Our History Begins Here. Let Us Start You on the Journey.

Share your completed coloring pages with us!
Tag @thomasvillehistory on Facebook and Instagram and use #ourhistorybeginshere!
Hello, from Thomasville History Center!

Pleased to meet you, friends! This is your guide to discovering all of Thomasville’s treasures at home and across the community.

When you see a 🏜️ that means there’s something you can find!

When you see a ✍️ that means there’s something you can color, a question you can answer, or an activity you can complete!

When you see a 🎨 that means you’re about to learn something new!

When you see a 💡 that means there is something you can make!

Remember, some items with a 🎨 don’t have to look exactly like the picture. Use it as inspiration to explore something new, find things that are alike, and things that are different.

Thomasville History Center Word Search

Can you find all of the words that describe the History Center? Words may be horizontal (left to right), vertical (top to bottom), or diagonal (across).

Thomasville
History
Center
Museum
Dawson Street
Fountain
Bowling Alley
Courthouse
Log House
Story
Explore
Discover
Community
Preservation
Historic District

D H M X U M G L U H D T D I S C O V E R
B Y I O A R X Q Z O I A H O O X Y C M B
C V T S N G O P F O U N T A I N C E M P
V O V D T Q G K H V W F U Q A U X N I R
I Z U A A O G U C S S L A C H S P T Z E
J E L R V E R Z I G R V T W R Q N E G S
X D D W T M X I V J Z F T B V M E R K E
J L R P O H A B C M E D A G J U X S B R
F Y D W K E O I F D E A A Z Q S P C O V
B L L Y B T J U V U I W I S E E L O W A
D L C X H H E P S U R S O I N U O M L T
S O A C I O Z Z T E C O T I A M R M I I
T G H S X M U T Y B P N Z R O E E U N O
O H Q Z Z A B H N Q Z S W Q I S T N G N
R O J L K S Q X H I S T O R Y C H I A X
Y U P K H V S S W A H R L B L M T T L M
L S Q Y I I E G X V B E F Y E N M Y L I
K E T O Q L A P S C H E A K G R N P E M
P X D A Z E Y Z M E A A R P N W F E T R
Early Environment (14,000 BC-1825)

Tall longleaf pines make thick forests where wildlife like deer and quail live. Thousands of years ago, the Creek and Apalachee called the Red Hills region home. Archaeologists dig up things from underground that were left behind by Native Americans to learn about their lives. Spanish explorer Hernando DeSoto met many of the local Native American tribes as his expedition traveled through this area in the 1500s.

Did You Know?

Patterns were created on pottery by pressing carved paddles into clay before firing. Firing hardened the clay and made it stronger.

Archaeology

Did You Know? Archaeology is the study of things that people made, used, and left behind. The goal of archaeology is to understand what people of the past were like and how they lived. Scientists who study archaeology are called archaeologists. Some archaeological sites, such as ancient cities, are visible on the surface. Other things are buried deep beneath the ground, these are called artifacts.

When archaeologists find artifacts in the ground, the first thing they try to do is figure out how old the item is. Some artifacts have dates on them or words or a symbol, something that will explain how old something is.

“Discover” artifact in your house from years past. It can be something from when you were younger or when your parents were younger.

What does the item look like, how old is it, how was it used? Write a description of what you found. Be sure to describe what it is made out of and what it looks like!
Did You Know? For tens of thousands of years, Native Americans occupied present day Georgia and Alabama. These early groups were from the Mississippian culture of mound builders, they were then followed by the Creek (Muskogee) people.
**EXPLORATION**

Spanish conquistador Hernando DeSoto arrived in what would become the southeastern United States in 1539. Explorers in this time period were often in search of the 3 “G’s: gold, god, and glory. DeSoto’s expedition arrived in LaFlorida, the name for Spanish Florida, at Tampa Bay with more than 600 men and 220 horses. The expedition traveled north to present-day Tallahassee where they spent the winter with the Apalachee.

On March 3, 1540, DeSoto’s expedition left Tallahassee and traveled north, passing near what is now Cairo, Georgia on their way to the Flint River. The expedition continued a winding path through the southeast, eventually travelling through modern North and South Carolina, Alabama, Louisiana, and back into Georgia.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Explorers relied on navigators to plan the route across the oceans using maps and nautical charts. Navigators had to know how to read a compass, and use latitude (east to west) and longitude (north to south) lines on the maps. Navigators also relied on their knowledge of the stars to know where they were on their course.

**COULD YOU BE A NAVIGATOR?**

Use your new knowledge to complete the puzzle

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Across</th>
<th>Down</th>
<th>Word Bank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. East to West on a map</td>
<td>1. Native American tribe DeSoto met</td>
<td>DeSoto</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. To plan the route of a ship</td>
<td>3. The name for Spanish Florida</td>
<td>Apalachee</td>
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<td>8. One of the 3 “G’s”</td>
<td>4. Explored the Southeast for Spain</td>
<td>Conquistador</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. North to South on a map</td>
<td>6. One of the 3 “G’s”</td>
<td>God</td>
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<tr>
<td>10. Spanish word for explorer</td>
<td>7. One of the 3 “G’s”</td>
<td>Conquistador</td>
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<td>God Gold DeSoto</td>
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<td>Word Bank</td>
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<td>Glory</td>
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<td>God Gold DeSoto</td>
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**Across**

1. God
2. East to West on a map
3. The name for Spanish Florida
4. Explored the Southeast for Spain
5. To plan the route of a ship
6. One of the 3 “G’s”
7. One of the 3 “G’s”
8. One of the 3 “G’s”
9. North to South on a map
10. Spanish word for explorer
Did You Know? When DeSoto arrived, he found this area was a favorite hunting site for Native Americans. There were many deer, bears, and turkeys in the woods... and alligators in the swamps!