



Alonso Álvarez de Pineda Spanish Explorer



The Mission to explore

- ▶ Alonso Álvarez de Pineda commanded a Spanish expedition that sailed along the Gulf of Mexico coastline from Florida to Mexico, in 1519. He and his men were the first Europeans to explore and map the Gulf coast between the areas previously explored by Juan Ponce De León and Diego Velázquez.
- ▶ Álvarez de Pineda's voyage of "more than 300 leagues" ended when he encountered Hernán Cortés, who perceived him as a rival and arrested the messengers he sent ashore near Cortés's base. Pineda then withdrew back up the Mexican coast, where he established a settlement of his own near the site of the future city of Tampico.

First Map of the Texas Coastline





- ▶ Álvarez de Pineda with his voyage proved that Florida was not an island, as De León had reported to the Spanish King it to be in 1513.
- ▶ In 1519, Alonso Álvarez de Pineda became the first European to explore the Texas coast. He mapped the coastline from what is today Florida all the way to Mexico. He reported his findings to the governor of Jamaica. Then he went back to Mexico to start a settlement. He died there during a Native American uprising in 1520.

