

# LEQ: What is the oldest, continuously occupied city in what is now the United States?



Although these are not the oldest buildings in St. Augustine, their architectural was influenced by Spanish occupation in the 1500s-the early 1800s. This image is of the Alcazar Hotel which was built in 1887. This photograph was produced in 1898 as a postcard for the Detroit Photographic Company. This image is courtesy of the Library of Congress and of Wikimedia Commons.

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**St. Augustine, Florida**



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# Spain's New World Empire



During the Spanish colonization of the Americas, the Cross of Burgundy served as the flag of the Viceroyalty of New Spain, and Peru at sea, and in forts. Another flag, the Royal Standard of Spain, was used for all other purposes. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Spain became the leading country to establish New World colonies in the 1500s.



This map shows the farthest extent of Spanish colonization in the Americas. Red is the farthest advance of the Spanish colonies under the House of Bourbon by the 1790s. Pink are disputed claims with Spain and other countries. Purple shows Portuguese colonies. This image is courtesy of Wikipedia.org.

The Spanish had two primary goals in setting up their colonies.



This painting shows Christopher Columbus being greeted by King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella on his return to Spain. This image, created between 1850-1900, is courtesy of the Library of Congress.

First, the Spanish wanted to acquire riches.



This image shows a Spanish gold doubloon stamped as minted in 1798. This royal coin was minted in Spain, Mexico, Peru, and Nueva Granada. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Secondly, the Spanish wanted to persuade the inhabitants of the New World to accept Catholic Christianity as their religion.



This image shows the Spanish's first recorded baptism. The incident occurred in Alta, California. The baptism was performed by Spanish Catholic priests of the Franciscan order. This image was first published in the book *San Juan Capistrano Mission* by Engelhardt, Zephyrin in 1922. The image is found on page 285.

Spanish explorers achieved many successes for their country.



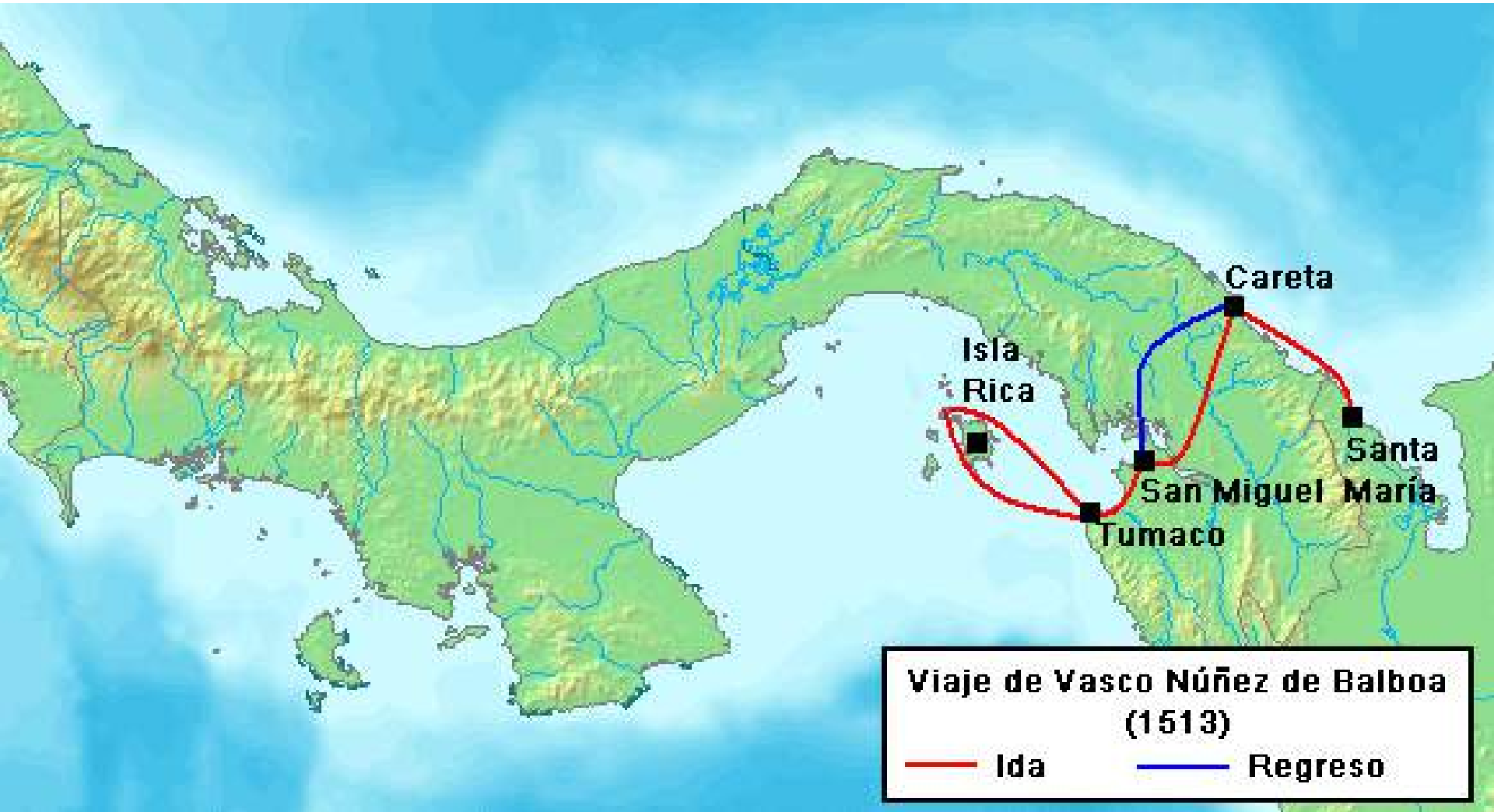
FIRST LANDING OF COLUMBUS ON THE SHORES OF THE NEW WORLD

AT SAN SALVADOR, W. I., OCT. 12TH 1492.

This image is titled: *First landing of Columbus on the shores of the New World: At San Salvador, West Indies, October 12, 1492*. This image was published by Courier & Ives in 1892 and is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.



# Vasco Balboa “discovered” the Pacific Ocean.



Vasco Nunez de Balboa crossed the Isthmus of Panama from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean in 1513. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Ferdinand Magellan's ship, *Victoria*, was the first to circumnavigate the globe.



This image is a detail from a map of Ortelius in 1590 showing Ferdinand Magellan's ship *Victoria*. The *Victoria*, a Spanish carrack was one of five ships to start the journey around the world but the only one to finish. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Magellan wasn't able to finish the voyage because he was killed by inhabitants of the Philippines.



This image shows Ferdinand Magellan (circa 1480-1521). This painting was made in 1848 from an original painting of 1787. It is in the Naval Museum of Madrid, and is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Juan Ponce de Leon found Florida while searching for gold, and possibly for the mythical “Fountain of Youth.”



Juan Ponce de Leon (1474-1521) was a Spanish explorer and the first Governor of Puerto Rico. He led the first European expedition to Florida, which he named. This image is courtesy of the Library of Congress.

Francisco Coronado travelled through the southwestern sections of North America in search of “cities of gold.”



Francisco Coronado (1510-1554) was a Spanish explorer who visited New Mexico and other parts of what are now the southwestern United States between 1540-1542. This painting by Frederic Remington (1861-1909) is titled *Coronado Sets Out to the North*. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Instead of the cities of gold, Coronado saw the Grand Canyon.



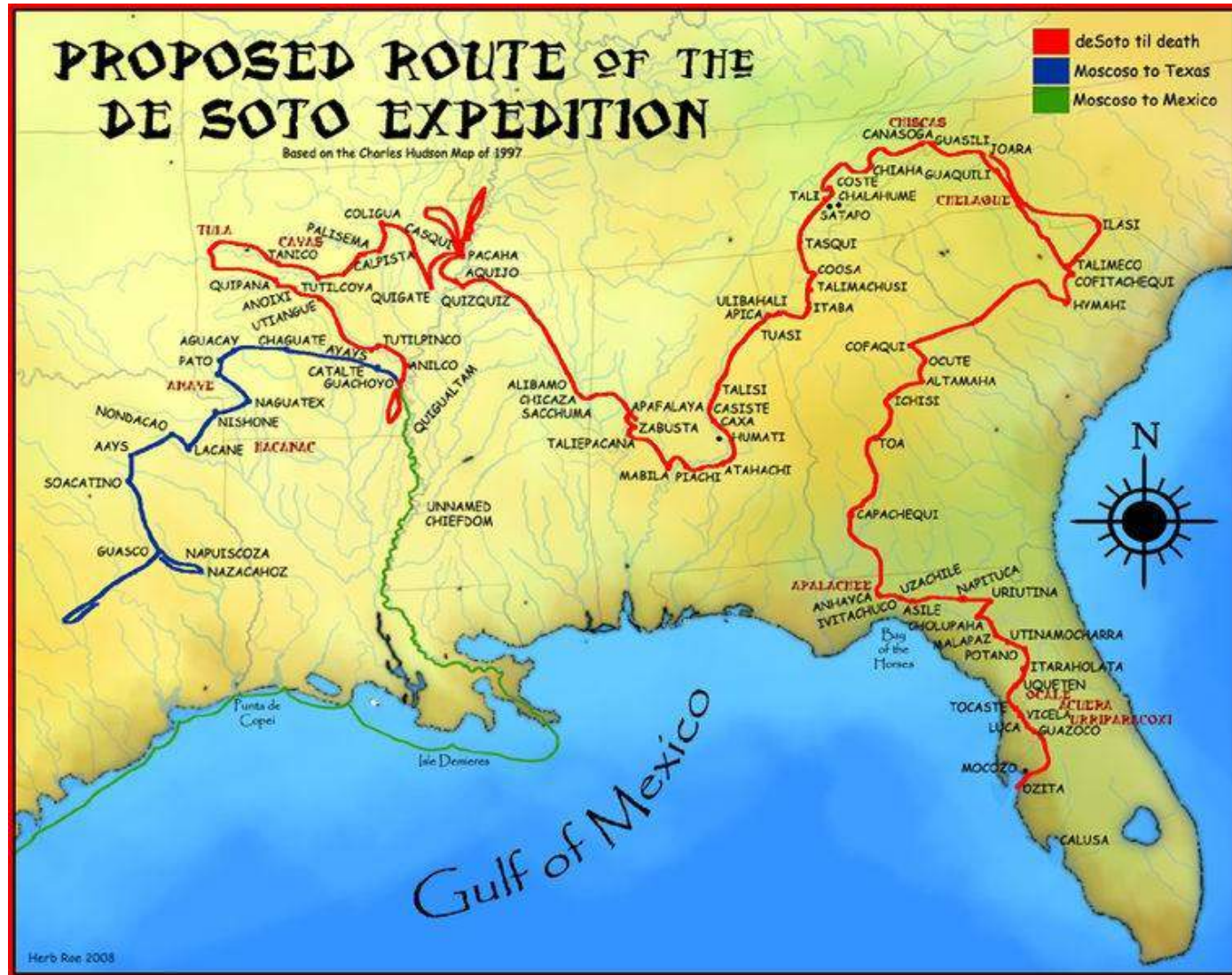
The Grand Canyon, located in Arizona, is a steep-sided canyon carved by the Colorado River. The canyon is 277 mile long, up to 18 miles wide, and attains a depth of over a mile. This image is courtesy of the National Park Service.

Coronado and his men also saw large herds of buffalo.



This image of American Bison or Buffalo grazing in Custer State Park in South Dakota was taken on June 8, 2001 by Buaidh. It is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

# Hernando de Soto searched for gold in what is now the southeastern part of the United States.



Hernando de Soto (circa 1496/1497-1542) was a Spanish explorer and conquistador who led the first European expedition deep into the territory of what is today the United States. He brought over 200 horses and approximately 200 pigs to the North American continent. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.



De Soto and his men were the first Europeans to see the Mississippi River.



This is a romanticized depiction of Hernando de Soto seeing the Mississippi River for the first time. This painting by William H. Powell (1823-1879) titled *Discovery of the Mississippi* hangs in the rotunda of the United States Capitol. This image is courtesy of the Architect of the Capitol.

The accomplishments of two other Spanish Conquistadores inspired European explorers to search the Americas for riches.



This image shows Spanish conquistadores with the Mexican Aztecs circa 1528. This image is courtesy of herenciaespanola.com.

Hernan Cortes, with 700 men conquered the Mexican Aztecs and stole the riches from their treasuries.



Hernan Cortes conquered the Aztecs from 1519-1521. This image shows Moctezuma II (1455-1520), ruler of the Mexican Aztecs who was imprisoned by Spanish Conquistadore Hernan Cortes. This image by Jan Karel Donatus Van Beecq (1638-1722) is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Francisco Pizarro and his men conquered the Incas in Peru and stole from them huge amounts of gold and silver.



Francisco Pizarro conquered the Incas in 1532. This painting shows the funeral of the Peruvian Inca ruler Atahualpa. He was deceived and captured by the Spanish Conquistadore Francisco Pizarro who eventually killed Atahualpa on August 29, 1533. This painting by Luis Montero is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

# Spanish ships, laden with gold and silver sailed to Europe.



This image shows a Spanish galleon. A galleon was a large, multi-decked ocean going, sailing ship which evolved from the carrack in the late 1500s. It was used primarily by European countries from the 1500s to the 1700s. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Other European countries wanted the treasures that the Spanish acquired.



This photograph shows replicas of Pieces of Eight and gold doubloon replicas. This image is courtesy of the Great American Coin Company.

# The Spanish invaders killed thousands of natives.



This image depicts some of the Spanish atrocities committed in the conquest of Cuba. This image appeared in the 1552 edition of Las Casas' *Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies*. Las Casas was a Spanish historian and Dominican Friar. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

The Spanish exploited many of the natives that they did not kill, such as making them slaves to work in the gold and silver mines.



Sometimes the slaves rebelled, such as in this image by Theodor De Bry which shows Aztecs pouring molten gold down the throat of a Conquistador. This image appeared in the book *Great Voyages*, Part IV, published in 1594. This image is courtesy of the University of Houston.



However, the Spanish were not as “racist” as other western Europeans, and they also intermarried with the natives.



This image is titled *From A Spanish man and an Amerindian woman, a Mestizo is Produced*. This painting , probably by Juan de la Cruz Cano y Olmedilla (1734-1790) is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

By 1574, thirty-three years before the English established their first settlement at Jamestown...



This photograph shows Spanish colonial style architecture in Old Havana Cuba. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

...Spain had established an empire in North and South America consisting of approximately 200 Spanish communities.



This image of Guanajuato, Mexico was taken by Anders Lageras in 2009. The Spanish found deposits of gold here in the 1540s and soon built forts in the area. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Architectural masterpieces such as Cathedrals were constructed.



This photograph shows the Metropolitan Cathedral of the Assumption of Mary in Mexico City. The groundbreaking for this Cathedral was in 1573. It was completed in 1813. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Spanish New World printing presses were turning out books.



This is the Conronica de la Provinica del Santo Evangelio, or the fourth part of Agustin de Vetanurt's Tretro Mexicano de Successos Religiosos. It was published in 1697 and is courtesy of the University of Texas at San Antonio.

Two universities, in Mexico City and Lima, Peru, were established 85 years before the English began Harvard College.



The National University of San Marcos is a public university in Lima, Peru. It was chartered on May 12, 1551 by a royal decree signed by King Charles I of Spain. It is the oldest officially established university in the Americas and one of the oldest universities in the world. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

In 1585 St. Augustine, Florida was founded.



This photograph shows a street in St. Augustine, Florida. This image was taken circa the 1860s by Samuel Cooley. This image is courtesy of the Library of Congress.

St. Augustine is the oldest city in what is now the United States.



This photograph shows the garrita and the bell tower on the Castillo de San Marcos in St. Augustine, Florida. The Castillo was constructed by the Spanish from 1672-1695. This image is courtesy of the National Park Service.



# The Spanish had a century's head start over the English in colonizing the New World.



This is a cutaway image of the Castillo de San Marcos in St. Augustine, Florida. This image is courtesy of the National Park Service.

The English and other European powers had a lot of “catching up” to do in order to equal the Spanish in this region.



This image, titled *The Virgin of the Navigators*, was painted circa 1531-1536 by Alejo Fernandez (1475-1545). It is the earliest known painting about the discovery of the Americas. The Virgin Mary is the largest figure in the picture, towering above the Spanish navigators that she is protecting. They are praying for a safe return to their homes. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons..

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