Chapter 2
Exploring the Americas

Learning Goal: Students will be able to distinguish the causes and effects of European exploration of the Americas.

“Following the light of the sun, we left the Old World.” Christopher Columbus
Searching for new trade routes

During the 1400s, European countries competed to find a sea route to the Indies. The Indies were a source of spices that were used for food flavoring, medicine and preservatives.
Identify reasons that encouraged exploration

Voyage of Exploration

Technology
- Caravels
- Maps

Desire for wealth and power

Compass

Spread of Christianity
Columbus explores the Caribbean

• In 1492, Christopher Columbus left Spain aboard 3 ships, The Nina, the Pinta and the Santa Maria. His trip was funded by Queen Isabella and his goal was to find a new route to Asia.
• He landed in the Caribbean but thought he was in India. He called the natives “Indians.”
• He made 3 more voyages from Europe to The Caribbean and claimed the land for Spain.
More explorers come to the Americas

- **Amerigo Vespucci**, In 1502 he sailed along the coast of South America and determined that it was a continent separate from Asia. Europeans began calling the continent “America” in his honor.

- **Vasco Nunez de Balboa**. In 1513, searched for a rumored “great body of water” beyond the mountains in Panama. He became the first European to reach the Pacific from the New World.

- **Ferninand Magellan**, In 1520 he sailed through the straits in the southern end of the continent to the Pacific Ocean. Although Magellan died during the voyage, his crew became the first to circumnavigate the world.
The Columbian Exchange, a major effect of the Age of Exploration.
What was the Columbian Exchange?

The **Columbian Exchange** was an exchange between the Old and New Worlds of culture, plants, animals and people.

- **Flowing from the New World to the Old World:** pumpkins, potatoes, squash, sweet potatoes, tobacco, tomatoes, peppers, pineapples, turkeys, vanilla, cocoa beans, corn, disease, peanuts

- **Flowing from the Old World to the New World:** sugarcane, pears, peaches, grains, wheat, rice, oats, grapes, coffee beans, citrus fruits, bananas, honeybees, cows, sheep, pigs, horses, disease
What were the results of Columbus’s voyages across the Atlantic?

How did the Columbian Exchange help the Native Americans? How did it hurt the Native Americans?

How did the Columbian Exchange help and hurt the Europeans?

What can you predict may happen in the next 100 years?
Lesson 2, Spain in America
*Conquistadors* were explorers from Europe who traveled to the Americas in search of *gold, silver and other riches*. Their goal was *God, Glory and Gold*. The conquistadors were given the right to explore, make settlements and search for riches. If they found riches, they were expected to give royalty 1/5.
In 1519, Cortes made his way to the Aztec city of Tenochtitlan. Along the way, he met other natives tribes who agreed to join him against Moctezuma. In the city of Tenochtitlan, Cortes was greeted and honored by their leader, Moctezuma. Moctezuma offered to pay off Cortes but Cortes refused. During his efforts to take Tenochtitlan, Cortes and other Europeans inadvertently brought small pox to the Aztecs. Within 2 years, Moctezuma was dead and Tenochtitlan had fallen to the Spanish.
Pizarro and the Inca

In 1531, Francisco Pizarro led a Spanish army into the Inca capital in Cuzco, Peru. The Spanish took the Inca ruler hostage and later killed him even after the ransom was paid. Without their leader, the Inca were not able to fight effectively. Pizarro soon controlled most of the vast and wealthy Inca Empire.
1513, Ponce de Leon landed in what is now St. Augustine, Florida. Saint Augustine is the oldest permanently occupied European settlement in North America.
Spain vs. France in North Florida

In 1562, Jean Ribault (Ribault High School) sailed to the Saint Johns River and claimed the area new **Jacksonville for France**. The French build a fort, Fort Caroline. The Spanish believed that the French were trespassing. The Spanish named Pedro Menendez (Pedro Menendez High School) Governor of Florida. Ribault sent ships south to attack St. Augustine. A hurricane destroyed the ships and killed many of the French. The Spanish soldiers killed the few survivors and sent forces to capture Fort Caroline. The Spanish killed everyone except women, children and Catholics. The Spanish were victorious.
Exploring the Southwest

- Spanish explorer, Cabeza de Vaca was part of an expedition that landed near Tampa, Florida. Native Americans forced the Spaniards to flee into the Gulf of Mexico. The expedition traveled to Texas and then Mexico, living for a time with native Americans. Stories of de Vaca’s travels inspired others to come to America.

* Hernando de Soto was one of those inspired by de Vaca. De Soto wandered the southeast for 3 years and became the first European to cross the Mississippi River.
3 types of Spanish Settlements.

- **Pueblos**: towns that were centers of trade
- **Missions**: religious communities that usually included a small town, farmland and a church
- **Presidio**: a fort, usually near a mission
“The Spaniards still do nothing save tear the natives to shreds, murder them and inflict upon them untold misery....”

Bartolome de Las Casas, Spanish Missionary

*What did Las Casas think about the relationship between the Spanish and the Native Americans?*

*Do you think the Europeans had the right to take land and riches from the natives?*
Lesson 3: Competing for Colonies
In 1517, a German Catholic priest named Martin Luther challenged the Catholic church, the only Christian church in western Europe. He created a new form of Christianity called Protestantism and his ideas launched a movement call the Reformation.
In 1533, King Henry VIII left the Catholic Church and created his own church. One of the causes for this change was that King Henry VIII wanted to divorce his Spanish wife and marry someone else.

1585, Spanish King Phillip sent his armada of 132 ships to England. England defeated the Spanish armada thus ending Spanish control of the seas.

Each country wanted to spread the faith of their country. This resulted in many conflicts in America. Remember the Spanish and French in Florida?
Search for the Northwest passage

European nations sent explorers to America to look for a northwest passage that would connect the Atlantic to Asia via a water passage. No such passage was found because no such passage exists.

John Cabot, Henry Hudson and Jacques Cartier all searched for a northwest passage.
French and Dutch Settlement

- French settlements were largely around the St. Lawrence River.
- Estate holders brought in settlers in exchange for land. These tenant farmers paid rent and worked for their lord for a set period of time.
- The French got along well with the Native Americans. They lived among them, respected their customers and learned their languages.

- How was the French relationship with the Native Americans different from the French and Spanish?

- The Netherlands were a small country with few resources and poor farmland. Their desire to colonize came from a need for resources.
- The Dutch settled in what is now New York. The Dutch called it “New Amsterdam”