marcos, which is more than three hundred years old, took twenty-three years to build (left). Eighteenth century gold coins are on display at the St. Augustine Pirate and Treasure Museum (right).

Photo Credits: Top: © Jupiterimages/Photos.com/Thinkstock;  
bottom left: © Wendell Metzen/Photolibrary/Getty Images; bottom right: © joel zatz/Alamy Stock Photo



### Seminole People

The Seminole (SEM-uh-nohl) tribe was made up of many different tribes from around the southeastern United States. As European colonization continued in the late 1700s, disease and conflicts caused some tribes to move, and they ended up in the Everglades in South Florida. There, people from other tribes, as well as enslaved people who escaped, joined them.

During this time, the group began to be known as Seminoles, which may have come from the Spanish word *cimarrón* (see-mah-ROHN), which means “wild,” or the Creek word *simanó-li* (say-mah-NOH-lay), which means “runaway.”

The Seminole people fought three wars in the 1800s to keep their lands. In the First Seminole War, the U.S. military invaded Spanish-held Florida to recapture runaway slaves. They burned many villages and settlements. Eventually, Spain gave Florida to the United States.



Osceola



Chickees were roofed structures that served many purposes. They were used for sleeping, as kitchens, and as meeting rooms.

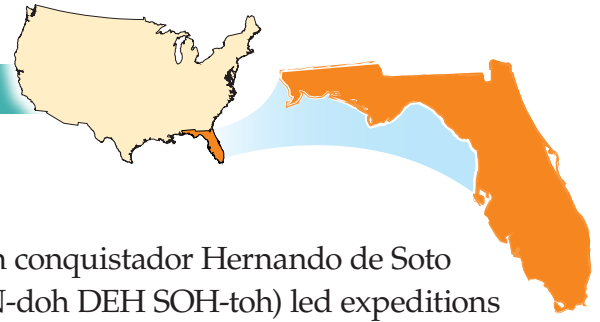
The Second Seminole War began when the U.S. government tried to remove the Seminoles from their land. Led by Osceola (os-ee-OH-luh), the Seminoles hid in the Everglades and fought U.S. forces. When Osceola was tricked and captured, the Seminoles continued to fight. Ultimately, most of the tribe was moved to Oklahoma, but some Seminoles refused to leave.

The Third Seminole War was an attempt by the U.S. government to remove the last of the Seminoles. It failed, but the government did pay some people to move to Oklahoma.

The Seminoles who remained went into hiding in the Everglades. In the late 1800s, the Seminole people came out of hiding and began trading with their European neighbors. In the early 1900s, they regained a portion of their land. They were officially recognized as a tribe by the U.S. government in 1957.

Today, the Seminole tribe of Florida has six reservations and its own tribal government. The tribe works to maintain and teach others about Seminole culture and history while building modern businesses to help support themselves.





### A Short History of the Miccosukee Nation



This is how a Miccosukee village looked in 1923.

The Miccosukee (mih-kuh-SOO-kee) people are a Native American nation located in Florida. Tribes such as the Apalachee (a-puh-LA-chee) and Timucua (tee-MOO-kwah) were native to the lands that became Florida. The Miccosukee migrated there in the 1700s.

The known roots of the Miccosukee stretch back to pre-Columbian times. Their culture spread outward from the Mississippi River region from about 700 BCE. Various Native nations gradually adopted their religion, technology, and farming practices. By 1100 BCE, Miccosukee was the dominant culture in the Southeast. It included the Apalachee, Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Creek, and others.

The Miccosukee were originally part of the Creek Nation. The traditional territory of the Creek lies where parts of Alabama and Georgia are today. Their peoples were divided into two groups with different languages and culture. The Muskogee (muh-SKOH-gee), or Upper Creeks, had lands to the north. The Lower Creeks, including the Miccosukee, lived to the south.

Spanish conquistador Hernando de Soto (air-NAHN-doh DEH SOH-toh) led expeditions into Creek lands less than fifty years after Christopher Columbus reached North America in 1492. Diseases and European colonization set off changes across the entire continent. No Native nation was left untouched, including the Miccosukee.

In the 1700s, the Miccosukee joined other nations to form the Creek Confederacy. The Creek and non-Creek nations hoped to defend their lands from their European and Native enemies by uniting. They struggled to work and fight together.

The Miccosukee and others migrated to northern Florida, where there were fewer white settlements. They united with other migrants there, including an unrecorded number of escaped enslaved people. By the 1770s, this mixed group was known as the Seminole people.

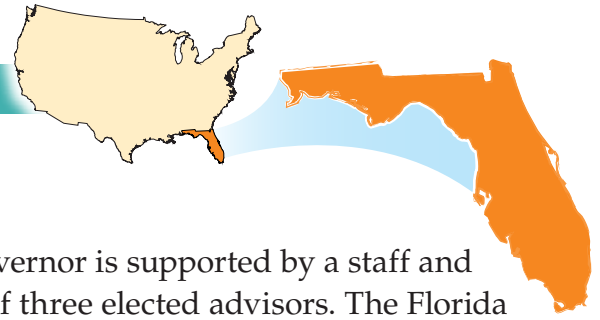
In the 1800s, the United States launched a series of wars to destroy the Seminole people in Florida. Many were forced to relocate to what is now Oklahoma after they were defeated. However, about one hundred Miccosukee escaped into the Everglades. They remained mostly isolated in the marshland until the 1920s.



A Miccosukee woman sews traditional clothes.

In the 1950s, the Miccosukee officially split from the Seminole Nation to form the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida. They became the only two recognized tribes in Florida by the U.S. government. Today the Miccosukee's Reservation is located near Everglades National Park.





## Florida's Constitution



Like each state in the United States, Florida has its own constitution. It describes how the state government is structured and how it works. It also defines and protects the rights of Florida's citizens. This is much like the Constitution of the United States.

Florida has had six versions of its constitution since 1812, due to changing times. The most recent was approved by voters in 1968. It describes the three branches of Florida's government: executive, legislative, and judicial—the same as the federal government. While the federal government makes laws that affect the entire country, state governments make sure that federal laws, as well as their own state laws, are enforced locally. Voters play an important role in all levels of government. They choose their public representatives in elections, and they also vote directly on issues that may become new laws.

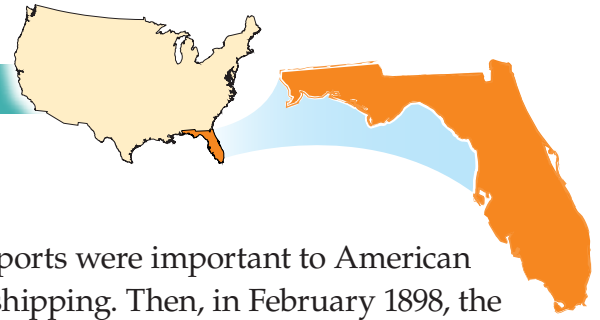
The **executive branch** manages the state government's daily operations. It is responsible for public systems such as schools and state parks. It oversees voting, taxes, and the state budget. The governor of Florida, who is the chief executive, is elected by voters every four years. Some of the governor's responsibilities include enforcing state laws, approving or rejecting bills passed by state lawmakers, and creating a state budget.

The governor is supported by a staff and a cabinet of three elected advisors. The Florida attorney general serves as the government's top lawyer. This official is responsible for enforcing the state's laws.

The **legislative branch** is the group of elected lawmakers who vote on Florida's laws. This branch of government is made up of two parts: the 40 member Senate and the 120 member House of Representatives. They meet in Tallahassee, the state capital. Citizens can communicate directly with their senators and representatives to discuss laws and policies.

The **judicial branch** is the third branch of the Florida government. It includes the state's court system, which rules on legal cases. Members hear criminal cases in which laws may have been broken. They also decide civil cases that settle business disputes and other disagreements. The Florida Supreme Court is the top state court. The most difficult legal cases may be reviewed there.

Although Florida's state government is separate from its local governments, they often work together. State government positions may include the governor, state representative, or state senator. Local governments are given power by the state to make local laws. Positions in local government may include city mayors, county commissioners, and other officials at the community level. Local government officials are responsible for issues ranging from organizing their police and fire departments to public transportation and arranging elections.



### Florida Goes to War



Confederate soldiers stand in formation at Fort McRee, Florida, in 1861.

#### *The Civil War*

Florida broke away from the United States in 1861. It joined other Southern slave states to form the Confederate States of America. The split resulted in the Civil War between

Confederate troops in the south and Union forces in the north. Florida's main role during the war was to supply food to the Confederate cause.

About fifteen thousand Floridians joined the Confederate Army. Meanwhile, around two thousand Florida men fought for the Union side. Many of these men were formerly enslaved. In late 1861, Confederate troops tried to capture Union-controlled Fort Pickens on Pensacola Bay. The assault failed. This left Union forces in control of the bay and its ports for the rest of the war. The Confederates were unable to protect the area. They abandoned Pensacola the following May. In February 1864, the Confederates won the Battle of Olustee, near Lake City. They defeated the Union forces sent to block transportation of food supplies. It was the largest battle to take place on Florida soil.

The Civil War ended in 1865 with the defeat of the Confederacy. Florida rejoined the United States in 1868.

#### *The Spanish-American War*

In the late 1890s, Florida played a significant role in the Spanish-American War. At the time, Cuba was controlled by Spain, but the United States supported Cuban independence.

Cuban ports were important to American trade and shipping. Then, in February 1898, the U.S. warship *Maine* exploded and sank in the port of Havana, Cuba. Many people in the United States blamed Spain, and war was eventually declared.

Located only 90 miles (145 km) north of Cuba, Florida became the main staging area for an American invasion force. Thousands of troops gathered and trained in the state. U.S. forces invaded Cuba and easily defeated the Spanish. The war was over by August 1898. Spain was forced to surrender Cuba, Puerto Rico, the Philippines, and other colonies.



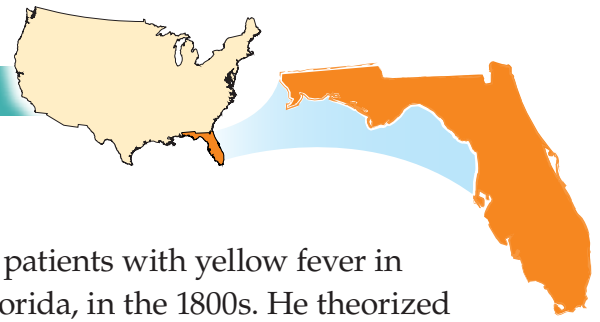
Soldiers in Florida prepare to sail to Cuba.

#### *World War II*

Florida also played a supporting role in World War II. The war started in 1939 when German armies swept through Europe. In December 1941, Japan attacked the U.S. Navy in Hawaii. The United States declared war against the Axis powers: Germany, Japan, and Italy. More than 250,000 Floridians joined the armed forces, fighting in both Europe and Asia. The state's coasts were used to prepare landing forces for invading enemy-controlled territories. Pilots trained at dozens of airfields across the state before flying into combat overseas.

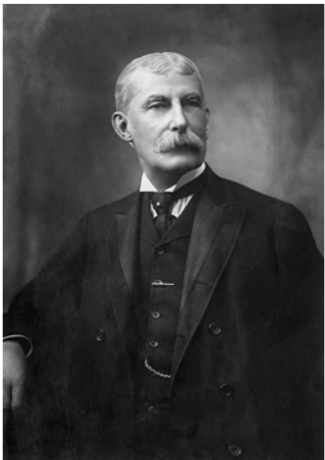
World War II ended in 1945. However, wartime had introduced many Americans from other parts of the country to Florida's natural beauty and warm weather. The population jumped from about 1,900,000 in 1940 to more than 2,750,000 in 1950 as more people decided to call Florida home.





### Dr. John Gorrie (1803–1855)

John Gorrie was a doctor who treated patients with yellow fever in Apalachicola (a-puh-la-chih-KOH-luh), Florida, in the 1800s. He theorized that he could cure his patients by cooling the air around them. After many experiments, he created a system that compressed air and moved it through metal pipes surrounded by cool water. When the air expanded again, it became even cooler. He received the first U.S. patent for mechanical refrigeration in 1851.



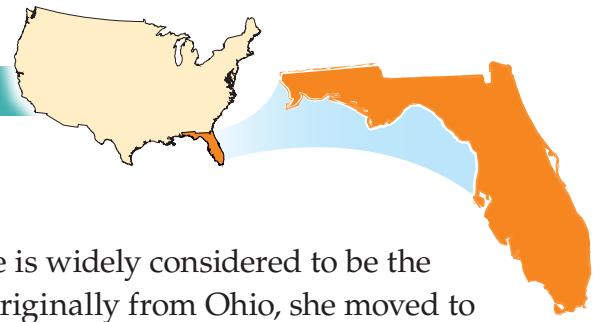
### Henry M. Flagler (1830–1913)

Many people consider Henry Flagler to be the father of modern Florida as a result of his investment and development in the state. A partner in Standard Oil, the largest and most profitable corporation of its time, Flagler built his first hotel, Hotel Ponce de León, in St. Augustine, Florida, in 1888. Knowing he needed reliable transportation for his hotel to profit, he bought local railroads and connected them to create the Florida East Coast Railway system. The railroad would eventually extend from northern Florida to Key West and would improve trade and transportation for all Floridians. Flagler also dredged Biscayne Bay, built streets, and developed water and power systems in a small settlement that would later become the city of Miami.



### Lue Gim Gong (1860–1925)

Known as the “Citrus Wizard,” Lue Gim Gong (LOO JEEM GONG) was born in China and came to the United States when he was twelve years old. In 1885, he moved to Florida to improve his health and began working in the orange groves. In 1886, he used cross-pollination techniques to develop a type of orange that is resistant to frost. Today these oranges are sold throughout the world as Valencia oranges. He also developed new types of tomatoes and grapefruit. His work helped expand the growing season for some agricultural crops and revolutionized the citrus industry in Florida.



### Julia Tuttle (1848–1898)

As the “Mother of Miami,” Julia Tuttle is widely considered to be the only woman to found a major U.S. city. Originally from Ohio, she moved to South Florida in 1891. At that time, the area was little more than swampland with a few settlements. However, it was her dream to see the wilderness turned into something more prosperous. She convinced Henry Flagler to build a railroad in exchange for hundreds of acres of land from her and her neighbors, the Brickells. The first train arrived in 1896, and Miami became a city soon after.



### Mary McLeod Bethune (1875–1955)

Mary McLeod Bethune was born in South Carolina to formerly enslaved people. She was the only one of her seventeen siblings to attend school. From a young age, she realized that education was an important way for black people to improve their way of life. After college, she moved to Florida and became a teacher. In 1904, Bethune opened the Daytona Normal and Industrial Institute for Negro Girls in Daytona Beach, Florida, with only five students. It eventually became Bethune-Cookman College. Bethune was also an activist for the rights of women and African Americans. She led many activist and social organizations and advised four U.S. presidents on issues facing women and minorities.

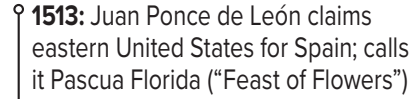


### Juan Ponce de León (1460?–1521)

Juan Ponce de León (HWAHN POHN-seh DEH leh-OHN) was a Spanish explorer whom many credit with being the first European to land in Florida. Before reaching Florida, he was governor of Puerto Rico and developed settlements there. After losing his governorship, Ponce de León set sail from Puerto Rico in 1513. Popular stories say he was searching for the Fountain of Youth, but most historians think he was looking for new lands to settle. He landed on what he thought was an island in April 1513 and named it Pascua Florida, or “Feast of Flowers,” because of the beautiful plant life. He eventually returned to Spain, where he was named governor of Florida. In 1521, he returned to Florida to colonize it. Ponce de León was struck by an arrow in an attack by Native people and later died of his wound in Cuba.



# Timeline



## 1500s

**1565:** Spain establishes city of St. Augustine

## 1600s

**1672–1695:** Castillo de San Marcos  
built in St. Augustine

**1702–1704:** British destroy Spanish missions; kill or enslave thousands of Natives

**1700s**

- **1760s:** Native Americans come to Florida from other states; join Florida Natives to become Seminoles

- 1842: Second Seminole War ends; U.S. government relocates many Seminoles

(cont'd.)

**1817:** First Seminole War begins

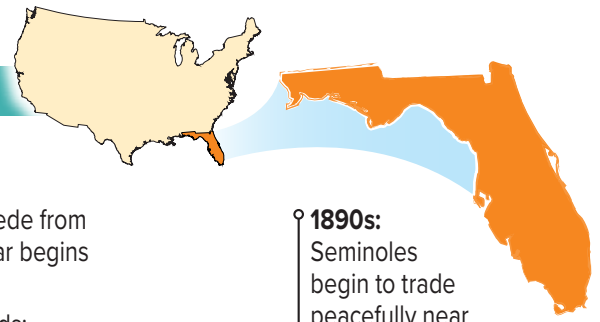
- 1823:  
Tallahassee  
becomes capital  
of Florida

- 1835: Second Seminole War begins

- **1845:** Florida granted statehood

# Florida Portfolio Pack

## Timeline



### Statehood and Beyond

