

Florida Freedom Stories

Read evidence about early Black Floridians.

SS.5.AA.1.6 "Examine the experiences and contributions of African Americans in early Florida."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each action that shows how African Americans contributed to early Florida. Circle words or phrases that describe an experience they faced.

Building and Defending Early Florida

- ① In 1738, Spanish officials established Gracia Real de Santa Teresa de Mose, often called Fort Mose, north of St. Augustine. It became the first legally recognized free Black settlement in what is now the United States. Africans and African Americans who escaped slavery in British colonies could gain freedom there if they accepted Catholicism and pledged loyalty to Spain. Eligible men served in the militia.
- ② Residents built homes, raised crops, and helped protect the Spanish border. In 1740, British troops captured Fort Mose during an attack on St. Augustine. Black militia members, fighting with Spanish soldiers, joined a pre-dawn counterattack that drove British troops from the fort. The battle showed their military skill and commitment to their community.
- ③ In the early 1800s, Anna Madgigine Jai Kingsley lived near the St. Johns River. After being enslaved, she became free and managed a plantation on Fort George Island. She traded goods and supervised enslaved workers, whose forced labor produced the family's wealth. Her life shows both the opportunities some free African people found and the exploitation that supported plantation businesses.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What did people escaping slavery in British colonies have to do to gain freedom at Fort Mose?

2 Name two ways Fort Mose residents helped Spanish Florida.

3 What happened at Fort Mose in 1740, and what does the response of the Black militia show?

4 How did Anna Madgigine Jai Kingsley's life involve both experiencing slavery and benefiting from it?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write a three-sentence museum label about either Fort Mose residents or Anna Madgigine Jai Kingsley. Include one experience they faced and two ways they shaped early Florida. If you choose Kingsley, acknowledge the enslaved workers' labor.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each action that shows how African Americans contributed to early Florida. Circle words or phrases that describe an experience they faced. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What did people escaping slavery in British colonies have to do to gain freedom at Fort Mose?	They had to accept Catholicism and pledge loyalty to Spain. Eligible men served in the militia.
2	Name two ways Fort Mose residents helped Spanish Florida.	They built homes and raised crops, and they helped protect the Spanish border by serving and fighting with the militia.
3	What happened at Fort Mose in 1740, and what does the response of the Black militia show?	British troops captured the fort. Black militia members joined a pre-dawn counterattack that drove the British out, showing military skill and commitment to their community.
4	How did Anna Madgigine Jai Kingsley's life involve both experiencing slavery and benefiting from it?	She was enslaved before becoming free. She later managed a plantation and supervised enslaved workers whose forced labor produced her family's wealth.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Fort Mose Residents Many residents escaped slavery and gained freedom by accepting Catholicism and pledging loyalty to Spain, with eligible men serving in the militia. They built homes and raised crops near St. Augustine. In 1740, militia members fought with Spanish soldiers in a pre-dawn counterattack that drove British troops from Fort Mose.

Accept equivalent evidence-based answers. For the three-sentence museum label, check for one experience and two supported roles in early Florida. For Kingsley, accept managing the plantation and trading goods as economic roles, while requiring acknowledgment of enslaved labor; describing a historical role does not mean endorsing it.