



Flight to Freedom Learning Resource

Sensory Observation Chart

Fort Mose Historical Society:
African American Community of Freedom
connect@FortMose.org
<https://fortmose.org/>

Fort Mose Historic State Park
<https://www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/fort-mose-historic-state-park>

Fort Mose: Selected Awards & Honors
U.S. National Historic Landmark
Site of Memory, UNESCO Slave Route Project
Site: National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom
Site: Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor



Fort Mose Historical Society: African American Community of Freedom

Flight to Freedom Learning Resource: Sensory Observation Chart

Note: This educational resource is designed to accompany the popular **Flight to Freedom Encounter** that takes place annually at Fort Mose Historic State Park. Flight to Freedom re-creates the perilous journey of Freedom Seekers as they escape from enslavement on British plantations and flee southward, for a free life in Spanish Florida.

Fort Mose Historical Society offers use of these materials free-of-charge. The materials may be downloaded and reproduced for educational use. Editing is prohibited.

For more information on the **Flight to Freedom Encounter**, or to register youth groups for the unique experience, please visit FortMose.org. For information or feedback on these educational resources, please contact Connect@FortMose.org.

Thank you for sharing the Fort Mose history!

FL Learning Standards

- **SS.4.A.3.5** Identify the significance of Fort Mose as the first free African community in the United States.
- **S5.4.A.3.In.e** Identify that African slaves escaped to Fort Mose to live in freedom
- **S5.4.A.3.Su.e:** Recognize that African slaves went to Fort Mose to be free.
- **S5.4.A.3.Pa.e:** Recognize an aspect of freedom.
- **LAFS.4.W.1.3** Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.
 - a. Orient the reader by establishing a situation and introducing a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally.
 - b. Use dialogue and description to develop experiences and events or show the responses of characters to situations.
 - c. Use a variety of transitional words and phrases to manage the sequence of events.
 - d. Use concrete words and phrases and sensory details to convey experiences and events precisely. e. Provide a conclusion that follows from the narrated experiences or events.

- **SS.4.A.1.2** Synthesize information related to Florida history through print and electronic media.
- **LAFS.4.W.1.3** Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.
 - a. Orient the reader by establishing a situation and introducing a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally.
 - b. Use dialogue and description to develop experiences and events or show the responses of characters to situations.
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 - e. Provide a conclusion that follows from the narrated experiences or events.

The Fort Mose Story

♦ **First free legally sanctioned Black community in what became the United States of America**

♦ **Destination of the original Underground Railroad, running south**

Welcome to Fort Mose Historic State Park, a National Historic Landmark, and to the unique Flight to Freedom encounter!

As you travel the Freedom Trail with your students, you will be transported to a time nearly three hundred years ago when courageous freedom seekers risked everything to live at Fort Mose, the first legally sanctioned free Black community in what is now the United States.

Africans who were taken from their homes sought to reclaim their freedom. Those born into enslavement sought relief from the hereditary system of bondage. When word spread that free life might be possible in Spanish Florida, the Flight to Freedom began.

Enslaved men, women and children within the British colonies of the Carolinas and Georgia began the perilous journey southward. They were aided by indigenous Yamassee people along the way.

Upon safe arrival in St. Augustine, the freedom seekers were asked to pledge allegiance to the Spanish crown and accept the Catholic religion. Able-bodied men were required to complete a term of service in the militia.

The Spanish colonial government established *Gracia Real de Santa Teresa de Mose*, or Fort Mose, in 1738. Located on St. Augustine's northern border, Fort Mose became

was the first legally sanctioned free Black community in what was to become the United States. It was an important military outpost where free Fort Mose militia defended all of St. Augustine from attack. The free women of Fort Mose provided vital community support.

Today, Fort Mose is preserved as a Florida State Park, open 365 days per year for visitation by the public. It's designated a National Historic Landmark and a Site of Memory of the UNESCO Slave Route Project. Fort Mose is also honored as a site on the National Park Service Underground Railroad Network to Freedom and as southernmost site on the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor.

At its core, the Fort Mose story is one of tremendous human agency, perseverance, ingenuity, courage and accomplishment. As such, it stands in sharp contrast to the standard narrative of subjugation and oppression. Fort Mose citizens made significant contributions to colonial Spanish society. These freedom seekers had claimed their liberty, and secured the blessing of freedom for their offspring.

This is not to say Mose's founders and their offspring did not suffer. They did, enduring hardships, illness, hunger and constant danger. Many fought and died protecting Saint Augustine. These facts highlight the sacrifices people are willing to make to be free and can lead to rich and meaningful conversations with students.

Ultimately, the story of Fort Mose is one of hope, endurance, and triumph. Therefore, Fort Mose's story appeals to all who yearn for a broader, more inclusive and accurate depiction of colonial history that led to our country's founding.

We thank you for introducing your students to Fort Mose and the story of its courageous citizens, as defined in Florida Social Studies Standards.

For a more complete history of Fort Mose, please visit the Fort Mose Historical Society's website, and please forward questions to: Connect@FortMose.org.

Fort Mose Historical Society: African American Community of Freedom

Introduction: Flight to Freedom Sensory Observation Chart

What is a Sensory Observation Chart?

The Five Senses Observation learning strategy encourages students to use all of their senses to gather information and to use the skill of observing to learn more about their environment.

The tool promotes understanding of how we use our senses to gather information about the world. It provides structure for student discussions regarding their observations and perceptions of materials, objects and events.

Materials

- Printed copies of the Sensory Observation Chart (see below, Resources)
- Writing implements

Vocabulary

Enslaved - A person forced into the control of another, in violation of their human rights

Fort Mose (Moh-say') – First legally sanctioned free African community in what became the United States.

Freedom - Not being imprisoned or enslaved

Freedom seeker - An enslaved person who seeks a life of freedom

Yamassee (ya mah' see) - Native peoples who lived in the coastal region of present-day northern Georgia, and later in northeastern Florida.

Underground Railroad - A secret network and routes, co-created by people of various backgrounds, and used by enslaved people to escape to freedom. Today, Fort Mose is listed as a site on the US National Parks Underground Railroad Network to Freedom.

Instructions: Flight to Freedom Observation and Sensory Chart

Lesson Objectives

- To provide students with a graphic organizer that allows them to record their sensory interactions while on the Flight to Freedom trail. To encourage such interaction and promote attention to detail.
- To provide students an opportunity to practice using all of their senses to make purposeful observations about a given object or place.
- To provide students with an opportunity to use their gained historical knowledge in a creative and imaginative way, blending Social Studies and Language Arts standards and activities.
- Students will create a piece of historical fiction using their completed sensory chart and historical information learned on the Flight to Freedom trail.

Preliminary Activities

- Share the story of Fort Mose with students (see above)

- Review the language of the five senses and discuss how we use the senses to experience and learn about our world.

Follow-up Activity

- Discuss the **Flight to Freedom Encounter** with students. After inviting comments regarding general impressions, invite students to share some of the sensory perceptions that they've listed on their charts.
- Review the Fort Mose Story with the students, one more time.
- Describe and discuss the genre of 'historical fiction'.
- Then, invite students to create an original piece of historical fiction, based upon observations and sensory perceptions collected and recorded on the Flight to Freedom trail.

Next Steps

Visit Fort Mose Historic State Park in St. Augustine, FL. Explore the on-site museum, where you will learn much more about the Fort Mose community.

Soon, you will also be able to experience the Flight to Freedom Encounter 365 days per year, through the use of interpretive panels. For more information visit: <https://www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/fort-mose-historic-state-park>.

Visit the Castillo des San Marcos National Monument in downtown St. Augustine to learn more of the city's colonial history. For more information visit: <https://www.nps.gov/casa/index.htm>.

Resources

- Sensory Observation Chart (below)



Name _____

As you follow the Flight to Freedom trail at Fort Mose, record the sights, sounds, smells, and things you feel along the way.

[illegible]