

De Soto Expedition worksheet

Date	Place	Other information
		About 600 men, a few hundred horses, packs of dogs, and a large herd of pigs
	Apalachee, near Tallahassee, Florida	
		Meeting between the Ichisi and De Soto
Spring 1542		
	Down the Mississippi River	
		311 survivors

1. In what ways have archaeologists and historians teamed up in researching the De Soto expedition?

2. What do you think the Ichisi may have thought when they first saw the De Soto soldiers?
3. How do you think the Spanish could have replied to the following Ichisi questions?
 - Who are you?
 - What do you want?
 - Where are you going?
4. What evidence from the article can explain why the Native Americans would have resented the Spanish very early on in the expedition?
5. What evidence has convinced some archaeologists of the authenticity of two of the De Soto sites?
6. Why do you think that the author of the article states that “De Soto’s men were the first, and possibly the last, Europeans to see the great Indian chiefdoms of what archaeologists call the ‘Mississippian period’”?
7. Why do you think that the Spanish exploration in the Southeast had such a disastrous impact on the native cultures?
8. Put yourself in the place of the Spanish soldiers that accompanied De Soto. What would you have been thinking about and feeling during the years of the expedition?