



Celebrating Milestones: Tallahassee Bicentennial 1824-2024

GIS StoryMap: Student Handout

Directions: Using this Interactive Handout, read and analyze the maps and images, indicated by numbers, to answer the questions below. Prepare to share your responses with your shoulder partner and whole group.

2024 is a big year for Tallahassee, Florida as the city will be celebrating its bicentennial all year long. Once Florida became a U.S. territory attention soon was directed to finding a more central location to conduct government business after St. Augustine and Pensacola were deemed impractical. In the fall of 1823 representatives from the two cities, Dr. William Simmons and John Lee Williams respectively, chose a location somewhat in the middle that was also the former location of Native American settlements. In their report to the Territorial Government the two men stated that “a more beautiful country can scarcely be managed, it is high rolling, and well-watered, the richness of the soil renders it perfectly adapted to farming.” The city of Tallahassee was formally established on March 4th, 1824, statehood for Florida was achieved in 1845. The first capitol buildings included three log cabins.

1) Image #1: “Lithograph of a Residential Street Scene in Tallahassee, Fl” (1839) by Francis Castelnau. Observe this lithograph and record the following: Record all that you SEE, what does it make you THINK of, and what questions do you WONDER about

SEE	THINK	WONDER

a. Based on what you can see in this image of 1839 Tallahassee, what technology, communication, and types of transportation are available to residents?

b. This lithograph is the present-day intersection of Jefferson and Adams looking East. Using Google Maps, describe the changes that have occurred since 1839.



2) Map #1: F. Lucas Jr’s Florida (1822)– “Geographical, Statistical, and Historical Map of Florida.”

a. Using the swipe button, swipe right-how many counties does the Florida Territory have in 1821-1822?

b. What are the names of these counties?

c. Swipe left on the map–what is your eye drawn to first?

d. What geographic feature(s) do you see?

e. What is missing from this map?

13) Map #2: “Map of Florida, 1823.”

a. Swipe left to zoom in and record what your eye is drawn to first:

b. Compared to Map #1 what new information do you see on Map #2:

14) Map #3: “Plan of the City of Tallahassee,” (1824).

a. Analyze the maps and find the sources of water and record their names:

i. _____

ii. _____

b. Follow the creek that appears to flow north and record the name of the place that it empties out to:

c. Follow the branch that appears to flow east and record the name of the place it empties out to:

d. What geographic feature do you find at the center of this map?



5) Image #2/Part 1: “Leon County Census (1825).”

From Florida Memory at the State Archives:

About this Document: This document represents the entire census return for Leon County, Florida, as enumerated by James Cameron in September 1825. Cameron recorded 996 inhabitants in the county, including 608 whites, 387 slaves, and one free person, “of Colour.”

In addition to the total number of inhabitants and their status as either slave or free, the census includes: the name of the head of the family; the number of white males over 21; the number of white males under 21; the number of white females over 21; the number of white females under 21; and the number of slaves owned by each household.

b. Analyze this inset of Image #2 and locate the first territorial governor W. P. Duval.

a. How many persons total are included in this household? _____

b. How many are free persons? Enslaved persons? _____

6) Images #3 and #4: Inset and transcription of the “Leon County Census (1825).”

a. Locate the name “Walton George” on the transcript of the 1825 census and record how many persons are included in this household? _____

b. How many are free persons? Enslaved persons? _____

c. What is unique in the ‘total of slaves’ column for 1825 Tallahassee, Florida?

7) Image #5: Territorial Treasury Note, Three Dollars, 1830 and Image #6: Territorial Treasury Note, Four Dollars, 1830.

a. Image #5: Click on the image to zoom in. Name the person found at the top of the treasury note and, in your opinion, why would the Florida Territory use this person on their early form of currency?

b. Image #6: Click on the image and zoom in; make sure to read and analyze the images and text found on this treasury note. What images of Florida are included and explain why these images would be used in this early form of currency?

8) Map #4: Plan of Tallahassee, 1840.

a. Click on the map to zoom in. Analyze the map and try to read some of the text provided.

b. Look for the “arrow” button found at the top of the screen, click this button. Read the transcribed text. Click the arrow button to find the location mentioned.

c. Find the road between the two graveyards? What is unique about this section of road?



9) Map #5: Map of the City of Tallahassee, 1930.

a. Click on the map to zoom in. Make sure to read the map/legend found at the bottom of the map. In your opinion, why would this map want to show the reader where “present” paving and “to be paved soon” is illustrated on this map?

b. What two state colleges can be found on this map?

10) Map #6: Tallahassee City Limits, 2024

a. Almost 300, 000 people live in Leon County today, with 201, 000 living within the Tallahassee city limits.

b. Zoom in and analyze the current Tallahassee city limits. In your opinion, what physical, cultural, and/or demographic features impact the city limits?

c. Why are the city limits not in a square or rectangle shape?
