

St. Augustine First

Read evidence about why one Florida city matters in United States history.

SS.4.A.3.3 "Identify the significance of St. Augustine as the oldest permanent European settlement in the United States."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the words that tell why St. Augustine is significant. Circle **1565** and the comparison facts that say St. Augustine was 42 years old when Jamestown began and 55 years old when Plymouth began.

A City With a Long History

- ① In 1565, Spanish leader Pedro Menéndez de Avilés founded St. Augustine on Florida's Atlantic coast. Spain wanted a settlement that could protect ships sailing along the coast. The settlers built homes, planted crops, and made St. Augustine their home. Because people have lived there continuously since its founding, St. Augustine is the oldest permanent European settlement in the United States.
- ② St. Augustine was already 42 years old when English settlers founded Jamestown in Virginia in 1607. It was 55 years old when the Pilgrims began Plymouth Colony in Massachusetts in 1620. These comparisons show that St. Augustine began earlier than both famous English colonies. Its earlier founding helps explain why the city has a special place in United States history.
- ③ St. Augustine remained important as Florida changed rulers. Spain governed Florida first, from 1565 to 1763. Britain controlled Florida from 1763 to 1783, and Spain governed it again from 1783 until 1821. In 1821, Florida became part of the United States. St. Augustine's long, continuous history connects Spanish Florida to the history of the United States.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What fact shows that St. Augustine was a permanent settlement?

2 How does the passage compare St. Augustine with Jamestown?

3 How does the passage compare St. Augustine with Plymouth Colony?

4 Why is St. Augustine significant in United States history?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write a two-sentence museum label about St. Augustine. Tell why it is significant, and include one comparison to Jamestown or Plymouth Colony.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the words that tell why St. Augustine is significant. Circle **1565** and the comparison facts that say St. Augustine was 42 years old when Jamestown began and 55 years old when Plymouth began. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What fact shows that St. Augustine was a permanent settlement?	People have lived in St. Augustine continuously since it was founded.
2	How does the passage compare St. Augustine with Jamestown?	St. Augustine was already 42 years old when Jamestown was founded in 1607.
3	How does the passage compare St. Augustine with Plymouth Colony?	St. Augustine was 55 years old when Plymouth Colony began in 1620.
4	Why is St. Augustine significant in United States history?	It is significant because it is the oldest permanent European settlement in the United States.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

St. Augustine is significant because Spanish settlers founded it in 1565 and people have lived there continuously. It was already 42 years old when Jamestown was founded in 1607, so it began earlier than that English colony.

Accept labels that state St. Augustine is the oldest permanent European settlement in the United States and include an accurate comparison to Jamestown or Plymouth Colony. Students may use either comparison and may describe continuous settlement in their own words.