

Hernando De Soto

History is made up of stories, some based in fact, some come from legend, and others are combination of the two.

A **fact** is a "thing that is known or proved to be true." There is evidence that supports the story.

A **legend** is a traditional story told about a particular place or person, and can include elements of folklore, mythology or explanations for natural occurrences.

In the case of Hernando De Soto, it's difficult to decipher fact from legend because there are relatively few sources that give us details about his explorations in North America.



Image Analysis

Look at this portrait of Hernando De Soto. List at least three (3) things you see in the image. What do they tell you about this man?



Read this [educational booklet about De Soto's impact in Georgia](#) and answer the questions on the following page.

Why did Hernando De Soto want to journey to the New World?

De Soto and his men traveled throughout the land for four years. What modern-day states did they visit?

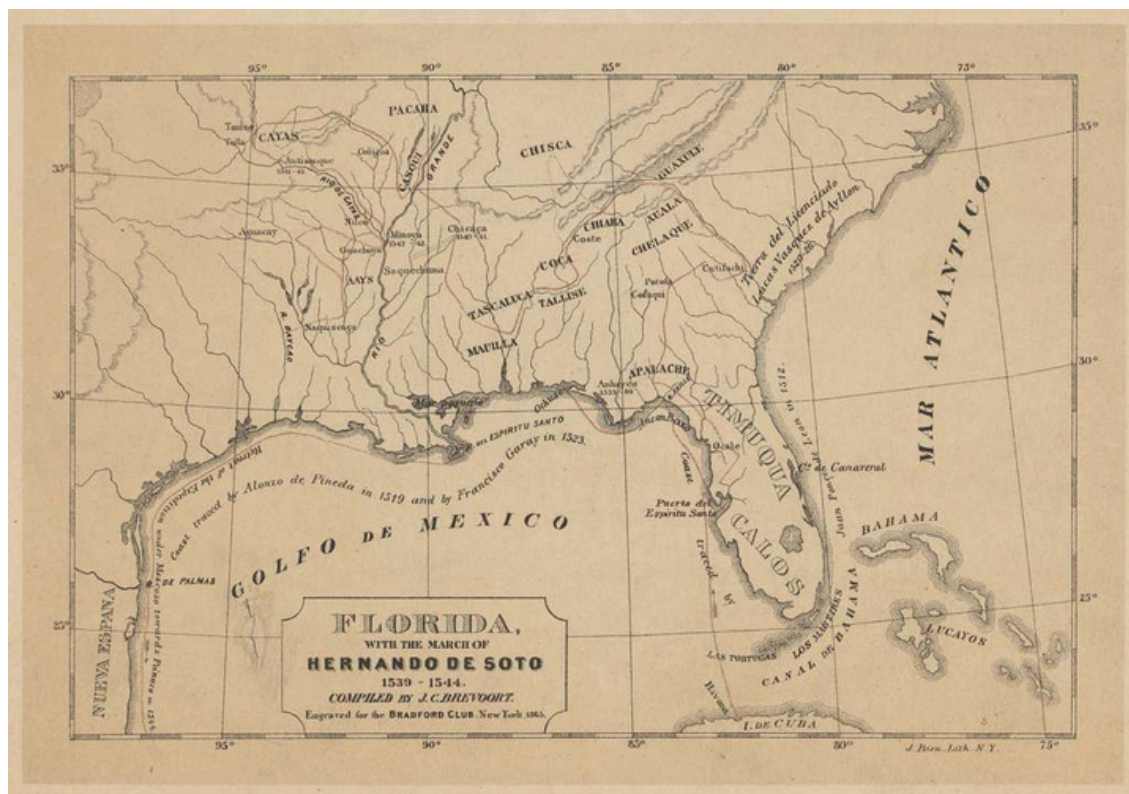
Why does the journey of De Soto and his men so random and not a straightforward path?

What types of things did the Spanish bring with them that were not already present in North America?

De Soto died during this journey. Where did his men bury him?



[To learn more about De Soto in Georgia, check out these historical markers!](#)



Elementary Activity

Georgia Standards of Excellence

- Map & Globe Skills K-12: SSMGS8
- Information Processing Skills K-12: SSIPS1, 2, 4, 6
- Social Studies: SS3H2