

Chapter 16

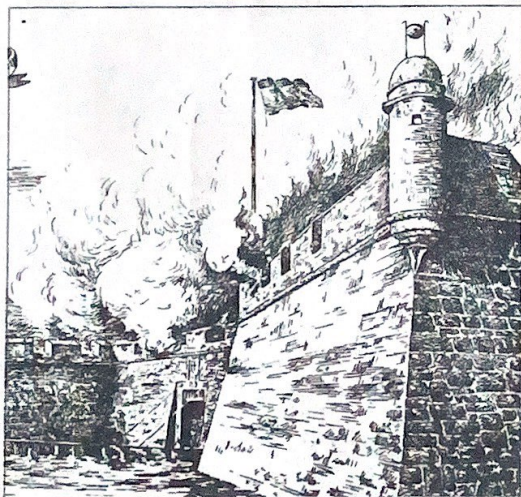
THE UNITED STATES ACQUIRES FLORIDA

AIMS: How did the United States gain Florida? What were the terms of the Adams-Onís Treaty?

1. The United States wanted Florida. In 1803, Thomas Jefferson tried to buy West Florida as part of the Louisiana Purchase. He did not succeed in buying Florida. Some Americans, however, claimed that West Florida was part of the Louisiana Purchase.

2. In 1810, a group of Americans moved into West Florida. They captured the Spanish fort at Baton Rouge. The Americans declared the independence of the "Republic of West Florida." In October 1810, President James Madison claimed that the United States controlled West Florida from the Mississippi River to the Perdido River. Spain objected, but Spain was fighting a war in Europe and could not fight the United States. In 1813, the United States took over the rest of West Florida after capturing the Spanish fort at Mobile. It seemed just a matter of time before Spain would be forced to give up East Florida too.

3. For many years, East Florida had been a



▲ The Spanish fire a cannon salute before lowering the Spanish flag and leaving the fort in St. Augustine to the Americans.

hiding place for pirates and smugglers. Run-away slaves escaped across the border from the United States into East Florida. The Seminole Native Americans used the border areas as bases from which to make raids into the United States. The Seminoles had moved from the United States into Florida but tried to get their land back. In 1817, the United States government gave the war hero Andrew Jackson orders allowing him to chase the Seminoles across the border into Spanish territory.

4. In 1818, General Andrew Jackson attacked the Seminoles who had crossed into Georgia. He followed them back into Florida and captured the Spanish forts of St. Marks and Pensacola. Jackson's forces captured two Seminole leaders and two British fur traders, accused of arming the Seminoles. The Seminole leaders were hanged without a trial. The two British subjects were executed after their trials. Jackson also removed the Spanish governor.

5. Jackson's actions were against the law. However, most of the American public praised his deeds. Great Britain did not protest, but Spain did. United States Secretary of State John Quincy Adams blamed Spain. He accused the Spanish of encouraging the Seminoles to attack. Adams demanded that Spain either control the Seminoles or give up Florida.

6. Spain was having trouble with its other American colonies and so was willing to give up Florida. Adams worked out the Adams-Onís Treaty with Luis de Onís, the Spanish official in Washington. The United States signed the treaty in 1819. Spain signed it in 1821. The treaty said that both East and West Florida belonged to the United States. It drew up a western border between the Louisiana Territory and Spanish territory. Spain gave up its claim to the land in Oregon. In return, the United States gave up any claim to Texas. The United States agreed to pay over \$5 million that Spain owed United States citizens. The United States also agreed to honor all land grants made before January 1, 1818.

WRITE "TRUE IF THE STATEMENT IS TRUE, WRITE FALSE IF IT IS FALSE.

- _____ 1. West Florida was not included in the Louisiana Purchase.
- _____ 2. Slaves took the fort at Baton Rouge and declared the independence of the Republic of West Florida.
- _____ 3. The fort the United States captured at Mobile was in East Florida.
- _____ 4. General Andrew Jackson pursued the Seminoles into Florida.
- _____ 5. According to the Adams-Onís Treaty, the United States agreed to give up its claim to Louisiana.

A. Place the events below in the correct order by writing the numbers 1 through 5 in the blanks.

- _____ a. General Andrew Jackson enters East Florida and captures two Spanish forts.
- _____ b. Americans declare the independence of the Republic of West Florida.
- _____ c. The United States buys Louisiana.
- _____ d. Spain signs the Adams-Onís Treaty.
- _____ e. The United States takes over the rest of West Florida.

Building Geography Skills

Study the map. Then answer the questions.

1. When did the United States acquire the *western* section of West Florida?

2. What river formed the border between East and West Florida?

3. When did the United States acquire St. Augustine?

4. From what country did the United States gain Florida?

