

This Project:

The primary focus of this project is to put together information on the Ponce Inlet area, and in particular, the sand dunes and coastal hammock ecosystems of the barrier island. On our class trip to Ponce Inlet, we learned about the history of Florida, identified numerous plant and animal species on trips to the Marine Science Center and Marine Discovery Center, and learned about the history of Ponce Inlet itself from visits to Ponce Inlet History Museum and the Ponce Inlet lighthouse. Information about each of these facilities can be found on tabs under the oceanographic research heading.

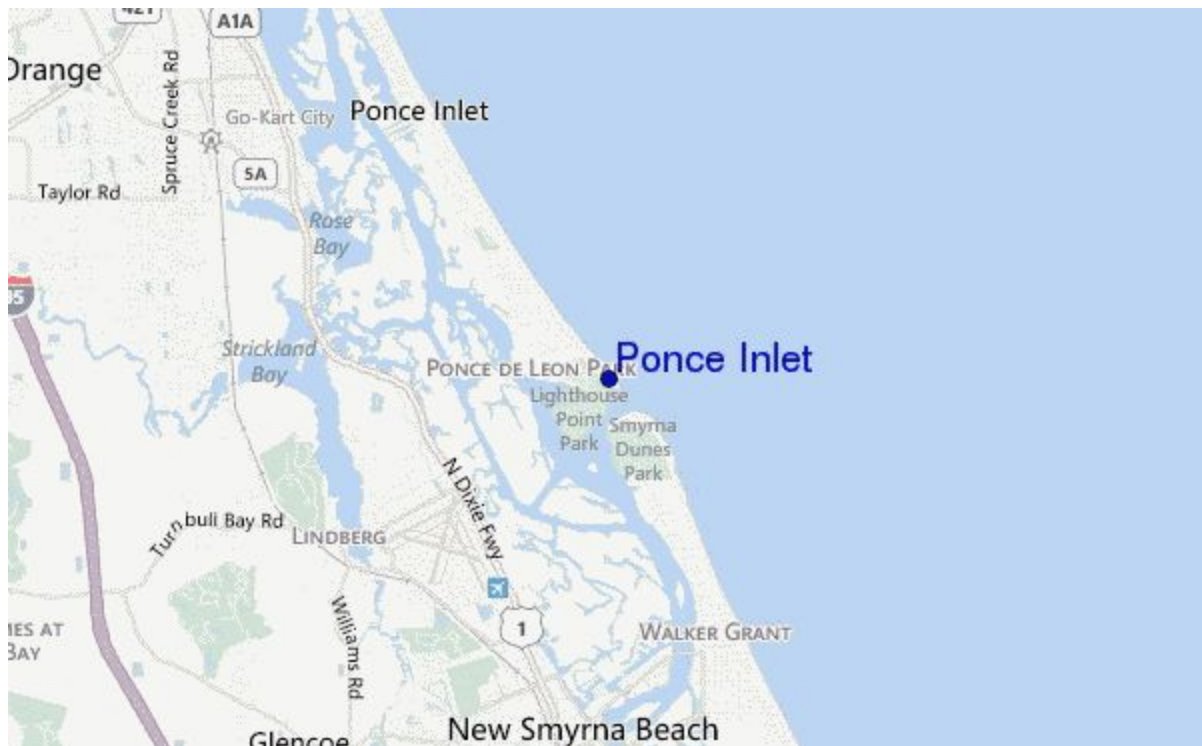
Introduction:

Ponce Inlet is a town in Volusia county, Florida, located on a barrier island off Florida's east coast. It borders part of the Indian River Lagoon, which is part of a system of three lagoons that also includes the Mosquito Lagoon and the Banana River (Florida Department of Environmental Protection 2016). These lagoons run parallel between the Florida mainland and a strip of barrier islands off the coast. These barrier islands are a relatively new feature when considering the geologic time scale.

Early History:

During the Paleozoic era, all of modern day Florida was located under a warm shallow sea. It was populated with many different types of invertebrates, including various crustaceans, arachnids, brachiopods, and early sea sponges and corals. Some early fish species were also present at this time (UCMP 2016). Geologically, the area mainly consisted of limestone formed from bioclastic sediments of corals and other calcium carbonate producing organisms, as well as

sandstone, shale, and underlying basement rock. In the Mesozoic era, the accumulation of sediments that had been building over millions of years created the modern day Florida peninsula until it reached sea level. In the Cenozoic era, the most recent ice age occurred. Fossils of paleo indians were discovered and found to have lived during this time. Since then, numerous native American tribes had settled there. In the 1600's, Europeans (and in particular, the Spanish people) made their first contact with Florida in search for gold. They brought many infectious diseases to which the native Americans had no natural immunity, marking the beginning of the end of many established native tribes. The slave trade was also established. Slavery became especially prominent during the 1880s (Fl. State Archives 2016).



References

Florida Department of Environmental Protection. 2016. Indian River Lagoon Watershed. Water Resource Management & Environmental Assessment and Restoration; [accessed 2016 Apr 10]. http://www.protectingourwater.org/watersheds/map/indian_river_lagoon/

Before 1861: Florida's Journey into Civil War. 2016. Florida Memory: State Library & Archives of Florida; [accessed 2016 Apr 10]. <https://www.floridamemory.com/exhibits/civilwar/before1861/>

UCMP. Paleozoic Era: Life. University of California Museum of Paleontology ; [accessed 2016 Apr 10]. <http://www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/paleozoic/paleozoiclfe.html>