

CHAPTER 2

Exploration and Settlement

Icelandic **sagas** (stories of history and legend) tell of meetings between Scandinavian seamen (Vikings) and Native Americans. These meetings took place around A.D. 1000, when Leif Ericson, a Viking chief, explored Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, and New England. He named the region “Vinland” after its wild grapevines. Europeans soon forgot reports about Vinland.

Other peoples also reported landing in North America, either before or after Columbus’s arrival:

- Chinese claims: In A.D. 499, Chinese explorers visited *Fusang* (Alaska); in 1565, other Chinese sailed between the Philippines and Mexico.
- Hungarian claim: In about 1000, “Tyrker,” a Hungarian sailor under Leif Ericson, made a solo voyage and found Vinland.
- African claim: As recounted to Columbus by natives of Hispaniola (the island of Haiti and Santo Domingo), black people arrived earlier with pieces of gold, silver, and copper. Similar pieces have been found in Guinea, West Africa.
- Polish claim: In 1476, Jan of Kolno, a Pole, piloted Danish ships from Copenhagen to Labrador. Later, he sailed south to the mouth of the Delaware River.



Fierce animals carved in wood decorated the prows of Norse ships.

- Greek claim: In 1592, a Greek in service to Spain was the first to sight the Strait of Juan de Fuca, which bears his name. It lies between Vancouver Island and Washington State.

None of these claims got much attention.



INFO CHECK

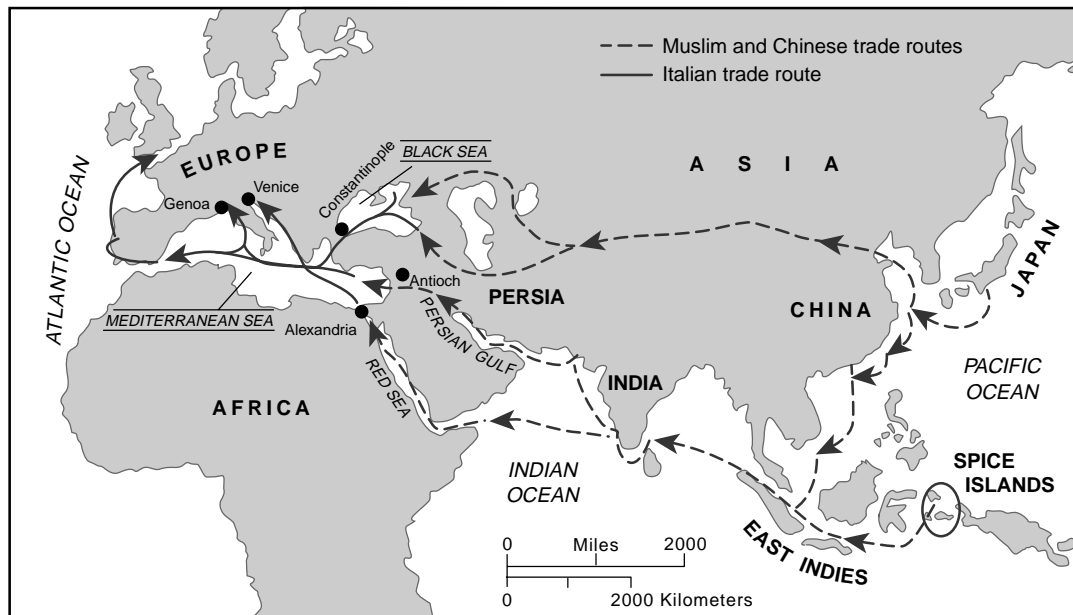
1. Identify: saga, Vinland.
2. How did Europeans regard accounts of Vikings in North America?

ASIAN WEALTH/EUROPEAN EXPANSION

The Crusades During the Middle Ages, European Christians made **pilgrimages** (religious journeys) to Jesus' birthplace in Palestine, or the Holy Land. In 1071, Muslim Turks took over the region's holy city, Jerusalem, and the pope called for a **crusade** (holy war) to regain control. The four Crusades lasted 200 years. There were victories and defeats on both sides.

Crusaders returning to Europe told of great wealth and wonders. As proof, they brought back spices, fruits, rugs, silks, cottons, dyes, medicines, and paper. Europeans wanted these goods from the Middle East and East Asia, and merchants competed for a share of the new import trade. Spices to preserve food—pepper, cinnamon, cloves, nutmeg—became important in the European economy.

Trade Routes of the Middle Ages




Trade Routes to Europe Trade routes from East Asia were long and dangerous. Muslims controlled most of them, including the sea-lanes around India, across the Indian Ocean, and to Arabia.

Italian merchants of Venice and Genoa controlled the Mediterranean Sea. They made trade agreements with Muslim Turks to buy imports and then resold them for a profit in Europe's northern and western markets. Meanwhile, Spain, Portugal, and other nations looked on with envy.



NEW LEARNING AND TECHNOLOGY

In the mid-1300s, the **Renaissance** (rebirth) began to change European culture. There was new interest in the teachings of ancient Greeks and Romans. Traditional European beliefs were challenged. Some of this new thinking resulted in improved methods of **navigation** (science of sailing).

 NAVIGATIONAL TECHNOLOGY OF THE RENAISSANCE		
Instrument/Method	Description	Importance
Compass (1100–1200)	Device with magnetic needle, used to determine direction.	Helped sailors far from land to find direction.
Improved astrolabe (1400s)	Device using star sightings to determine latitude (distance from equator) and time of day.	Helped navigators steer ships relative to latitude.
Mercator projection (1569)	Map design using flat view of Earth (all straight lines) so that all directions shown are correct.	Development of accurate maps and charting of unfamiliar stretches of ocean.
Early sextant (c. 1500)	Device for measuring altitude of sun and stars to determine ship's exact latitude.	Made measurements reliable regardless of ship's movement.
Redesigned ships (1400s–1500s)	Several masts, many sails, rear-rudder steering.	Enabled sailors to undertake longer, faster voyages.
Gunpowder (1200s)	Chemical mixture to produce an explosion.	Added protection for sailors seeking uncharted routes in foreign, possibly dangerous, regions.
Cannon (1400s)	Tube molded from molten metal, capable of propelling explosive charges.	



INFO CHECK

1. Identify: Crusades, Holy Land, compass, Mercator projection, Renaissance.
2. Why did the return of Crusaders increase European trade with Asia?
3. Explain the relationship between Italian merchants and Muslim Turks.

An astrolabe



4. List Renaissance advances that made long sea voyages possible.
5. Why was the sextant a big improvement over the astrolabe?

SEARCH FOR A SEA ROUTE TO ASIA

Rise of Powerful Kingdoms in Europe Medieval Europe was a region of kingdoms, subdivided into smaller holdings controlled by nobles. The growth of trade depended on maintaining law and order, building roads, and protecting trade routes against pirates and robbers. Thus, power became centralized in **monarchs** (kings and queens). They were supported by their nobles and by merchants and bankers. Such businesspeople lent them money to build large armies for protection and expansion. This financing also helped expand trade.

By 1450, widespread trade had begun to change European culture. Older cities grew, new ones arose, and there was an ever-greater demand for imported goods, produce, and raw materials. With foreign imports came new ideas. In what is called **cultural diffusion**, Europeans adopted useful or attractive elements from distant peoples.

Search for New Wealth By the late 1400s, the desire for wealth and a new spirit of adventure spurred Portugal, Spain, England, the Netherlands, and France to seek new trade routes and, if possible, set up distant colonies.

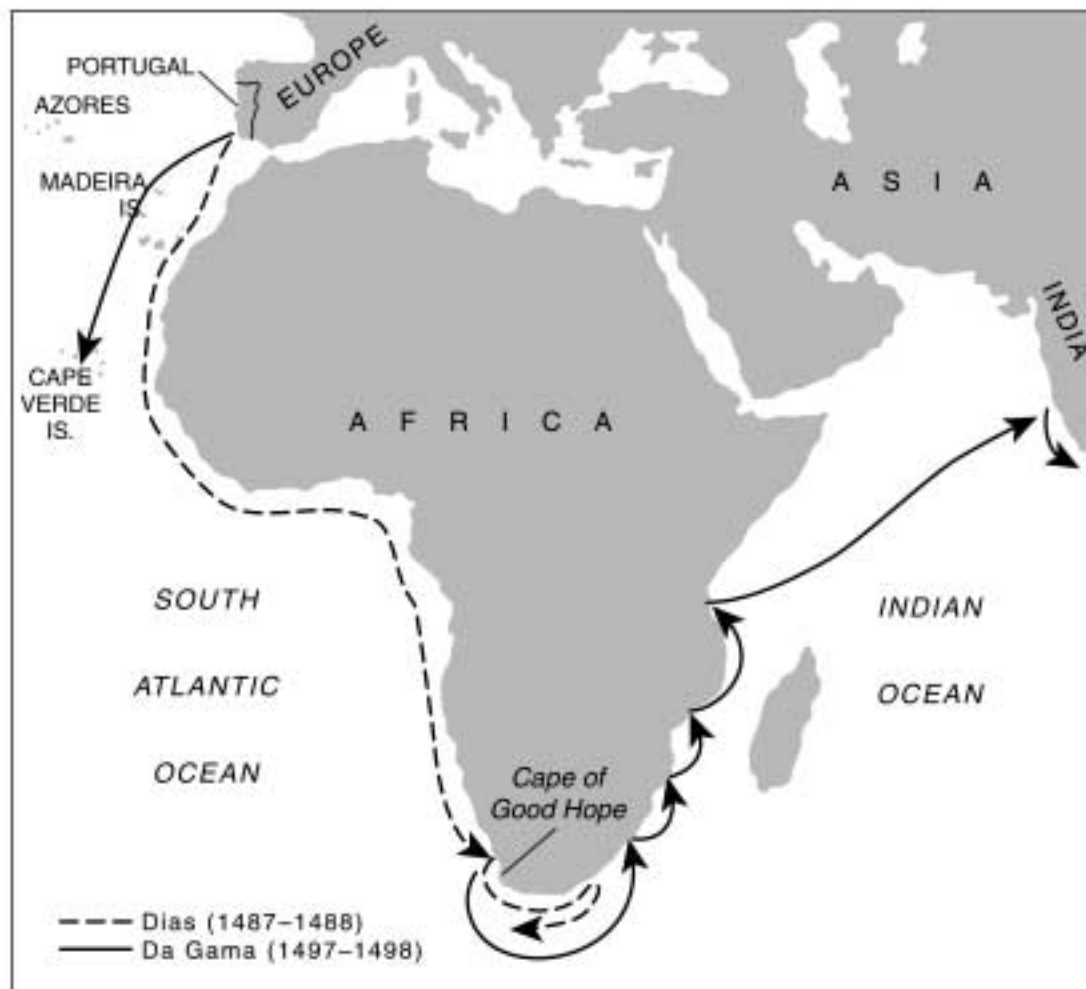
Mercantilism Funding voyages and establishing colonies required a lot of money. To make the most of their investments, European nations observed an economic theory called **mercantilism**. That is, their colonies would enrich them by supplying raw materials. From these, the home countries would manufacture goods to be sold in the colonies at a profit.

Portugal in the Lead Portugal, a major sea power, wanted to trade directly with Asia. But Italians controlled the Mediterranean, while Muslim Turks controlled most land routes. Portugal decided to sail in search of a new all-water route to the East. Two explorers advanced this plan. In 1488, Bartholomeu Dias sailed around Africa's southern tip (the Cape of Good Hope) into the Indian Ocean. In 1497, Vasco da Gama reached India by sailing south and then east around Africa. He returned the following year with a fortune in spices and jewels. Portugal could now trade directly with Asia.

EXPLORATION OF THE AMERICAS


Renaissance geographers knew that the Earth is round but thought it was much smaller than it is. Some people suggested that the shortest all-water route from Eu-

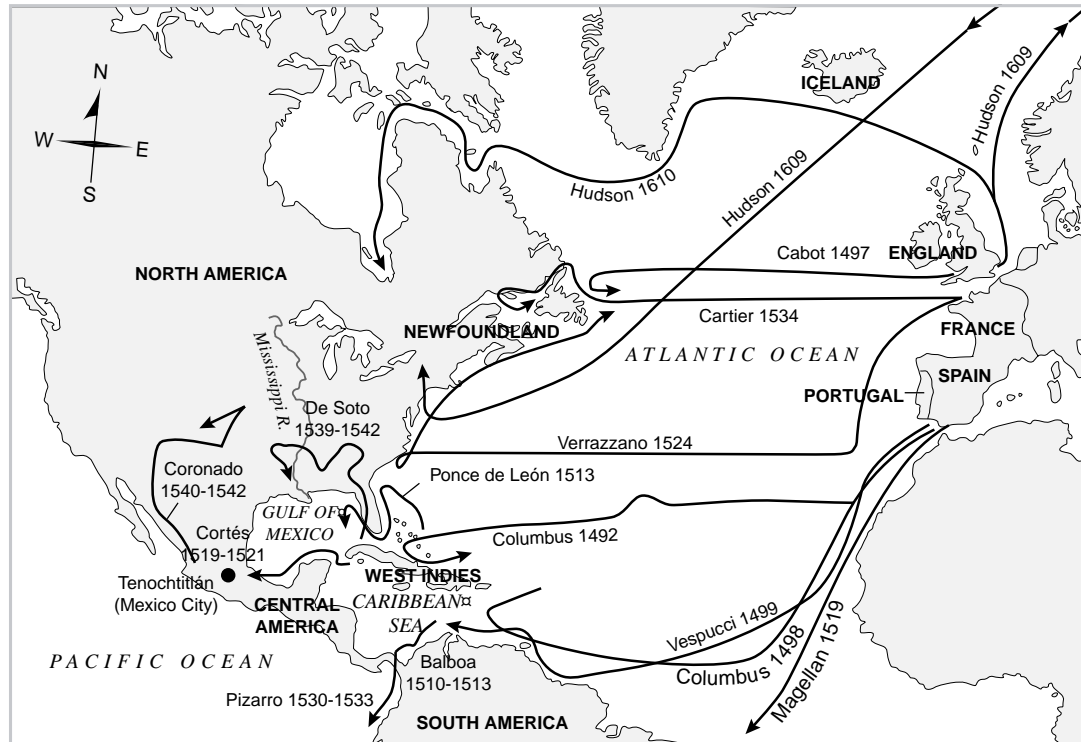
Routes of Portuguese Explorers



rope to Asia might be west across the Atlantic. At first, they had no way of knowing that the Americas would prove to be a major barrier.

Eager for wealth and confident that they could reach the East by sailing west, European nations financed new voyages. They sought two routes in particular: (1) a westward route through open sea to Asia and (2) the “Northwest Passage” through the Arctic Ocean and into the Pacific. Such major early voyages and land explorations are summarized in the accompanying table.

 MAJOR EARLY EUROPEAN EXPLORERS OF THE AMERICAS			
Explorer	Expedition Date(s)	Sponsoring Nation	Achievement(s)
Christopher Columbus	1492–1504	Spain	First sailed west for Indies (India), China; landed in Bahamas. Made three more voyages exploring Caribbean islands.
John Cabot	1497	England	Landed at Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland.
Amerigo Vespucci	1499–1502	Portugal	Sailed along coast of South America; identified it as a continent. Gave his name to the Americas.
Pedro Cabral	1500	Portugal	Sailed west from Africa, sighted Brazil, claimed it for Portugal.
Sebastian Cabot	1508	England	Sailed to Labrador seeking Northwest Passage to Indies.
Vasco de Balboa	1513	Spain	In search of gold, crossed Isthmus of Panama from east to west; sighted Pacific Ocean.
Juan Ponce de León	1513–1521	Spain	Explored Bahamas, Puerto Rico, Florida; searched for gold and “Fountain of Youth.”
Ferdinand Magellan	1519–1522	Spain	Searched for westward route to Asia by sailing across Atlantic, around South America, across Pacific; killed mid-voyage. Expedition continued across Indian Ocean, around Africa, and home to Spain; first circumnavigation of the world (voyage around it).
Giovanni da Verrazzano	1524	France	Led first French voyage to North America; entered New York Bay, mouth of Hudson River; landed on Staten Island.
Jacques Cartier	1534	France	Explored Gulf of St. Lawrence.
Hernando de Soto	1539–1541	Spain	Encountered Mississippi River, explored Southeast, lower Mississippi Valley.
Francisco Coronado	1540–1542	Spain	Explored Southwest, Colorado River; encountered Grand Canyon.



Voyages of Exploration to North and South America



INFO CHECK

1. Identify: mercantilism, Northwest Passage, circumnavigation.
2. How did the growth of international trade change European culture?
3. How were the Portuguese able to trade with Asia without interference from Italians or Muslim Turks?
4. Would you have signed up to sail with Columbus on his first voyage? Why or why not?
5. In your opinion, which early explorer of the Americas had the most impact on world history? Explain.



ENGLISH, DUTCH, AND FRENCH CLAIMS IN NORTH AMERICA

The English In 1497, Italian navigator John Cabot made the first westward voyage for England. His landing on Newfoundland was the basis for England's claim to the eastern coast of North America. Thus, the English proceeded to colonize New England, New York (see Chapter 3 for details), and regions further south.

The Dutch Dutch claims to North American land were made by the English navigator Henry Hudson. In 1609, he left Amsterdam in search of the Northwest Pas-

sage. On September 3, his ship, the *Half Moon*, entered New York Bay and sailed up the river that was later named for him. Hudson reached present-day Albany.

The Dutch settled around New York Bay and spread north through the Hudson Valley. They had trading posts and farms on Staten Island, Manhattan, Long Island (Brooklyn, Jamaica, Flushing), the Hudson Valley, and elsewhere. The Dutch called their colony New Netherland; the settlement named New Amsterdam is today's New York City (see Chapter 3 for more details.)

New France In the 1500s, the French were the leading explorers of North America. They developed a thriving business from the good fishing off Newfoundland and North America's eastern coast. Farther inland, they built forts and fur trading posts. In effect, the French controlled a region stretching from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico. They called it New France.

Verrazzano Giovanni da Verrazzano, an Italian, led France's first sea expedition to North America. There, he sailed from the Carolinas to Nova Scotia. In 1524, he entered New York Bay through the Narrows—a waterway separating Staten Island from Brooklyn. Today, a bridge named for him spans the Narrows.

Cartier Jacques Cartier found a water route to the interior of North America. In 1534, he reached the Gulf of St. Lawrence and sailed up the St. Lawrence River to the Algonquian village of Hochelaga. Cartier and his men climbed a nearby mountain. The view was so spectacular that they named it Mont Réal (Mount Royal). It rises above today's Montreal.

Farther along the river, the French came upon villages of Huron Native Americans, and Cartier made friends with them. Their relationship led to a profitable fur trade (French utensils and tools for **pelts**, or fur-lined skins, trapped by the natives).

Champlain Samuel de Champlain made 11 expeditions to North America. He intended to find the Northwest Passage. Instead, he explored Canada, New England, and upper New York and became known as the "father of New France."

In 1603, he sailed up the St. Lawrence River as far as Mont Réal and traded with Native Americans there. In 1608, he founded the city of Quebec on the St. Lawrence. It was the first permanent French settlement in North America. In 1609, Champlain explored northern New York and encountered the lake named for him.

Unlike the conquistadors and their quest for gold, Champlain realized that the real wealth—at least in Canada—was in furs, fish, timber, and farmland. Appointed governor of New France, he sought to protect the fur trade with Algonquians and Hurons. As a devout Roman Catholic, he also hoped to convert these friendly peoples to Christianity.

La Salle In the late 1600s, Robert Cavelier de La Salle traveled deep into North America. Hearing about great rivers to the west, he left Mont Réal and navigated the Ohio River as far south as present-day Kentucky. He then explored the Great Lakes region, sailed through its lower river systems, and went south along the Mississippi River. In 1682, he reached the Gulf of Mexico and claimed the entire Mississippi Valley for King Louis IV of France. La Salle called it Louisiana.

Colonization French settlements in Canada were governed by trading companies with **grants** (deeds of land) from the king. Because trade was the main reason for the French presence, settlers could only rent land in New France. There were few permanent settlements.

Religion was the other French motivation. Roman Catholic missionaries to Canada and New York spread Christian teachings. The Jesuits, in particular, converted many Hurons.

**INFO CHECK**

1. What was the basis for England's large territorial claim in North America?
2. Why is Hudson more important than Verrazzano in New York's history?
3. How did New Netherland and New France differ? How were they alike?
4. Why did few French people settle in America?
5. In your opinion, which French explorer achieved the most for the home country? Explain.



SPANISH CONQUEST AND SETTLEMENT IN THE AMERICAS

Columbus and other Spanish explorers gave their country an early lead in the “the New World.” Unlike most of its European competitors, Spain staked claims in the warmer southern regions of the Americas—Latin America and the present-day southwestern United States. It called this vast territory New Spain.



**Reception of Hernando Cortés
by Emperor Montezuma**


The conquistadors who followed the explorers were ruthless in their search for wealth. Thousands of Native Americans were killed by the Spaniards; many more died from exposure to European diseases.

Spanish Missions The first Spanish settlements were **missions** founded by priests who came with the conquistadors. Missions usually consisted of a church, a school, houses, farmland, and a fort for protection. Major Spanish missions within the present-day United States included Santa Fe (1609), Albuquerque (1706), San Antonio (1718), San Diego (1769), and San Francisco (1776).

Native Americans did not come to the missions on their own. Spanish soldiers had to bring them in by force and make them attend church and work the fields. The priests believed that they were saving souls by forcing conversions to Christianity. For Native Americans, however, the mission experience meant destruction of their culture and disrespect for their religious beliefs.

Spanish Legacy By the end of the late 1500s, Spain ruled South America (except for Brazil), Central America, Mexico, most of the Caribbean, Florida, and much of today's western United States. It mined for gold and silver throughout New Spain and sent these riches home. Thus, Spain became a great European power. But it unwisely spent large amounts of money on unsuccessful wars and went deeply in debt. By the 1600s, Spain was in decline.

Nevertheless, the Americas were forever changed by the Spanish **legacy** (things passed from one group to another). The Spanish presence brought many changes—good and bad. These changes, often referred to as the **Columbian Exchange**, are summarized in the accompanying table.

 COLUMBIAN EXCHANGE	
From Western Hemisphere* to Eastern Hemisphere**	From Eastern Hemisphere to Western Hemisphere
<u>Plants and food products</u> avocados, beans, cocoa (cacao), chilis, corn (maize), gourds, papayas, peanuts, pineapples, potatoes, pumpkins, quinine, squash, strawberries, sunflowers, sweet potatoes, tobacco, tomatoes	<u>Plants and food products</u> bananas, beets, broccoli, carrots, citrus fruits, coffee, dandelions, eggplants, grapes/wine, lettuces, okra, onions, peas, radishes, rice, sugarcane, wheat, yams
<u>Animals</u> turkeys	<u>Animals</u> cattle, chickens, goats, horses, mules, pigs, sheep
	<u>Diseases</u> influenza, typhus, measles, yellow fever, tuberculosis, smallpox
	<u>Miscellaneous</u> European languages, religion, culture

*North, Central, South America/Caribbean islands

**Europe, Africa, Asia

To this day, the influence of Spain on life in the Americas continues to be felt. In most of South and Central America and Mexico, Spanish is the official language, and Roman Catholicism is the most widely practiced religion.



INFO CHECK

1. Identify: New Spain, Spanish legacy, Columbian Exchange.
2. What advice would you have given the Spanish king about how to treat Native Americans?
3. Of all the beneficial things introduced by the Spaniards to the Americas, which one do you think is the most important. Explain.



CHAPTER REVIEW

Multiple-Choice Questions

1. A major effect in Europe of the Crusades was
 1. to satisfy the European craving for spices
 2. the loss of Jerusalem
 3. renewed interest in Roman Catholic teachings
 4. European participation in international trade.
2. The Renaissance was a period of
 1. sagas and legends
 2. decline in the power of Spain
 3. renewed interest in learning
 4. Maya pyramid building.
3. One of the first Europeans to reach the Americas was probably
 1. Leif Ericson
 2. John Cabot
 3. Vasco da Gama
 4. Giovanni da Verrazzano.
4. Europeans were interested in exploration and discovery because
 1. African peoples threatened to invade them
 2. they wanted to help native peoples
 3. they sought profit, adventure, and converts to Christianity
 4. their countries were overpopulated.
5. Spain and Portugal searched for an all-sea route to East Asia because
 1. Muslims controlled the Mediterranean Sea, and Italians controlled overland routes
 2. Muslims controlled overland routes, and Italians controlled the Mediterranean Sea
 3. they wanted to save the Holy Land from Muslim control
 4. Asian traders wanted Spanish and Portuguese goods.
6. England based its claim to colonies in the Americas on the early explorations of
 1. John Cabot
 2. Leif Ericson
 3. Henry Hudson
 4. Bartholomeu Dias.
7. Which event came first?
 1. the Crusades
 2. the arrival of Spaniards in Mexico
 3. the Viking exploration of North America
 4. use of the astrolabe by sailors
8. Although Christopher Columbus reached the Americas before Amerigo Vespucci, they were named for Vespucci because
 1. Columbus thought he had discovered Africa
 2. Vespucci knew that he had encountered new continents
 3. the Italian claim preceded the Spanish claim
 4. Columbus refused to have his name used.

9. The Spaniards settled in southern North America and in South America because
1. Native Americans in the north were not interested in Spanish goods
 2. their ships were lost when they sailed in the North Atlantic
 3. they wanted to possess the region's gold and silver resources
 4. Native Americans of the north resisted conversion to Christianity.
10. The person most responsible for establishing New France was
1. Verrazzano
 2. Cartier
 3. Champlain
 4. La Salle.
11. A major effect on Native Americans from their contact with Europeans was
1. increased exports of native crafts to Europe
 2. use of the Latin language
 3. an increase in population
 4. death from disease.

Constructed-Response Questions

Base your answers to questions 1–3 on the map on page 17 and your knowledge of social studies.

1. Which two cities were at the farthest points east from the Italian trade routes?
2. Where is the farthest point west on the Muslim and Chinese trade routes?
3. What conclusion can you draw about the trade routes of the Middle Ages?

Base your answers to question 4 on the illustration on page 24 and your knowledge of social studies.

4. Would you describe the Aztec civilization as primitive or advanced and well organized? Explain.

Base your answers to questions 5–7 on the map on page 22 and your knowledge of social studies.

5. Which country explored farthest north? farthest west? farthest south?
6. Which country explored the greatest territory?
7. What conclusion can you draw about the European desire to explore and establish territories?

Document-Based Question

Part A: Short Answer

Study each document and answer the question(s) following it. Then read the **Task** and write your essay. It should include references to most of the documents, along with additional information based on your knowledge of social studies.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT: From the 15th through the 18th centuries, many factors contributed to European exploration and settlement in the Americas. However, explorers, adventurers, and missionaries had different goals. As a result, the impact of each group on the native peoples also differed. Some results were positive while others were negative—both for Native Americans and Europeans.

DOCUMENT 1: Read the following excerpt from Christopher Columbus's *Sailing for Spanish King and Queen*:

★ November 1523

We sail tomorrow in search of the Northwest Passage. . . . The Italian bankers . . . anticipate high profits from a shorter route to the silks of the Orient. . . .

1. What Spanish goals in the New World were noted by Columbus?

DOCUMENT 2: Refer to the table “Major Early European Explorers of the Americas” on page 21.

2. Identify the goals of the European powers listed in undertaking their journeys of exploration.

DOCUMENT 3: Refer to the table “Columbian Exchange” on page 25.

3. Identify *two* positive and *two* negative consequences listed in the table.
4. Explain what impact each group of people had on the other.

DOCUMENT 4: Refer to the drawing on page 24.

5. Who is the more powerful person in the drawing, Montezuma or Cortés?
6. Do you think the Spanish conquest of the Aztecs was inevitable? Explain.

Part B: Essay

TASK

- List *two* reasons why Europeans explored and settled the Americas.
- Select *one* European nation, and identify where it explored and settled.
- Describe and discuss *one* positive and *one* negative impact that exploration and settlement had on *one* European nation and *one* Native American group.