

**Expansion, Exploration, and Encounters****Lesson 4**

# Spain Builds an American Empire

## Key Terms and People

**Christopher Columbus** Italian explorer, sailing for Spain, who landed in the Americas

**colony** land controlled by another nation

**Hernando Cortés** conquistador who defeated the Aztec Empire, conquering Mexico

**conquistadors** Spanish explorers who conquered the Americas in the 16th century

**Francisco Pizarro** conquistador who defeated the Incan Empire, conquering Peru

**Atahualpa** last Incan emperor, defeated and killed by the Spanish

**mestizo** person with mixed Spanish and Native American blood

**encomienda** system of mining and farming using natives as slave labor

## Before You Read

In the last lesson, you read about China and Japan's development.

In this lesson, you will read about the Spanish and Portuguese exploration of the Americas.

## As You Read

Use a timeline to trace the major events in the establishment of Spain's empire in the Americas.

### THE VOYAGES OF COLUMBUS

#### **How did the voyage of Columbus change the Americas?**

In 1492, **Christopher Columbus**, an Italian sailor, led a voyage for Spain. He sailed west hoping to reach Asia. Instead, he landed in the Americas. Columbus thought that he had reached the East Indies in Asia. He misnamed the natives he met there, calling them Indians. He claimed the land for Spain. From then on, Spain began to create **colonies**. Colonies are lands controlled by another nation.

In 1500, a Portuguese explorer claimed Brazil. In 1501, Amerigo Vespucci explored the eastern coast of South America. He said that these lands were a new world. Soon after, a mapmaker showed the lands as a separate continent. He named them America after Vespucci.

Other voyages gave Europeans more knowledge about the world. Spanish explorer Vasco Núñez de Balboa reached the Pacific Ocean. Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan sailed completely around the world.

Lesson 4, *continued*

1. Which voyages gave Europeans new knowledge of the world?

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2. Give two examples of conquistadors and explain what they did.

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**SPANISH CONQUESTS IN MEXICO;  
SPANISH CONQUESTS IN PERU**  
*How did Spain build an empire?*

**Hernando Cortés** was one of the Spanish **conquistadors**, or conquerors. In the 16th century, they began to explore the lands of the Americas. They were seeking great riches. In 1519, Cortés came to Mexico and defeated the powerful Aztec Empire led by Montezuma II.

About 15 years later, **Francisco Pizarro** led another Spanish force. It conquered the mighty Inca Empire of South America, led by **Atahualpa**, the last of the Incan emperors. Once again, the Spanish found gold and silver. By the mid-1500s, Spain had formed an American empire that stretched from modern-day Mexico to Peru.

The Spanish lived among the people they conquered. Spanish men married native women. Their children and descendants were called **mestizo**—people with mixed Spanish and Native American blood. The Spanish also formed large farms and mines that used natives as slave labor. This system was known as **encomienda**.

One large area of the Americas—Brazil—was the possession of Portugal. In the 1530s, colonists began to settle there. Colonists built huge farms called plantations to grow sugar, which was in demand in Europe.

**SPAIN’S INFLUENCE EXPANDS**  
*Where did Spain hope to gain more power?*

Soon Spain began to want even more power in the Americas. It started to look at land that is now part of the United States. Explorers like Coronado led expeditions to the area. Catholic priests went along and converted some of the Native Americans.

3. What area did Coronado explore?

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**OPPOSITION TO SPANISH RULE**  
*Who opposed Spanish rule?*

As Spanish priests worked to convert the natives, they began to make some protests about their treatment. One thing they criticized was the *encomienda* system. A monk named Bartolomé de Las Casas and others successfully called for the end of the system.

Native Americans also resisted new or continued Spanish rule. One of the most serious rebellions occurred in New Mexico. A Pueblo leader named Popé led the effort. It involved about 17,000 warriors and drove the Spanish back into New Spain for 12 years.

4. What challenges to their power did the Spanish face?

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Lesson 4, *continued*

As you read about the empire Spain built in the Americas, take notes to answer questions about the timeline below.

1492	<b>Christopher Columbus sails westward from Spain, hoping to reach Asia.</b>	→	1. What was the significance of Columbus's voyages?
1519	<b>Ferdinand Magellan sets sail on a voyage that rounds the southern tip of South America.</b>	↗	2. Magellan himself died in the Philippines. What was the importance of the voyage his crew completed?
1521	<b>Hernando Cortés conquers the Aztec.</b>	→	3. What factors helped the Spanish defeat the Aztec?
1533	<b>Francisco Pizarro conquers the Inca Empire.</b>	↗	4. How did the Spanish treat the peoples they conquered?
1540	<b>Francisco Vásquez de Coronado explores the Southwest.</b>	↗	5. What was unique about the Spanish colonization of the lands of New Mexico?
1542	<b>Spain abolishes the <i>encomienda</i> system.</b>	↗	6. What was the long-term consequence of this action?

**Expansion, Exploration, and Encounters****Lesson 7**

# The Columbian Exchange and Global Trade

## Key Terms and People

**Columbian Exchange** global transfer of foods, plants, and animals during the colonization of the Americas

**capitalism** economic system based on private ownership and the investment of wealth for profit

**joint-stock company** company in which people pooled their wealth for a common purpose

**mercantilism** economic policy of increasing wealth and power by obtaining large amounts of gold and silver and selling more goods than are bought

**favorable balance of trade** condition resulting from selling more goods than are bought

## Before You Read

In the last lesson, you read about the Atlantic slave trade.

In this lesson, you will read about other kinds of trade.

## As You Read

Use a chart to take notes on how the Columbian Exchange and global trade changed Europe.

### THE COLUMBIAN EXCHANGE

#### **What was the Columbian Exchange?**

There was constant movement of people and products from Europe and Africa to the Americas. The large-scale transfer of foods, plants, and animals was called the **Columbian Exchange**. Important foods such as corn and potatoes were taken from the Americas to Europe, Africa, and Asia.

Some foods moved from the Old World to the New. Bananas, black-eyed peas, and yams were taken from Africa to the Americas. Cattle, pigs, and horses had never been seen in the Americas

until the Europeans brought them. Deadly illnesses also moved to the Americas. They killed a large part of the Native American population.

1. What did the Columbian Exchange take from the Americas, and what did it bring?

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