

Our Florida Catholic History Unit/Lesson Plan

UNIT/LESSON PLAN	
Title/Theme	History of the Catholic Church in Florida
Grade/Subject	4th Grade Social Studies
Length of Unit/Timeframe	2-3 days (45 minute class periods)
Brief Summary of Lesson	Students will learn about the significance of our diocese, St. Augustine, and how it played an integral part to the creation of a Catholic presence in the New World. The lesson will summarize the background story of Admiral Menendez de Aviles's journey to America, his arrival at St. Augustine, and his mission for the new settlement.
Diocesan Objective(s):	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 4.15: Identify the events in the Catholic Church that are often connected to the historical events of time (e.g. the first mass in St. Augustine, Father Lopez, etc.) ✓ 4.16: Identify St. Augustine, Florida as the location of the oldest permanent European settlement, parish, and Catholic community in Florida. ✓ 4.17: Explain the impact of Spanish/Catholic influence on the establishment of Florida as a colony. <input type="checkbox"/> 4.18: Explain the purpose of and daily life on missions (e.g. San Luis de Talimali in present day Tallahassee). 	

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Instructional Activities/Strategies:

- Teacher led description of Admiral Pedro Menendez de Aviles’s journey and arrival
 - Whole class discussions
 - Question & Answer
- Teacher Lecture Notes:
- Set sail for 3 reasons: God, gold, and glory
 - 3 month journey
 - ★ Ask students, “What should the crew have packed for this long journey? What did they need to survive?” (allow time for student reflection and answers)
 - Finally they see bright, white beaches
 - ★ Ask students, “What do YOU think was going through the crew’s mind when they saw land?” (allow time for student reflection and answers)
 - Significance of August 28th (St. Augustine of Hippo)
 - Crew sang a hymn of praise
 - ★ WHY? (allow time for student reflection and answers)
 - Several more days before they made it to shore (September 8, 1565)
 - ★ Ask students, “What do YOU think the crew did when they FIRST arrived safely on the shore?” (allow time for student reflection and answers)
 - Common answers included: got something to eat, made a shelter, tried to communicate with the Native Americans, thanked God
 - With prompting from me (“These are CATHOLIC conquistadors, what is the first thing they should do after arriving safely?”), the answer was: celebrate Mass to honor and thank God
 - Role of Father Lopez
 - Built missions and churches (Nombre de Dios)
 - Battle with the French Protestants over land in North Florida (Spanish win, Catholicism prevails)

UNIT READINGS AND VOCABULARY

Non-Fiction Text(s) or Textbook	<i>My World Social Studies: Florida</i> (Pearson textbook) www.dosafl.com
Fiction Text(s)	
Essential Unit Vocabulary	settlement, admiral, expedition, hymn, mission, fort, Protestants

INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Catholic Identity ✓ Reading ✓ Writing ✓ Speaking/Listening 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Language ✓ Vocabulary <input type="checkbox"/> Viewing ✓ Critical Thinking
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Summative and Formative Assessment(s):

★Project Options:

- Students perform small group skits to re-enact Menendez de Aviles's journey and arrival
- Students write two or three journal entries from the point of view of Menendez, one of his crew members, Father Lopez, or a Native American observing the arrival of Menendez
- Students create a snapshot drawing of a scene from September 8, 1565 and write a paragraph to explain the scene

Materials/Equipment Needed

- Student textbook
- Teacher research
- Pictures from the Internet or books (computer with projector possibly needed)
- Paper
- Coloring utensils

Site Visits

- Cathedral-Basilica of St. Augustine
- Mission Nombre de Dios Grounds/Museum
- Our Lady of La Leche Shrine
- Motherhouse: Sisters of St. Joseph Father Miguel O'Reilly House Museum
- Other _____

Other notes or information

Palmer Catholic Academy uses the textbook *My World Social Studies: Florida* by Pearson to teach our 4th graders about Florida state history. The book does a good job discussing the significance of St. Augustine and Menendez, but not from a Catholic perspective. With my own research, I was able to incorporate important details about the first Catholic settlement and missions in America. I taught this subject back in September, and the students thoroughly enjoyed learning more about their rich Catholic history.

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