

Social Studies 7

Chapter 2 – Europeans Explore the New Lands (1492-1619)

Section 1: What led to the exploration of the Americas?

Overview: Columbus's voyages gave monarchs and merchants reason to believe that Asia could be reached by sailing west. They did not realize that the Americas would be a source of valuable resources yet, because they still were determined to find a route to Asia.

By the early 1500's, Spain and Portugal had become rivals for land claims overseas.

- In 1493, the Pope established the Line of Demarcation that would help prevent future problems between the two Catholic countries
- Other nations that made land claims in the Americas were: England, France and Holland
- The main reason for exploration during the 1500's was to find a Northwest Passage that would lead to Asian trade
- Knowledge of world geography improved greatly due to exploration
- Exploration led to a competition to claim new lands in the name of the nation sponsoring the voyage, which was the first step in colonization

Section 2 – How did Spain create an empire in Central and South America?

Overview: As early as 1493, colonists from Spain went to the Caribbean Islands discovered by Columbus. Adventurers sought to make their fortunes. Many Catholic priests went to America with a mission to convert Native Americans to Christianity. When they did not find gold in the islands, they set out to explore the mainland.

The Spanish pursue several goals in the Americas:

- Gold, trade and glory
- spread Christianity

Cortes conquers the Aztecs in 1521:

- Destroyed the Aztec capital of Tenochtitlan and built Mexico City
- Replaced Aztec temple with Catholic churches

Reasons why the Spanish succeeded in its conquests:

- Thousands of Native Americans who hated the Aztecs gave aid to the Spanish
- Aztecs feared the Spanish and thought they were gods
- Spanish had more advanced weapons (guns/cannons)
- A disease called smallpox weakened and killed the Aztec warriors (most important reason for Spanish victory)

Pizarro conquers the Incas of Peru in 1532:

- Francisco Pizarro used a surprise attack on the Incas to capture their ruler Atahualpa. The Incas exchanged gold for the release of their ruler, but the Spanish killed him anyway.
- Spanish destroyed the Inca capital at Cuzco and replaced it with the city of Lima

Chapter 3 – Europeans Compete for Colonial Empires (1492 – 1610)

Section 1 – What was it like to live in Spain’s American Colonies?

A. Spain’s American Empire

- 1). Spain’s American empire had 2 names: Peru and New Spain and it covered Mexico, Central and much of South America
- 2). The empire was ruled by the Spanish king but he was 3000 miles away. The king assigned viceroys (governors) to rule in his place.
- 3). Spain created 3 social classes for its people: peninsulares (first class), Creoles (second class), and mestizos (3rd class). Slaves and Native Americans were not part of a class because they had no Spanish blood in them.

B. Spanish Communities

- 1). Haciendas, missions and ranchos
- 2). Gold and silver pour out of the America’s making Spain the richest and most powerful country in Europe during the 1500’s.
- 3). Spaniards lived in large cities around “plazas” or public squares.

C. Trade as a tool of the Empire

- 1). Spaniards use an economic system called mercantilism, which designed for all colonies to provide wealth and trade to its “parent” country.
- 2). Spanish colonies were not allowed to trade with other countries.
- 3). To protect its valuable trade,, Spain built a large and powerful navy (fleet of ships)

Section 2 – How did other countries challenge Spain’s power?

A. Spain’s Power and its Rivals

- 1). Other European nations sought to hurt Spain’s trade by conducting illegal trade with Spain’s colonies, and by robbing from their ships and trading towns. This was the beginning of piracy.
- 2). Other nations were afraid to take the risk to challenge the power of Spain.

B. England's Challenge and Victory

- 1). English "sea dogs" provoked Spain by stealing from its trade ships carrying valuable cargo.
2. The leader of the sea dogs was Francis Drake who was chased around the world by the Spanish who were determined to kill him for stealing millions of dollars.
3. This motivated Spain to attack England and crush them for the actions of the sea dogs.
4. In 1588, the Spanish formed the "Invincible Armada" to fight the English, but were defeated by England's smaller and faster ships. THIS WAS A MAJOR TURNING POINT IN THE RACE FOR COLONIZATION.
5. The defeat of Armada (1588) was a major turning point because now other European nations were not afraid of the Spanish any longer.

Section 3 – What became of England's first settlement attempts?

A). First attempts at English Settlements

1. Sir Walter Raleigh was granted permission from the queen to start a settlement in North America at Roanoke Island off the coast of North Carolina.
2. About 120 settlers moved to Roanoke 1587. When they ran low on supplies several ships returned to England. They did not return to Roanoke for 3 years because of the war with Spain. When the ship finally returned, there was no evidence of the colonists or the colony. It remains a mystery to this day.

B). Learning from Early Experiments

1. England learned from its earlier mistakes
2. Interest in America remains strong by merchants
3. English find ways to pay for colonies: Joint Stock Companies with investors
4. Colonies attract settlers – indentured servants