

## Chapter 1 : Juan Ponce de Leon Facts

*Born into Spanish nobility, Juan Ponce de León () may have accompanied Christopher Columbus on his voyage to the New World. A decade later, he was serving as governor of the eastern.*

Check new design of our homepage! The Timeline of Juan Ponce de Leon: He was also the first European explorer to reach Florida. Historyplex Staff Last Updated: He also discovered the Gulf stream and established the oldest European settlement in Puerto Rico. The dates mentioned below are an approximation. He came from a noble family and learned several languages beside physics, geometry, mathematics, and astronomy. He also traveled the seas as a privateer, attacking ships belonging to the Moors. In addition to the post, Ovando also awarded him a substantial land grant along with sufficient Indian labor, to farm his new estate. In the same year, he married Leonora, who was the daughter of an innkeeper. They had one son named Luis and three daughters named Isabel, Juana, and Maria. In , he got permission for the first official expedition to the island, from King Ferdinand II of Aragon. He left Hispaniola on June 12, , along with a small group and eventually anchored in San Juan Bay. He created the first settlement in Puerto Rico by the name of Caparra and went on to explore the island for gold. He was appointed as the governor of San Juan Bautista and was instructed to extend the settlement of the island. Later the same year, Juan Ceron was appointed as the chief justice and Miguel Diaz as the chief constable of the island. He named it as La Florida because of the beautiful flowers on its landscape. He went on searching for a chain of islands in the west and reached the Dry Tortugas on June There the crew members captured many giant sea turtles, Caribbean Monk Seals and seabirds. According to many historians, he discovered Florida while allegedly searching for the Fountain of Youth. He was also knighted and given a personal coat of arms, which made him the first conquistador to receive these honors. He landed on the west coast of Florida along with his fleet, but was met by Native American Calusa warriors on Pine Island. He suffered serious injuries in the conflict and died of his poisoned wounds in Havana, Cuba, in July, at the age of

## Chapter 2 : Juan Ponce De Leon Facts for Kids

*Juan Ponce de LeÃ³n (Spanish pronunciation: [xwam ẽˈpon̪e ˈleˈon]; - July ) was a Spanish explorer and conquistador born in SantervÃ¡s de Campos, Valladolid, Spain in Though little is known about his family, he was of noble birth and served in the Spanish military from a young age.*

He and his family settled on an island in the Caribbean named Hispaniola Dominican Republic. He became a military commander at this post and was appointed deputy governor. While there, he found large deposits of gold. Soon after his discovery, he left the island. He returned in on orders from the king of Spain to explore and colonize the island. He renamed the island Puerto Rico. He was in search of new lands and treasures. He had also heard of a mythical fountain of youth. Indians spoke of a legendary, magical spring whose water was believed to make older people young again. He claimed this beautiful land for Spain. Since he had discovered this country of lavish landscape and beautiful beaches, he was entitled to name it. As he and his men explored inland for wood and fresh water, they saw the Calusa tribal village at Mound Key. They discovered that the Calusa were an unfriendly tribe. The explorers fled back to their ships and decided to leave the area. They sailed back to Puerto Rico. He landed on the gulf beaches between Charlotte Harbor and Estero Bay with over settlers, horses, tools, and seeds. The plan was to set up a farming colony. As they went inland for fresh water, the Calusa ambushed them. The settlers decided to abandon the settlement and sail back to Cuba. He will always be remembered as the brave conquistador who first explored many parts of Florida and searched for the mythical fountain of youth.

## Chapter 3 : Juan Ponce de Leon - Ages of Exploration

*Juan Ponce de LeÃ³n was born into a poor yet noble family in SantervÃ¡s de Campos, Spain, in He served as a page at the court of Aragon, where he learned social skills, religion and military.*

As a young man he joined the war to conquer Granada, the last Moorish state on the Iberian peninsula. He helped conquer the indigenous Tainos of the eastern part of Hispaniola and was rewarded with the governorship of the newly created Province of Higüey. While there, he was attracted by stories of the wealth of Borinquen now Puerto Rico and received permission to go there. He and the other conquistadors forced the Tainos to work in the mines and to construct fortifications. The Tainos died in great numbers after exposure to the European diseases that the sailors brought with them, to which they had no immunity. He married a Spanish woman named Leonore and had two daughters and one son. He had reportedly learned from local inhabitants of an island called Bimini which contained a miraculous spring that restored youthful vigor to those who drank from it. On March 27 of that year he sighted an island, but sailed on without landing. On April 2, he landed somewhere on the northeast coast of Florida, claiming the land for Spain. He named it La Florida, meaning flowered, both because of its lush vegetation and the fact that it was the Easter seasonâ€™Pascua Florida in Spanish. He passed around the Florida Keys and up the west coast of the peninsula to Cape Romano. He encountered at least one Native American in Florida in who could speak Spanish. His expedition to Guadalupe in was not successful, and he returned to Puerto Rico where he stayed until It consisted of some men, including priests, farmers, and artisans, 50 horses and other domestic animals, and farming implements. The expedition landed on the southwest coast of Florida, somewhere in the vicinity of the Caloosahatchee River or Charlotte Harbor. After this attack, he and the other colonists sailed to Havana, Cuba, where he soon died of the wound. His tomb is in the cathedral in Old San Juan. In any case, it is clear that the underlying motivation in his discovering Florida was that of a colonizer and explorer. Wealth and power were likely what drew him north, as much as any promise of restored youth and vitality. The Taino and the Calusa peoples who were living in Florida at the time were overcome not only by the Spanish conquest, but also by the spread of measles, influenza, and smallpox, for which the natives had no immunity. Even though the Taino have died out, their inventions of hammocks and barbecues are used worldwide. Synoptic History and Archaeological Evidence, " in Tacachale: The University Presses of Florida. Historia General de las Indias, second part. Retrieved January 8, Historia General de las Indias of Historia General y Natural de las Indias. McDonald and Woodward Publishing Company, The Man, the Myth, and the Truth. The University Presses of Florida, The Spanish Exploration of Florida. Mason Crest Publishers, This article abides by terms of the Creative Commons CC-by-sa 3. Credit is due under the terms of this license that can reference both the New World Encyclopedia contributors and the selfless volunteer contributors of the Wikimedia Foundation. To cite this article click here for a list of acceptable citing formats. The history of earlier contributions by wikipedians is accessible to researchers here:

*Juan Ponce de Le3n, (born ?, Santerv3s de Campos, Valladolid, Le3n [Spain]â€”died , Havana, Cuba), Spanish explorer who founded the first European settlement on Puerto Rico and who is credited with being the first European to reach Florida ().*

He was also a remarkably perceptive businessperson. He was the first governor of Puerto Rico. That is, he was driven by greed for gold, slaves, and land. He did not flinch from brutality and cruelty when he needed to sweep the native peoples of the New World out of his way. Those he did not kill, he enslaved. Some of his contemporaries, such as Hernando de Soto and Francisco Pizarro, the men who conquered the Inca, had been born poor, uneducated, and without connections. These later explorers were desperate to leverage the discoveries of the New World to win their way out of poverty and gain higher status in society. He had a genuine urge to explore and accomplish great things. Part of his mission was to bring order to a badly deteriorating situation that had been developing on the islands under the deplorably incompetent management of Christopher Columbus. On the island of Hispaniola which today is split between the countries of Haiti and the Dominican Republic , there had been a native rebellion against their rapacious and cruel taskmasters, the Spanish conquistadors. His expert handling of the situation on Hispaniola won him great favor from his superior, de Ovando, and high marks from high government officials back in Spain. He married the daughter of an innkeeper, and they had three daughters and one son. He built a huge stone house, and lived the good life in a tropical environment where he was a powerful feudal lord. The Indians had told him tales of rich lands and plentiful gold there. Here he built yet another comfortable stone mansion. This would eventually force him out of the islands of the Indies where he had done so well and prospered. He made some initial exploration of Florida spending no time searching for the Fountain of Youth and returned to Puerto Rico eight months later. The year was His next return to Florida was seven years later in , and this would prove to have fatal consequences. With him were well-supplied men and 50 horses, all ready to dig in and form a new, thriving colony. However, early on the party was attacked warriors of a local tribe known as the Calusa. He became so ill he decided to sail back to Puerto Rico, but he died shortly after arriving from his poisonous wound.

**Chapter 5 : Juan Ponce de León | Quié fue, biografí-a, muerte, viajes, legado, gobernador**

*Juan Ponce de Leon was born in the Spanish kingdom of Castile around the year 1473. While still a young boy, Juan went to work as a squire for a knight named Don Pedro Nunez de Guzman. As a squire, he helped take care of the knight's armor and horses.*

Although early historians placed his birth in 1473, more recent evidence shows he was likely born in 1474. The identity of his parents is unknown, but he appears to have been a member of a distinguished and influential noble family. His directive from the Spanish Crown was to bring order to a colony in disarray. In addition, Ovando awarded him a substantial land grant along with sufficient Indian labor to farm his new estate. Ponce de Leon was actively involved in the Higüey massacre and then in chosen by the Spanish Crown to lead the conquest and exploitation of the Tainos Indians for gold mining operations. They had three daughters, Juana, Isabel and Maria; and one son, Luis. They told him stories of a fertile land with much gold to be found in the many rivers. His first reconnaissance of the island is usually dated to 1492 but there is evidence that he had made a previous exploration as early as 1491. His earlier exploration had confirmed the presence of gold and gave him a good understanding of the geography of the island. His expedition had collected a good quantity of the precious metal but was running low on food and supplies. This appointment was later confirmed by Ferdinand II on August 14, 1492. He was instructed to extend the settlement of the island and continue mining for gold. The new governor returned to the island as instructed, bringing with him his wife and children. The Indians were put to work growing food crops and mining for gold. The Crown regretted the sweeping powers that had been granted to Columbus and his heirs and sought to establish more direct control in the New World. Finally, on November 28, 1492, Ceron returned from Spain and was officially re-instated as governor. He would be governor for life of any lands he discovered but he was expected to finance for himself all costs of exploration and settlement. In addition, the contract gave specific instructions for the distribution of gold, Native Americans, and other profits extracted from the new lands. Notably, there was no mention of a rejuvenating fountain. The brevity of the account and occasional gaps in the record have led historians to speculate and dispute many details of the voyage. Anton de Alaminos was their chief pilot. He was already an experienced sailor and would become one of the most respected pilots in the region. After leaving Puerto Rico, they sailed northwest along the great chain of Bahama Islands, known then as the Lucayos. The following day they came ashore to seek information and take possession of this new land. The precise location of their landing on the Florida coast has been disputed for many years. After remaining in the vicinity of their first landing for about five days, the ships turned south for further exploration of the coast. On April 8 they encountered a current so strong that it pushed them backwards and forced them to seek anchorage. Because of the powerful boost provided by the current, it would soon become the primary route for eastbound ships leaving the Spanish Indies bound for Europe. They continued down the coast hugging the shore to avoid the strong head current. Again, the exact site of their landfall is controversial. Several skirmishes followed with casualties on both sides and the Spaniards took eight Indians captive. On June 14 they set sail again looking for a chain of islands in the west that had been described by their captives. From these islands they sailed southwest in an apparent attempt to circle around Cuba and return home to Puerto Rico. Failing to take into account the powerful currents pushing them eastward, they struck the northeast shore of Cuba and were initially confused about their location. From here the little fleet disbanded. The other ship, after further explorations returned safely on February 20, 1493. Spanish slave expeditions had been regularly raiding the Bahamas since and there is some evidence that one or more of these slavers made it as far as the shores of Florida. He left Puerto Rico in April and was warmly received by Ferdinand when he arrived at court in Valladolid. The record of his activities against the Caribs is vague. The campaign came to an abrupt end in when Ferdinand died. It consisted of some men, including priests, farmers and artisans, 50 horses and other domestic animals, and farming implements.

Chapter 6 : Juan Ponce de Leon: Explorer - racedaydvl.com

*Juan Ponce de Leon was born on December 3, in Sines, Germany. He became interested in sailing through his cousin, Christopher Columbus, and also was close friends with his neighbor, Vasco Da Gama, so it was no surprise that he became a world-famous explorer.*

He would be governor for life of any lands he discovered, but he was expected to finance for himself all costs of exploration and settlement. In addition, the contract gave specific instructions for the distribution of gold, Native Americans, and other profits extracted from the new lands. Notably, there was no mention of a rejuvenating fountain. Anton de Alaminos was their chief pilot. He was already an experienced sailor, and would become one of the most respected pilots in the region. After leaving Puerto Rico, they sailed northwest along the great chain of Bahama Islands, known then as the Lucayos. On March 27, Easter Sunday, they sighted an island that was unfamiliar to the sailors on the expedition. Because many Spanish seamen were acquainted with the Bahamas, which had been depopulated by slaving ventures, some scholars believe that this "island" was actually Florida, as it was thought to be an island for several years after its formal discovery. He named it La Florida in recognition of the verdant landscape and because it was the Easter season, which the Spaniards called Pascua Florida Festival of Flowers. The following day they came ashore to seek information and take possession of this new land. Some historians believe it occurred at or near St. This latitude corresponds to a spot north of St. On April 8 they encountered a current so strong that it pushed them backwards and forced them to seek anchorage. The tiniest ship, the San Cristobal, was carried out of sight and lost for two days. This was the first encounter with the Gulf Stream where it reaches maximum force between the Florida coast and the Bahamas. Because of the powerful boost provided by the current, it would soon become the primary route for eastbound ships leaving the Spanish Indies bound for Europe. The Tequesta did not engage the Spanish, they evacuated into the coastal woodlands. On May 15 they left Biscayne Bay and sailed along the Florida Keys , looking for a passage to head north and explore the west coast of the Florida peninsula. The vicinity of Charlotte Harbor is the most commonly identified spot, while some assert a landing further north at Tampa Bay or even Pensacola. They were approached by Calusa , who might have been initially interested in trading but relations soon turned hostile. Several skirmishes followed with casualties on both sides and the Spaniards took eight Indians captive, [53] including one to become a translator. An unsubstantiated claim to justify Spanish retreat. They reached the Dry Tortugas on June From these islands they sailed southwest in an apparent attempt to circle around Cuba and return home to Puerto Rico. Failing to take into account the powerful currents pushing them eastward, they struck the northeast shore of Cuba and were initially confused about their location. From here the little fleet disbanded. The other ship, after further explorations returned safely on February 20, Spanish slave expeditions had been regularly raiding the Bahamas since and there is some evidence that one or more of these slavers made it as far as the shores of Florida. Most historians hold that the search for gold and the expansion of the Spanish Empire were far more imperative than any potential search for such a fountain. A party of Caribs from a neighboring island had attacked the settlement of Caparra , killed several Spaniards and burned it to the ground. He left Puerto Rico in April and was warmly received by Ferdinand when he arrived at court in Valladolid. There he was knighted, [15] and given a personal coat of arms , becoming the first conquistador to receive these honors. In addition to the usual directions for sharing gold and other valuables with the king, the contract was one of the first to stipulate that the Requerimiento was to be read to the inhabitants of the islands prior to their conquest. The record of his activities against the Caribs is vague. There was one engagement in Guadeloupe on his return to the area and possibly two or three other encounters. Meanwhile, there had been at least two unauthorized voyages to "his" Florida both ending in repulsion by the native Calusa Tequesta warriors. Before the settlement could be established, the colonists were attacked by the Calusa , the indigenous people who dominated southern Florida and whose principal town was nearby.

Chapter 7 : Juan Ponce De Leon | racedaydvl.com

*Juan Ponce de León () was a Spanish conquistador and explorer. He was active in the Caribbean in the early part of the 16th century. His name is usually associated with the exploration of Puerto Rico and Florida. By popular legend, he explored Florida to search for the legendary "Fountain."*

Age of Discovery Quick Facts: He was a Spanish explorer who became the first governor of Puerto Rico, the first European known to reach the mainland of present day United States, and he gave Florida its name. He is credited with establishing a European settlement in Puerto Rico, being the first European to reach Florida, giving the land its name. Although there is no evidence to support this claim, legend says that Ponce de Leon found Florida while searching for the fabled Fountain of Youth. In return, he would receive training in social etiquette, hunting, and heavy military training. His military skills were put to the test in when he went off to the Kingdom of Granada to fight against the Muslim Moors. The war ended in In , he married a Spanish woman named Leonor, and they had four children. He had three daughters " Juana, Isabel, and Maria; and a son named Luis. The Europeans fought and enslaved many indigenous natives. Ponce de Leon became governor of one of the provinces in eastern Hispaniola. He found wealth as a farmer. Despite his success in farming, Ponce de Leon wanted to find gold. He often heard tales from sailors and natives alike of the bountiful land called Boriquen " the native name for modern day Puerto Rico. He did not have official permission from authorities. So Ponce de Leon went secretly. He discovered that the island had both gold and other valuable resources. So he went back to Hispaniola with plans to return to Puerto Rico. In August , Ponce de Leon gathered a crew and some boats, and set sail. From , he explored the island, and founded the oldest settlement of Caparra near San Juan. But he was replaced by Diego Columbus in When he died in , his son Diego inherited those rights. Diego went to court, and the Spanish monarchy had no choice but to give him ownership. But the Spanish crown wanted Ponce de Leon to find new lands. He heard stories from natives about a Fountain of Youth and a lot of gold on an island called Bimini now in the Bahamas. In March , he left Puerto Rico in search of this fountain. On April 3 they landed just outside of modern day St. Ponce de Leon realized they were not at Bimini. He noticed the land, which he thought was an island, was filled with lush vegetation. Ponce de Leon and his crew encountered some natives along the way. At one point the Calusa Indians attacked the Spanish crew and forced the Spaniards to retreat. He left Florida in , briefly returned to Puerto Rico, and then headed back to Spain. Ponce de Leon made several trips back and forth between Puerto Rico and Spain over the next few years. During a trip to Spain in , he married his second wife Juana de Pineda of Seville. His first wife appeared to have died sometime before he left Puerto Rico. Ponce de Leon was also given permission to colonize the Florida region he had explored. Unfortunately, he would not get to see his colony thrive. Not long after his arrival he had a fatal encounter with the natives. During an attack by the natives, Ponce de Leon was shot and wounded by an arrow. The Spaniards retreated to Havana, Cuba. Although he was never able to establish a colony in Florida, his discovery of the land led to continued Spanish exploration of the Americas. After his death, more and more Spanish explorers wanted to sail west to explore Florida. Many of the colonies he set up in Puerto Rico survived long after his death, and his influence is still known throughout the area. Chelsea House Publishers, , Capstone Press, , 7. The Rosen Publishing Group, , Sammons, Ponce de Leon and the Discovery of Florida, Rachel Eagen, Ponce de Leon: Steven Otfinoski, Juan Ponce de Leon: Discoverer of Florida New York: Benchmark Books, , 37 " Otfinoski, Juan Ponce de Leon, Exploring Florida and Puerto Rico. Juan Ponce de Leon. Juan Ponce de Leon: The Rosen Publishing Group, Ponce de Leon and the Discovery of Florida. Chelsea House Publishers,

**Chapter 8 : Juan Ponce de León - New World Encyclopedia**

*Juan Ponce de León was a famous Spanish explorer and conquistador. He was also the first European explorer to reach Florida. In this article we will go through the timeline of Juan Ponce de León and see the important events that took place in his lifetime.*

Early accounts[ edit ] Herodotus mentions a fountain containing a special kind of water in the land of the Macrobian , which gives the Macrobian their exceptional longevity. The Ichthyophagid then in their turn questioned the king concerning the term of life, and diet of his people, and were told that most of them lived to be a hundred and twenty years old, while some even went beyond that ageâ€”they ate boiled flesh, and had for their drink nothing but milk. When the Ichthyophagi showed wonder at the number of the years, he led them to a fountain, wherein when they had washed, they found their flesh all glossy and sleek, as if they had bathed in oil- and a scent came from the spring like that of violets. The water was so weak, they said, that nothing would float in it, neither wood, nor any lighter substance, but all went to the bottom. If the account of this fountain be true, it would be their constant use of the water from it which makes them so long-lived. Arabic and Aljamiado versions of the Alexander Romance were very popular in Spain during and after the period of Moorish rule , and would have been known to the explorers who journeyed to America. These earlier accounts inspired the popular medieval fantasy The Travels of Sir John Mandeville , which also mentions the Fountain of Youth as located at the foot of a mountain outside Polombe modern Kollam [2] in India. The people in the pool are youthful and naked, and after a while they leave it, and are shown fashionably dressed enjoying a courtly party, sometimes including a meal. There are countless indirect sources for the tale as well. The Caribbean islanders described a mythical land of Beimeni or Beniny whence Bimini , a land of wealth and prosperity, which became conflated with the fountain legend. By the time of Ponce de Leon, the land was thought to be located northwest towards the Bahamas called la Vieja during the Ponce expedition. The natives were probably referring to the area occupied by the Maya. It was this Boinca that originally held a legendary fountain of youth, rather than Bimini itself. He gathered a troupe of adventurers and sailed north, never to return. Found within the salt water mangrove swamp that covers 6 kilometres 3. During outgoing tides, these channels pump cool, mineral-laden fresh water into the pool. Because this well was carved out of the limestone rock by ground water thousands of years ago it is especially high in calcium and magnesium. Herrera states that local caciques paid regular visits to the fountain. A frail old man could become so completely restored that he could resume "all manly exercises â€” take a new wife and beget more children. Augustine The city of St. There were several instances of the property being used as an attraction as early as the s; the tourist attraction in its present form was created by Luella Day McConnell in Having abandoned her practice as a physician in Chicago and gone to the Yukon during the Klondike gold rush of the s, she purchased the Park property in from Henry H. Williams, a British horticulturalist, with cash and diamonds, for which she became known in St. Augustine as "Diamond Lil". Around the year she began advertising the attraction, charging admission, and selling post cards and water from a well dug in for Williams by Philip Gomez and Philip Capo. These digs produced a large number of Christianized Timucua burials. These burials eventually pointed to the Park as the location of the first Christian mission in the United States. Called the Mission Nombre de Dios , this mission was begun by Franciscan friars in Augustine, the oldest continuously inhabited European settlement in North America. The park currently exhibits native and colonial artifacts to celebrate St. The Book of John Mandeville. Medieval Institute Publications Kalamazoo , Accessed 24 Sept

## Chapter 9 : Juan Ponce de León - HISTORY

*Juan Ponce de León fue un conquistador y explorador de origen español que dirigió una expedición europea en busca de oro, lo que finalmente lo llevó a la costa sudeste de lo que se convertirá en los Estados Unidos.*

July in Havana, Cuba Best known for: Exploring Florida and searching for the Fountain of Youth Biography: He attended to de Guzman during battles and basically was a servant for the knight. As Juan grew older, the knight taught him how to fight. He learned how to fight from a horse and took part in battles. Juan was part of the army that defeated the Moors in to bring the entire Iberian Peninsula under Spanish control. He joined Christopher Columbus on his second voyage to the New World. Juan ended up as a military leader on the Island of Hispaniola. After helping to crush a native rebellion, Juan was made governor over a section of the island and given a large portion of land. He would soon become rich farming the land and selling produce to ships traveling back to Spain. Puerto Rico In , Ponce de Leon decided to begin exploring. He went to the Island of Puerto Rico where he discovered gold and fertile land. The king soon named Ponce de Leon as the first governor of Puerto Rico. The Spanish, under Ponce de Leon, made the local natives called the Tainos work for them as slaves. They forced the Tainos to farm the land and mine for gold. The king, however, wanted to reward Juan for his service. Juan was granted an expedition to explore islands north of Puerto Rico. On April 2, , Juan spotted land. He thought it was another island, but it was really big. Because the land was beautiful and he discovered the land around Easter which was called Pascua Florida, meaning the Festival of Flowers , he called the land "La Florida. They discovered that it must be a huge island. They also found that the natives were quite fierce. Several times when they landed on shore, they had to fight for their lives. However, there is little evidence that this was an actual goal of the expedition. Death After the expedition, Ponce de Leon returned to Spain to tell the king about his discovery. He then returned to Florida in with the hopes of establishing a colony. However, not long after landing in Florida, the colonists were attacked by local natives. Ponce de Leon was struck on the thigh with a poisoned arrow. He died a few days later, after retreating to Havana, Cuba. They had three daughters and one son. Ponce de Leon was the first European to discover the Gulf Stream a powerful current in the Atlantic Ocean during his expedition. The arrow that killed Ponce de Leon was poisoned with the sap of the manchineel tree. He named a small group of islands near the Florida Keys the "Dry Tortugas" because they had lots of sea turtles tortugas , but little fresh water. Activities Take a ten question quiz about this page. Listen to a recorded reading of this page: Your browser does not support the audio element.