

Daily Life in Spanish St. Augustine 1565-1763

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Middle School Group (July 19-24, 2004)

Purpose:

- Students will research different aspects of daily life in St. Augustine and create an artifact box of objects or illustrations of objects that represent their research.
- Target grades: Middle School 6-8 (also adaptable to elementary or high school)



Inquiry questions:

What can artifacts tell us about during
the First Spanish Period?
(1565-1763)

- **A child's life in St. Augustine**
- **Religious life in St. Augustine**
- **Employment/masonry/professions**
- **Food**
- **Pottery/art**
- **Social Structure**

A Child's life in St. Augustine

"Spaniards were passionate about gambling, and men, women and children of all classes and ages played both dice games and board games. In the absence of official game pieces or markers, the residents of St. Augustine made their own out of ceramic fragments"



Religious Life



This rosary of jet beads was strung on gold thread, and terminated in a silver cross. It was found around the neck of a Spanish man who had been buried in the church of Nuestra Señora de la Soledad during the seventeenth century. He was the only burial found with a rosary, and he may have been a parish priest.

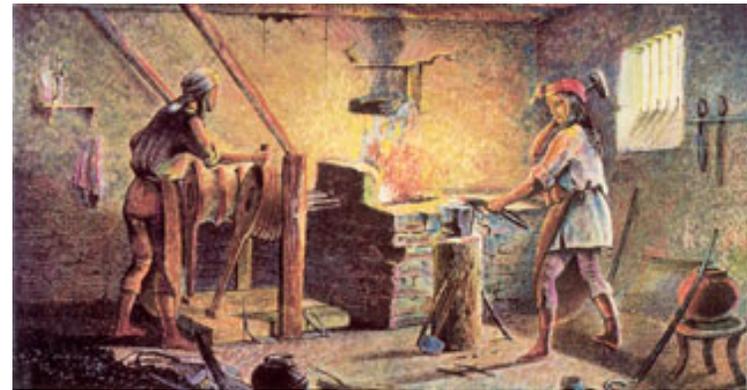
(Black jet rosary beads and silver cross: SA-37-6. Sisters of St. Joseph Convent Collection, St. Augustine.)

Thousands of rosaries were shipped to St. Augustine 1511-1613. This showed that Catholicism was the most important part of Spanish life and that they lived by the principal that “the altar comes before the hearth.” It also illustrates the intimate relationships between the Spanish government and the Catholic Church.

Employment/Professions

Blacksmith shop

- St. Augustine had three blacksmith forges during the seventeenth century. This image of a Spanish colonial smithy in the Southwest shows a scene that was also typical of St. Augustine's blacksmiths, except that the Indian worker was more likely to have been an African in Spanish Florida. (Cover illustration from *Southwestern Colonial Ironwork* by Marc Simmons and Frank Turley. Museum of New Mexico Press, 1980. Courtesy of the Museum of New Mexico and Marc Simmons).



Food

Seventeenth Century Crops included figs, grapes, oranges, peaches, pomegranates, mulberries, squash, radishes, kidney beans, onions, garlic, lettuce, peppers, cabbage, and sweet potatoes.



Pottery

Mexican majolica

- Most households in St. Augustine ate their meals from European-style glazed dishes, however by the seventeenth century these came from Mexico rather than from Spain or Italy, as they had during the previous century. A thriving majolica industry began in Mexico City during the mid-sixteenth century, and in Puebla by the mid-seventeenth century. The products of these workshops were used in seventeenth century St. Augustine to the exclusion of dishes made in Spain.



Social Structure

Women's amulets

- Spanish women used a variety of amulets, particularly for protection and assistance in the reproductive cycle. White quartz or glass beads ("Cuentas de leche") were thought to increase the flow of milk in nursing mothers, while red agate and carnelian prevented hemorrhage.

