

Interesting Florida & Northeast Florida Facts

- Florida has the longest European-Influenced history in the United States.
 - In 1513, the Spanish politician and explorer Juan Ponce de León led the first known European expedition that officially landed in Florida (*La Florida*), somewhere in the northeastern area, but there is no “Plymouth Rock” to mark the exact historic location.
 - It is estimated that there was approximately 350,000 indigenous people living in the Florida peninsula at the time of European contact (1513); 150,000 in northeastern Florida.
- Florida was under Spanish Rule for 288 years; British Rule for 20 years; Independent Rule for 11 years; and has been under American Rule for 195 years (23 years as a Territory and 4 years under the Confederate States of America). Florida became a state in 1845.
- St. Augustine was founded in 1565 (and was the first permanent European Settlement - today it is the ‘Oldest City’ in the Continental United States).
 - Jamestown, Virginia (the first permanent English settlement in the Americas) was founded in 1607 - (42 years after St. Augustine).
 - Boston was founded in 1630 - (65 years after St. Augustine).
 - Philadelphia was founded in 1682 - (117 years after St. Augustine).
 - Washington, DC was founded in 1790 - (225 years after St. Augustine).