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JUAN PONCE DE LEON

- ❖ Accompanied Columbus on his journey in 1493
- ❖ Wanted to find the "Fountain of Youth" but explored Puerto Rico instead
- ❖ After Puerto Rico, he set sail for Florida in search of the fountain
- Historians believed he wanted to find gold instead







- ❖ Landed in the West Indies
- ❖ Made a fortune from the African slave trade

- Went up to Florida to find gold
- * Explored the southern U.S. and was the first to European to encounter the Mississippi River



