

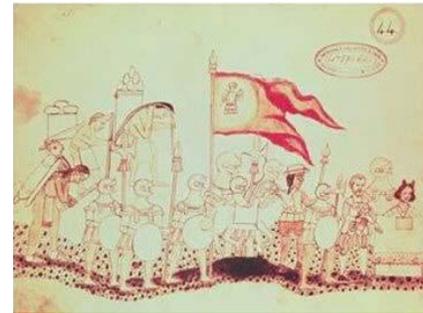
Estevanico

1500–1539

Estevanico was also known as Mustafa Zemmouri, Black Stephen, Esteban, Esteban the Moor, Estevan, Estebanico, Stephen the Black, Stephen the Moor, and Little Stephen. He was born in Azamor. It is located on Morocco's Atlantic coast. He became a slave in 1513. He was taken into captivity by the Portuguese. During his stay with the Portuguese, they forced him to convert to Roman Catholicism. Seven years later, he was sold to Andrés Dorantes de Carranza. He was a Spanish nobleman who went on to be a father figure for Estevanico.

Estevanico traveled frequently with Dorantes de Carranza. They made trips to Cuba and Hispaniola. One of the trips came during an exploration by Pánfilo de Narváez. It was an attempt to conquer Florida in 1527. De Narváez was killed during the trip, which was an important one for Estevanico. He became the first African-born person known to enter the New World.

Estevanico and Dorantes de Carranza were two of the four survivors of de Narváez's trip. They tried to reach Mexico by building a raft with parts of de Narvaez's ship. They eventually became slaves to the Ananarivo Indians on the Louisiana Gulf islands. Estevanico and Dorantes de Carranza escaped, however, and made their way to North America. They came into contact with various American Indian tribes. They made their way through Arizona, cutting across the Sonoran Desert. They reached an area in New Spain (Mexico) known as Sinaloa, where they were reunited with friends and family.



During this time, Estevanico demonstrated his talent for languages. He mastered many of the languages used by the American Indians. Someone with this type of ability is known as a “polyglot.” Some of Indians believed he was godlike. This was due to Estevanico's extensive knowledge of remedies and medicines.

Estevanico later accompanied Marcos de Niza as a guide in 1539. De Niza, Estevanico, and several others went in search of the Seven Cities of Cibola. During the trip, all of the party became sick. Undeterred, Estevanico chose to continue on alone. He continued the exploration into the present-day regions of Arizona and New Mexico. He encountered an Indian tribe in the Zuni village of Hawikuh. The Indians there did not trust Estevanico because his medicine gourd was made from owl feathers. The owl was a representation of death for these Indians. As a result, Estevanico was killed by the Indian.

Name: _____

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Discussion Questions:

1. What were some of Estevanico's nicknames?
2. It was noted that Andrés Dorantes de Carranza became a father figure to Estevanico, even though he was his owner. Do you feel it was possible for owners to become father figures to their younger slaves? Why?
3. What was the most significant trip that Dorantes de Carranza and Estevanico made together?
4. What was the most interesting aspect about Estevanico's trip to Florida in 1527?

