

Teaching Fifth-Grade **Nonfiction Text Features**

Using *A Journey with Juan Ponce de León* from the **Primary Source Explorers Series**

Features that help students understand how an informational text is organized:

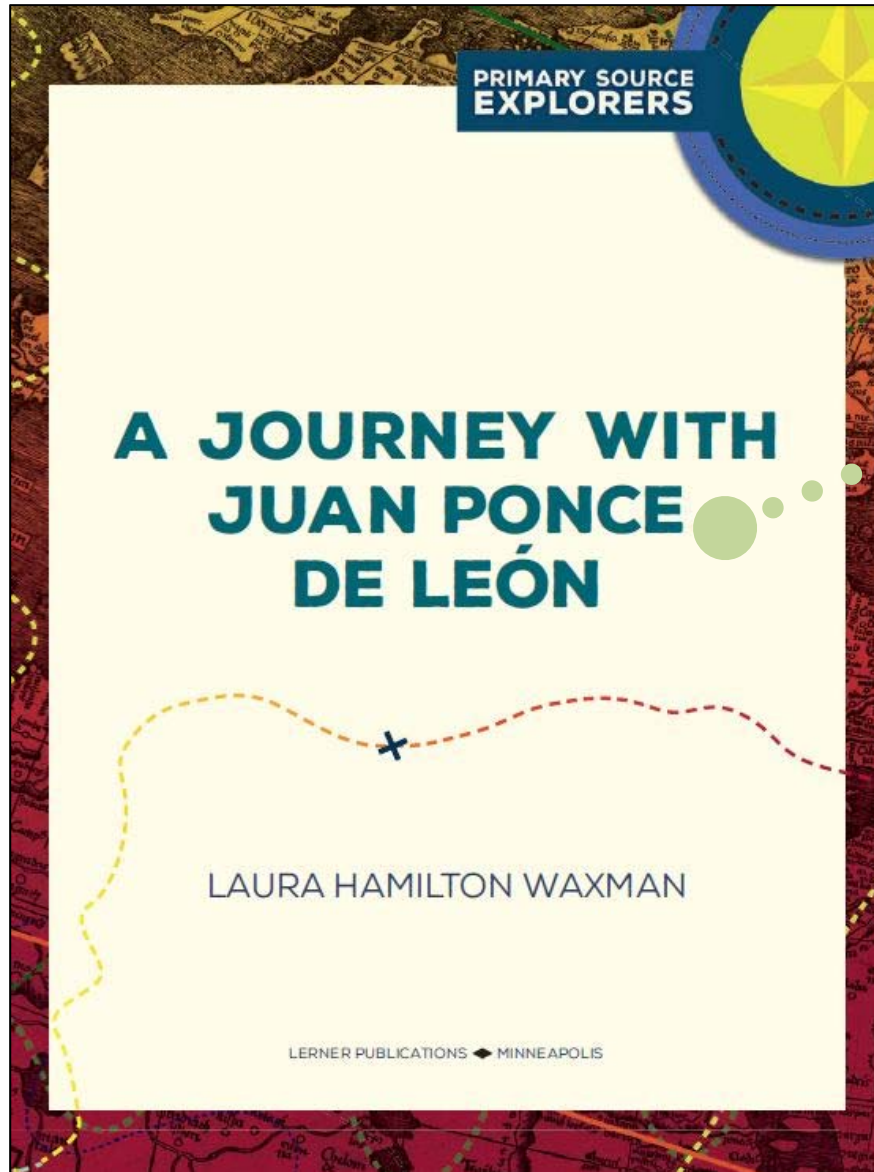
FEATURE	PURPOSE
Title page	Confirms title, author’s name, and publisher
Table of Contents/Contents Page	Identifies the topics to be presented and their order
Chapter name, heading, or subheading	Helps students identify main topics on a quick pass through the text
Glossary	Defines new and important words
Further reading and websites	Helps students expand their knowledge of the topic by listing other informational texts in print or on the Internet
Index	Lists the main ideas in the text, with page numbers to help students find them

Visual aids that help students understand informational texts:

VISUAL AID	PURPOSE
Photo, drawing, or illustration	Shows how something in the text looked or might have looked
Map	Puts the places in the informational text in the context of space and time

Features that point out important or additional information:

FEATURE	PURPOSE
Copyright page	Tells students how current the information in a book is
Bold print	Tells students a word is new and important; sometimes a glossary term
Pull quote	Highlights an important quotation or idea from the text
Italic Print	Tells students the word is supposed to stand out. It may be for emphasis or because it is a book name, newspaper, movie title, foreign word, or the directional for a photo or illustration.
Caption	Points out what’s in a photo, a drawing, or an illustration and relates it to the informational text; often gives more information
Label	Identifies important points of interest in a diagram or photograph
Sidebar	Boxed or otherwise highlighted bits of information that relate to but are not the same as the main informational text; likely not a main idea
Timeline	A chart or list that helps students understand the sequence of events in the informational text
Source Note	Tells the students where the quoted material came from



TITLE

TITLE PAGE: This page tells you the title, author, and publisher of a book.

COPYRIGHT YEAR

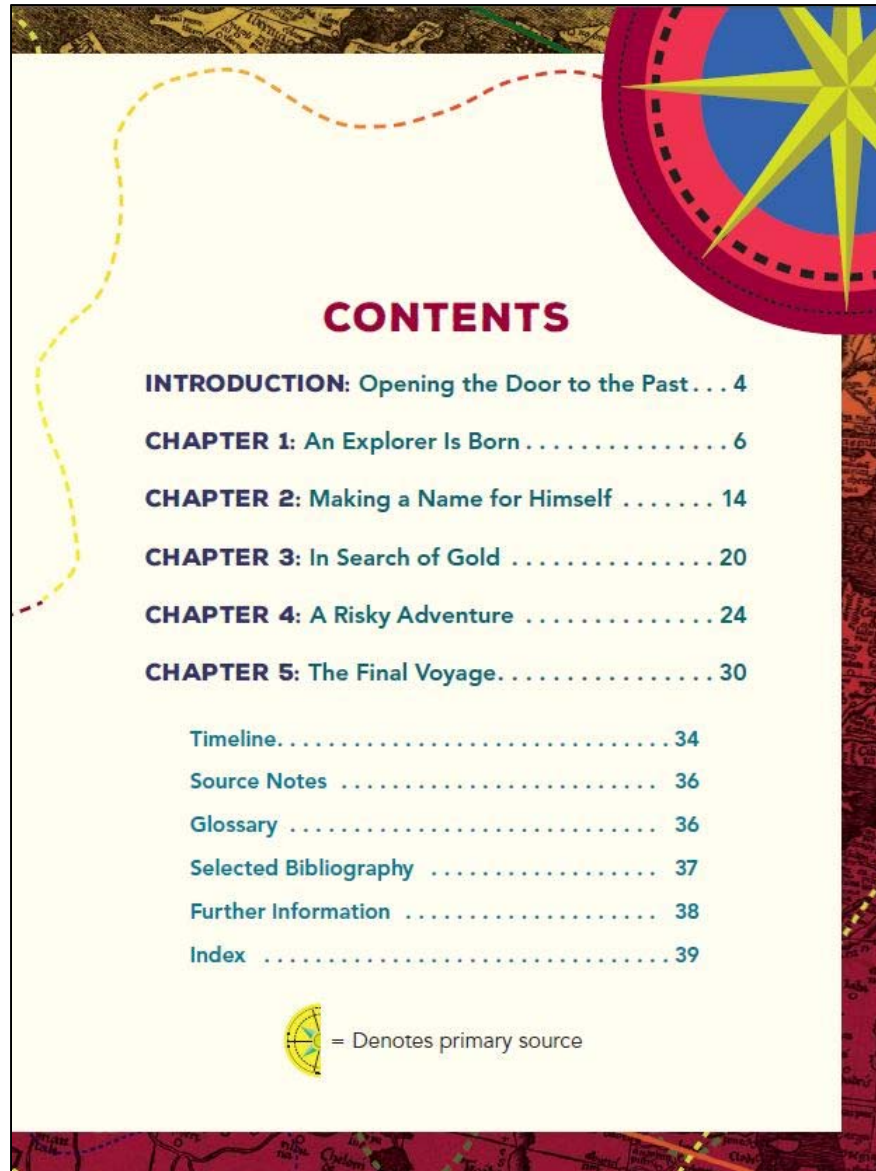
COPYRIGHT PAGE:

This page tells you the year the book was published. This may be important for report writing when you need up-to-date information. On this page, you can also find the address of the publisher.




TABLE OF CONTENTS PAGE:

This lists the chapters in your book by chapter title and the pages on which they begin. It also lists features, such as the index, that are at the end of the book.



CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION: Opening the Door to the Past . . .	4
CHAPTER 1: An Explorer Is Born	6
CHAPTER 2: Making a Name for Himself	14
CHAPTER 3: In Search of Gold	20
CHAPTER 4: A Risky Adventure	24
CHAPTER 5: The Final Voyage.	30
Timeline	34
Source Notes	36
Glossary	36
Selected Bibliography	37
Further Information	38
Index	39

 = Denotes primary source

CHAPTER TITLE: This tells you what topic will be discussed in the chapter. Chapter titles often give you the main ideas of the book.

CAPTION: These words tell you about the picture on the page. A caption is usually close to the picture it describes. Sometimes a caption will tell you if the picture is a photo or a drawing. A caption may also give you additional information that is not in the main text.



INTRODUCTION
OPENING THE DOOR TO THE PAST

Juan Ponce de León lived in a time long before videos, photographs, and social media recorded the details of people's lives. Yet historians have been able to piece together the basic facts of this explorer's life. How do they do it? They carefully examine primary sources.

Primary sources are written documents, images, and other objects created when a historical person lived. Some of the richest primary sources are diaries, letters, and government records. Primary sources can also be maps, artwork, tools, and other artifacts.



This letter from Spanish royalty was delivered to Ponce de León in 1493. Letters written during Ponce de León's lifetime are extremely valuable primary sources for historians who work to piece together details about the explorer's life.

4

PHOTOS:

The photos or pictures in a book show what the words, or text, describe. Looking at photos can help you understand the meaning of the text.

SIDEBAR:

These are short bits of text with their own headers. They are usually boxed and separated from the main text. Sidebars give additional information.


This portrait of Christopher Columbus was created in the nineteenth century, long after both Columbus and Ponce de León lived.

The king and queen of Spain had paid for Columbus's first voyage to the New World. They hoped to increase their country's wealth and power. When Columbus returned to Spain, he told them of the great riches to be found in the land he'd journeyed to, especially gold. Word of Columbus's success spread. It excited people's imaginations and inspired a new age of exploration among Europeans.

The timing couldn't have been better for Ponce de León. The young man was penniless and searching for a new way to support himself. He set his sights on life as an explorer.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?
 Each time Europeans set sail for an unknown land in the New World, they were risking their lives. Why do you think the Spanish people treated a voyage to the New World as a cause for celebration? What do you think they expected would happen on these voyages?

8



CHAPTER 4
A RISKY ADVENTURE

The Bahamas, which King Ferdinand wanted Ponce de León to explore, is extremely rich with plants and wildlife.

King Ferdinand hadn't forgotten about Ponce de León. He began encouraging the explorer to sail north to Bimini. This island is in the Bahamas, a large cluster of islands in the Caribbean. Ferdinand hoped that Ponce de León would find lots of gold and fertile farmland there.

TAKING A GAMBLE

The king drew up a contract for the voyage. In part, it said, "You may go to discover [Bimini] with ships you wish to take at your own cost. . . . When you find and discover [the] island, you shall be obliged to settle [it] at your own cost." So Ponce de León

24

HEADINGS AND SUBHEADINGS:
These separate the main text into smaller chunks of information. A heading tells you what the section below is about.


TEXT OR MAIN TEXT: These are the words on a page that describe the main ideas of the book. Main text is usually smaller than chapter titles or headings.

MAP:

This flat drawing shows the shape and features of a place, such as a country, a state, or a city.

LABELS:

These are words on a diagram or photo that point out the important parts of the diagram or photo. On a map, labels name important features, such as rivers or cities.



PONCE DE LEÓN'S ROUTE TO FLORIDA IN 1513

UNFRIENDLY ENCOUNTERS

The American Indians living in Florida included the Timucua, Tequesta, and Calusa peoples. Their experiences with Europeans had been negative, and they distrusted Ponce de León and his men from the start. In 1601 a Spanish historian named Antonio de Herrera y Tordesillas described an early encounter between them and Ponce de Leon's men:

The Indians, with their arrows and spears, with points made from sharpened bone of fish spines, wounded two [Spanish men]. . . . Juan Ponce collected his men, with some difficulty, and they departed during the night.

28

TIMELINE:

This list at the end of the book captures the dates on which important events that are mentioned in the main text took place.



TIMELINE

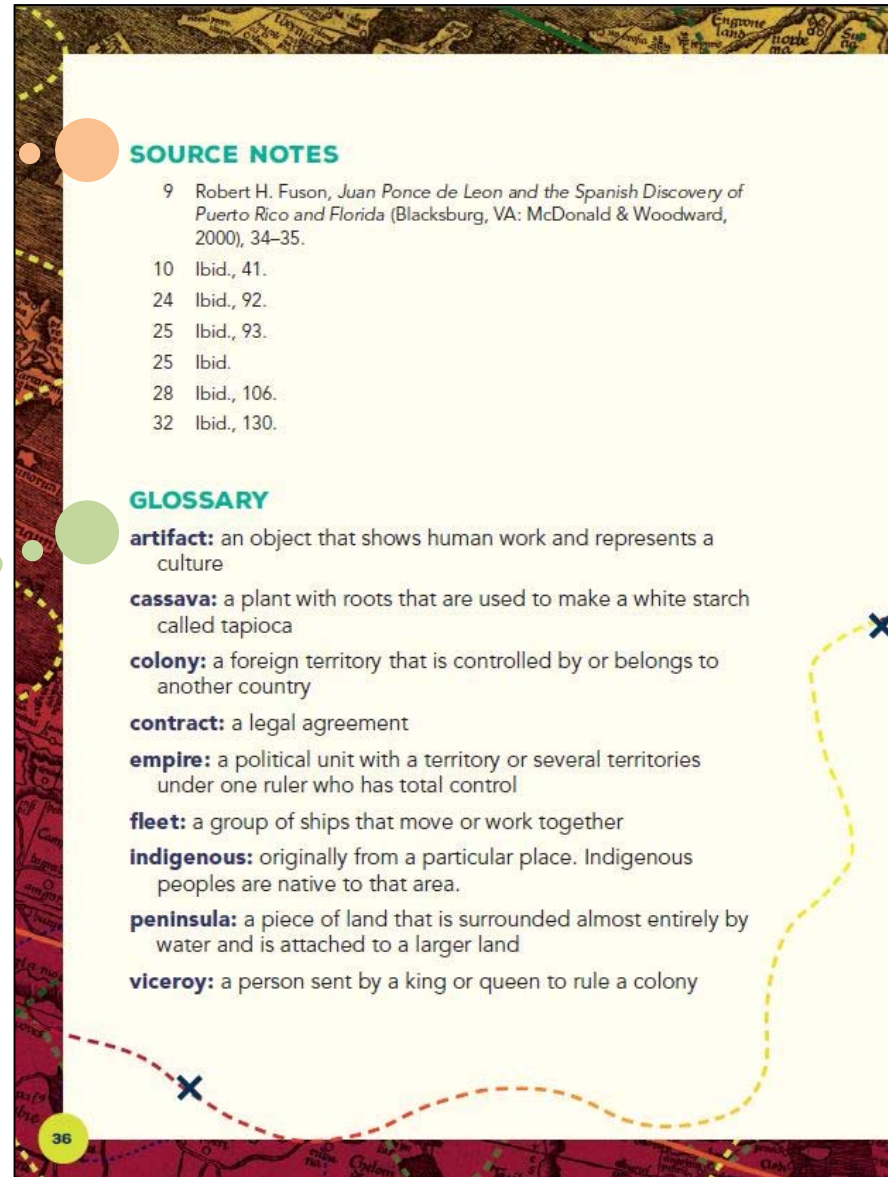
- **1474** Juan Ponce de León is born around this time in Santervás de Campos, Spain.
- **1493** Ponce de León likely sails with Christopher Columbus on his second voyage to the New World.
- **1504** Ponce de León helps to defeat a Taino rebellion in Hispaniola. As a reward, he receives land and leadership duties on the eastern part of the island.
- **1505** He establishes a new settlement on Hispaniola, which he names Salvaleón.
- **1506** He makes his first voyage to Puerto Rico and may have begun to establish Caparra.
- **1509** King Ferdinand appoints Ponce de León governor of Puerto Rico.
- **1511** Ponce de León orders his men to kill thousands of Taino in Puerto Rico to stop their rebellion. In May, Diego Columbus replaces Ponce de León with a different governor.

SOURCE NOTES:

This is a list of the books, magazines, and other resources from which the author borrowed specific quotations.

GLOSSARY:

This list calls out the important words in a book. The glossary proves the meaning, or definition, of the word. You can find the glossary near the end of the book.



SOURCE NOTES

9 Robert H. Fuson, *Juan Ponce de Leon and the Spanish Discovery of Puerto Rico and Florida* (Blacksburg, VA: McDonald & Woodward, 2000), 34–35.

10 Ibid., 41.

24 Ibid., 92.

25 Ibid., 93.

25 Ibid.

28 Ibid., 106.

32 Ibid., 130.

GLOSSARY

artifact: an object that shows human work and represents a culture

cassava: a plant with roots that are used to make a white starch called tapioca

colony: a foreign territory that is controlled by or belongs to another country

contract: a legal agreement

empire: a political unit with a territory or several territories under one ruler who has total control

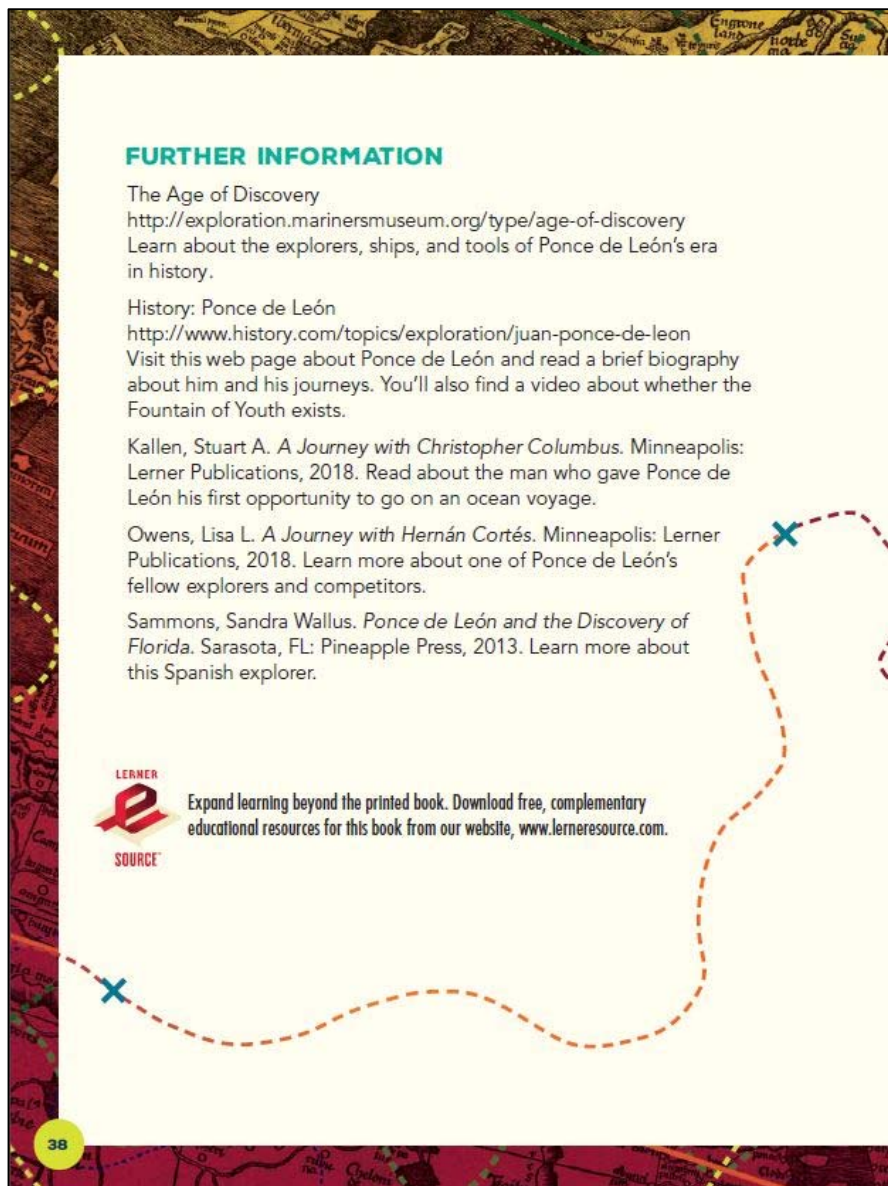
fleet: a group of ships that move or work together

indigenous: originally from a particular place. Indigenous peoples are native to that area.

peninsula: a piece of land that is surrounded almost entirely by water and is attached to a larger land

vicerooy: a person sent by a king or queen to rule a colony

36



FURTHER INFORMATION


The Age of Discovery
<http://exploration.marinersmuseum.org/type/age-of-discovery>
 Learn about the explorers, ships, and tools of Ponce de León's era in history.

History: Ponce de León
<http://www.history.com/topics/exploration/juan-ponce-de-leon>
 Visit this web page about Ponce de León and read a brief biography about him and his journeys. You'll also find a video about whether the Fountain of Youth exists.

Kallen, Stuart A. *A Journey with Christopher Columbus*. Minneapolis: Lerner Publications, 2018. Read about the man who gave Ponce de León his first opportunity to go on an ocean voyage.

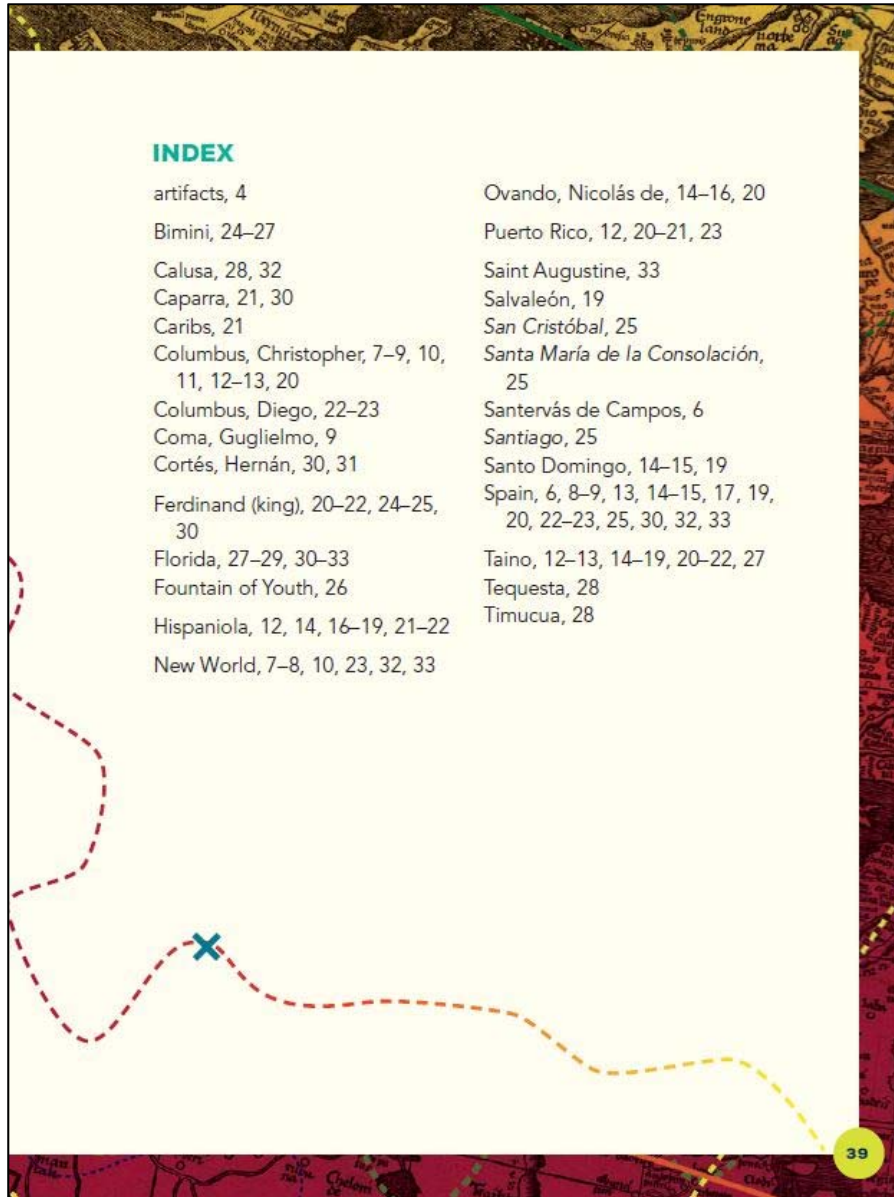
Owens, Lisa L. *A Journey with Hernán Cortés*. Minneapolis: Lerner Publications, 2018. Learn more about one of Ponce de León's fellow explorers and competitors.

Sammons, Sandra Wallus. *Ponce de León and the Discovery of Florida*. Sarasota, FL: Pineapple Press, 2013. Learn more about this Spanish explorer.

 Expand learning beyond the printed book. Download free, complementary educational resources for this book from our website, www.lernerresource.com.

38

FURTHER READING: This list offers suggestions of books and websites on the same subject as the book you just read. You can learn more by looking at books and websites from the list. The list is at the end of your book.



INDEX: This list at the end of the book follows the order of the alphabet. The index helps you find main ideas. The words in the index are followed by page numbers. These numbers tell you where to go in a book to find the main ideas.