

# EXPLORING THE AMERICAS



NGSSS

SS.8.A.1.7 View historic events through the eyes of those who were there as shown in their art, writings, music, and artifacts.

SS.8.A.2.1 Compare the relationships among the British, French, Spanish, and Dutch in their struggle for colonization of North America.

**ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS** *Why do people trade? What are the consequences when cultures interact?*

René Goulaïne de Laudonnière led an attempt by France to colonize Florida in 1564. The French built Fort Caroline along the St. John's River. However, the Spanish wanted to drive the French out of Florida and attacked Fort Caroline.

"I encountered, by chance, a great company of Spaniards, which had already repulsed our men and were now entered, which drove me back unto the court of the fort . . . and, in the meanwhile, I saved myself . . . into the woods, where I found certain of my men . . ."

RENÉ GOULAINÉ DE LAUDONNIÈRE



## Spaniards

What words do you know that are related to the word *Spaniards*?

## DBQ BREAKING IT DOWN

Laudonnière founded Fort Caroline in 1564. However, he was forced to flee with his men the next year, when Spanish troops attacked the fort. Based on Laudonnière's words, what happened at the fort?

---



---

PHOTO: Library of Congress Rare Book and Special Collections  
Division Washington, D.C.[LC-USZ62-374]

Copyright © by The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.

McGraw-Hill  
**networks™**  
*There's More Online!*



## Searching for New Trade Routes

During the 1400s, countries in Europe looked for a sea route to the Indies. The Indies are islands located to the southeast of Asia. The Indies provided spices that the Europeans wanted. Spices had three main uses:

- flavoring for food
- medicine
- ◆ a way to preserve food (Remember: There was no refrigeration.)

Portuguese sailors were the first to find a new trade route. First, they sailed around the continent of Africa. Then they sailed to Asia. Christopher Columbus tried a different route. His plan was to sail west, across the Atlantic Ocean. He did not even know that North America and South America were there.

New **technology** made it possible for Columbus to make such a long trip. Technology is the use of scientific knowledge for practical purposes. There were new instruments for navigating, or finding the way. Examples are the **compass**, the astrolabe, and the quadrant. The compass was an instrument that shows the direction of magnetic north. There were also better maps. With these instruments and maps, sailors didn't need to see land to know where they were. Also, ships were faster and stronger.

## Exploring the World

Queen Isabella of Spain agreed to pay for Columbus's expedition. She had two reasons for doing this:

- Columbus promised to bring Christianity to any lands he found.
- ◆ If Columbus found a sea route to the Indies, trade would increase. Spain would become very wealthy.

On August 3, 1492, Columbus set out from Spain. He had a crew of about 90 sailors. They had three ships, the Niña, the Pinta, and the larger *Santa María*. Columbus was captain of the *Santa María*. They sailed with a six-month supply of food and water. A little over two months later, on October 12, 1492, the ship's lookout saw land. The land he saw was in an island chain called the Bahamas. When Columbus went ashore, he claimed the island for Spain. He named it San Salvador.



Early compass

### Mark the Text

1. Underline the new technologies that aided navigation.

### Take the Challenge

2. Write a speech to the people of Spain as if you are Queen Isabella. Tell your people why spending money on Columbus' voyage is a good idea.

## Mark the Text



**3. Chart** Complete the chart. List facts about the achievements of Spanish explorers after Columbus.

## Show Your Skill

**4. Summarize** What were three outcomes of Spanish exploration?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Columbus believed he had reached the East Indies. Maps of his day showed Europe, Asia, and Africa as one huge mass of land. The maps did not show North America or South America. Also, maps did not show the oceans as large as they were.

We now know that the place where Columbus came ashore was in the Caribbean islands. Columbus named the people he saw Indians, because he believed he was in the East Indies. When he returned to Spain, Spain's king and queen, Ferdinand and Isabella, received him with great honor. They agreed to pay for more voyages. He made three more trips: in 1493, in 1498, and in 1502. He explored the Caribbean Islands. These included what we now call Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Cuba, and Jamaica. He sailed along the coasts of Central America and South America. He made maps of the coastline of Central America.

Others followed Columbus. As a result of their voyages, the Spanish built an empire in the Americas. In 1502 Amerigo Vespucci (ves•POOH•chee) sailed along the coast of South America. He realized that South America was a separate continent. "America" is named for Amerigo Vespucci.

Vasco Núñez de Balboa explored Panama. In 1513 he saw the Pacific Ocean. He was the first European to see it from the Americas.

Ferdinand Magellan was a Portuguese sailor working for Spain. In 1520 he reached the southern tip of South America. He sailed through a **strait**, a narrow sea passage to another ocean. He noticed that the waters were very calm. *Pacifico* means peaceful in Spanish. Magellan named the ocean the Pacific. Magellan died on the journey, but his crew kept going and reached Spain in 1522. Magellan and his crew became the first people to **circumnavigate**, or sail around, the world.

Explorer	Achievement(s)



The exchange of plants and animals between the Americas and Europe was called the **Columbian Exchange**. It had a great effect on the world's cultures. The effects were both positive and negative. Exposure to new illnesses killed many people. Europeans were introduced to plants such as maize (corn) and potatoes. Rice, wheat, and bananas came to North America with the Europeans. Europeans also brought the first horses to North America.

**Think Critically**

**5. Analyze Visuals** Look at the diagram about the Columbian Exchange. What can you conclude about farming in the Americas?

---



---



---



---



---

**6. Identify Cause and Effect** List at least two effects of the Columbian Exchange on life for Native Americans and Europeans.

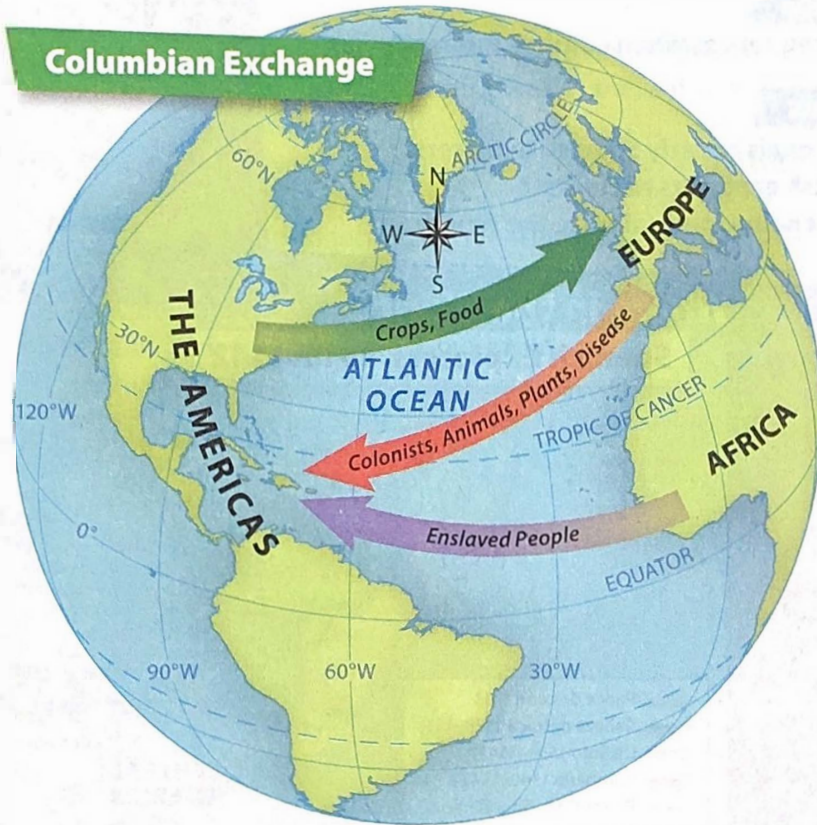
---



---



---



**NGSSS Check** How were the goals of Spanish and Portuguese sailors the same in the 1400s? How were their routes different? **SS.8.A.2.1**

---



---



---



---



---

Copyright © by The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.

## European Explorers and Conquerors

Early Spanish explorers were known as **conquistadors**, or conquerors. Their main goal was to find riches. Spanish rulers gave them the right to explore and settle in the Americas. The conquistadors would give the rulers part of the wealth they found.

The Aztec empire, or kingdom, was in the area that is present-day Mexico. The Inca empire was in present-day Peru. Both these empires were very wealthy.

Hernán Cortés was a conquistador. He landed on the east coast of Mexico in 1519. He conquered the Aztec Empire by 1521. Cortés took the Aztecs' gold. He shipped great amounts of gold back to Spain. In 1533 conquistador Francisco Pizarro led an army into the Inca capital city, Cuzco. He killed the Inca leader and took control of the Inca Empire.

Spanish armies were much smaller than the Aztec or Inca armies. Still, they won. There were three main reasons for this:

### Cause

The Spanish had weapons and animals that the Aztec and Inca had never seen, such as horses and large, dangerous dogs.

### Cause

Some Native Americans did not like their Aztec rulers and helped the conquistadors to overthrow them.

### Cause

The Native Americans did not have **immunity**, or protection, from diseases that the Spanish carried. Many became quite ill. They could not fight back well.

### Effect

The conquistadors gained control over the Aztec and Inca Empires, and their wealth.

### Show Your Skill

**1. Cause and Effect** Why were the Spanish able to conquer the Aztec Empire and the Inca Empire?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**2. Identify** Which Spanish conquistadors conquered the Aztec and Inca Empires?

Aztec Empire

Inca Empire



## Mark the Text

3. Number the major steps described in the text in the French attempt to set up Fort Caroline.

# Spain in Florida

News of the riches that Cortés and Pizarro found spread in Europe. Other conquistadors came to explore the Americas. They searched in the southeastern and southwestern parts of North America.

Explorer	Year	Achievement
Juan Ponce de León	1513	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• came ashore on Florida coast</li><li>• gave Florida its name</li><li>• claimed Florida for Spain</li><li>• searched for the "Fountain of Youth" but did not find it</li></ul>
Pánfilo de Narváez	1528	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• landed in Tampa Bay area</li><li>• attacked by Apalachee Indians</li><li>• forced to escape by sailing across Gulf of Mexico</li></ul>

France, too, realized that Florida was an important location. If the French controlled Florida, they could capture the riches from Spanish ships. In 1562 the French explorer Jean Ribault sailed to the St. Johns River, near present-day Jacksonville. He claimed Florida for France. In 1564 a group of French settlers arrived to set up a colony. They built a fort called Fort Caroline along the St. John's River.

King Felipe II of Spain decided that the French were trespassing on Spanish lands. He ordered the governor, Pedro Menéndez, to build a colony in Florida and drive out the French. On September 8, 1565, Menéndez set up a settlement. He called it San Agustín or St. Augustine. St. Augustine became

the first permanent settlement in what would become the United States.

French ships sailed south from Fort Caroline to attack St. Augustine. The French ships ran into a hurricane. The hurricane destroyed many of their ships. Menéndez then sent soldiers to capture Fort Caroline. The Spanish victory stopped the French from trying to settle in Florida.

Menéndez established other settlements and Catholic **missions**, or religious communities. The missions were in what is today Florida, the Carolinas, and Virginia.



Ribault Monument near Jacksonville, Florida, marks the 1562 landing of Jean Ribault near the mouth of the St. Johns River.

PHOTO: Joe Vogan/Alamy

Copyright © by The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.



# Exploring the Southwest

Spanish conquistadors searched for quick riches. Their search took them to southwestern North America. One explorer was Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca. He had been part of the expedition led by Pánfila de Narváez in 1528. After they were attacked, the few survivors sailed from Florida across the Gulf of Mexico. They landed in what is now Texas. De Vaca was one of the survivors. In 1533 he led an expedition across the Southwest. Then they headed for Mexico. When de Vaca arrived in 1536, he described seven cities of gold. Cabeza de Vaca's story inspired other explorers.

- **Hernando de Soto** led an expedition. For three years he and his men wandered throughout what is today the southeastern United States. During his expedition, he crossed the Mississippi River. He reached present-day Oklahoma.
- **Francisco Vázquez de Coronado** traveled through northern Mexico and present-day Arizona and New Mexico. He realized there was no gold there. Some members of Coronado's expedition traveled to the Colorado River. Then they reached what is now Kansas. They did not find gold.



Hernando de Soto



Francisco de Coronado

## Think Critically

### 4. Identify Cause and Effect

What led Hernando de Soto and Francisco Vázquez de Coronado to explore what is now the southeastern and southwestern United States?

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Show Your Skill

### 5. Compare and Contrast

How were the explorations by Hernando de Soto and Francisco Vázquez de Coronado similar and how were they different?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Show Your Skill

6. **List** Write the classes of society in New Spain, with highest at the top of the list.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Mark the Text

7. **Identify** Underline the sentences that tell of an accomplishment of Bartolomé de Las Casas.

## Take the Challenge

8. If you were a Spanish settler, in which type of settlement would you choose to live? Why?

The Spanish set up many settlements in the lands they explored. Settlements were either **pueblos**, **missions**, or **presidios**.

Types of Spanish Settlements	
<b>pueblo</b>	town, trading center
<b>mission</b>	religious community, including a small town, surrounding farmland, and a church; the goal of the mission was to spread the Catholic religion and the Spanish way of life among the Native Americans.
<b>presidio</b>	fort, usually built near a mission

There were different classes in Spain's empire. The people born in Spain, called *peninsulares*, were the top class of society. They owned land and ran the government. They served in the Catholic Church. Below them were the creoles. They were born in America to Spanish parents. Below them were the mestizos (meh•STEE•zohs). They had one Spanish parent and one Native American parent. Below them were Native Americans. At the bottom were enslaved Africans.

The conquistadors could demand taxes or labor from the Native Americans. Therefore, they also became slaves to the Spanish. A Spanish priest, Bartolomé de Las Casas, helped to convince the Spanish government to pass the New Laws in 1542. These laws made it illegal to enslave Native Americans.

Some Spanish settlers had **plantations**, or large farms. They shipped crops and raw materials to Spain. They made a lot of money.

By the 1600s, the Spanish controlled most of Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America. They also controlled parts of the present-day United States. Other European powers were trying to set up colonies in North America. They included England, France and the Netherlands.

To defend its empire, Spain settled present-day New Mexico, Arizona, and Texas. France claimed land around the mouth of the Mississippi River.



**NGSS Check** Compare the efforts of the French and Spanish to control Florida. **SS.8.A.2.1**

---

---

---

---

---



## Show Your Skill

**1. Cause and Effect** What started the Protestant Reformation? What was the result of that action?

---

---

---

---

---

## Think Critically

**2. Identify Cause and Effect** What was one major cause of conflict between England and Spain in the 1500s?

---

## Show Your Skill

**3. Sequence** What happened right before the English started to set up colonies in North America?

---

---

---

**networks** Read Chapter 2 Lesson 3 in your textbook or online.

# Religious Rivalries

Part of the purpose of exploring the Americas was to spread the Christian religion there. The first explorers were Roman Catholics.

In 1517 a new form of Christianity began. It opposed the Catholic Church. It was called **Protestantism**.

Protestantism started with Martin Luther, a German priest. Luther did not agree with many Church practices. In 1517 he broke away from the Church. His actions led to the **Reformation**. This religious movement took hold in many parts of Europe. It rejected some Catholic teachings and practices. It changed others.

Another important change took place in 1533. That year, King Henry VIII of England left the Catholic Church. His daughter ruled later as Queen Elizabeth I. During her rule, England became a Protestant nation.

The king of Spain, a Catholic, saw a chance to invade England. He wanted to wipe out the Protestant religion there. The king sent an **armada**, or war fleet, to attack England. The fleet was huge. It was the strongest naval force in the world. The English fleet was smaller but faster. The British defeated the Spanish.

This meant that Spain no longer ruled the seas. The English decided it was time to set up colonies in North America. English and Dutch settlers were Protestant. They set up colonies along the Atlantic coast. Spanish settlers were Catholic. They settled in southwestern and southeastern North America. The French were also Catholic. They settled in the northeast.

Even though the Spanish Armada was very large, the British were able to defeat the Spanish attempt to invade England.



PHOTO: Bettmann/CORBIS

Copyright © by The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.

Explorers mapped the coast of North America. They set up colonies and traded with the Native Americans. Explorers also wanted to discover a direct water route through the Americas to Asia. They called this the **northwest passage**. Many explorers looked for it and found other things in the process.

Searching for the Northwest Passage			
Explorer	Sailed For	Year	Found Instead
John Cabot	England	1497	Probably present-day Newfoundland
Giovanni de Verrazano	France	1524	Explored coast of North America from Nova Scotia to the Carolinas
Jacques Cartier (KAR·tyay)	France	1535	Sailed up St. Lawrence River, named the mountain that is the site of present-day Montreal
Henry Hudson	Netherlands	1609	Discovered Hudson River, sailed as far north as Albany. On his next voyage he discovered Hudson Bay.

## French and Dutch Settlements

At first, the French were mainly interested in the rich natural resources of North America. They fished and trapped animals for their fur. French trappers and missionaries went far inland into North America. They traded with Native Americans. They built forts and trading posts. They generally treated the Native Americans with more respect than Spanish settlers did.

In 1663 New France became a colony. New France was made up of estates along the St. Lawrence River. Those who owned estates received land in exchange for bringing settlers. The settlers were known as **tenant farmers**. They paid rent to the estate owner. They also worked for him a set number of days each year.

French explorers gradually explored the Mississippi River. They traveled west to the Rocky Mountains and southwest to the Rio Grande. This led to New France claiming that entire territory.

### Think Critically

**4. Draw Conclusions** Why might nations want to find a northwest passage?

---



---



---

### Mark the Text

**5. Chart** Circle the countries in the chart that sent explorers to find a northwest passage to Asia.

### Show Your Skill

**6. Identify** What were France's main interests in North America?

---



---



---

### Think Critically

**7. Summarize** How did the French turn the search for a northwest passage into a large landholding in North America?

---



---



---



---



---



---



## Exploration of the Mississippi River

### Marquette and Joliet (1670s)

Fur trader Louis Joliet and priest Jacques Marquette explored the Mississippi River. They traveled by canoe until they realized the river flowed south into the Gulf of Mexico, not west to Asia.

### Robert Cavalier de La Salle (1669–1687)

De La Salle also traveled the Mississippi. He went all the way to the Gulf of Mexico and claimed the whole region for France. He called it Louisiana, after France's king, Louis XIV.

### New Orleans established (1718)

The French governor established a port where the Mississippi River meets the Gulf of Mexico. He named it New Orleans.

### Think Critically

**8. Compare and Contrast** How were the efforts of France and the Netherlands similar and different?

---



---



---



---



---



---



---

The Netherlands was a small country in Europe. It had few natural resources and a limited amount of farmland. The Dutch were the people of the Netherlands. They were attracted by the vast lands and natural resources of North America. They already had a large fleet of trading ships. They sailed all over the world. In 1621 the Netherlands set up the Dutch West India Company. Its purpose was to run trade for the Netherlands between the Americas and Africa. In 1623 this company took control of the country's North American colony, New Netherland.

The center of New Netherland was New Amsterdam. New Amsterdam was located on the tip of Manhattan Island, where the Hudson River enters New York Harbor. Governor Peter Minuit purchased the land from the Native American Manhattoes people in 1626.



**NGSSS Check** What were the major North American settlement areas and explorers for each of the countries in the chart? Complete the chart with what you know. **SS.8.A.2.1**

	Settlement Areas	Major Explorers
England		
Spain		
France		
Netherlands		