



American Latino Heritage



HERNANDO DE SOTO

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In May 1539, Conquistador Hernando de Soto's army of soldiers, hired mercenaries, craftsmen, and clergy made landfall in Tampa Bay, Florida. They were met with fierce resistance from indigenous people protecting their homelands. De Soto's quest for glory and gold would be a four year, four thousand mile odyssey of intrigue, warfare, disease, and discovery that would form the history of the United States. It is commemorated today at De Soto National Memorial in Florida.