







**Directions:** Fill out the section of the graphic organizer that matches your article. You will then meet with group members that have read the same article as you to share your ideas. You will finally be able to fill out the rest of the organizer when you meet with experts on each article.

Article A		Article B		Article C	
Hero	Villain	Hero	Villain	Hero	Villain
 1st European to come to America	 • put Natives to work • Cruel man • Took credit for the 1st sight of land • hanged + roasted Natives	 • Landed on Caribbean	 • 50 years after landing killed off most of Tainos	 • Drew up plans of Sea route to West Indies • landed in Caribbean • Traded foods • Trail-blazer	 • Enslaved Natives • Diseases killed Natives



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Studies

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## Dutch Exploration and Settlement

Directions: Read the passage from the text on Dutch Exploration and settlement. With your partner, complete the following chart.

MOTIVES (reasons for exploring)	Northwest Passage: water way through or around North America
Explorers:	Accomplishment:
Henry Hudson:	Sailed for Dutch. Settled in NY harbor
Peter Minuit:	Settled at the mouth of Hudson River. Bought Manhattan Island
Where did they settle?	New York
Occupations (what they did for money)	Traders + merchants - Trapped
Treatment of the Natives	Negative • Conquered their land •
Impact on the Natives:	• Over trapped • Diseases killed Natives
Dutch Impact on New York today.	• largest trading center in the World.



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## French Exploration and Settlement

Directions: Read the passage from the text on French Exploration and settlement. With your partner, complete the following chart.

MOTIVES (reasons for exploring)	Northwest Passage: Waterway through or around North America
Explorers:	Accomplishment:
Verrazano:	Journeyed along the North American Coast from Carolina to Canada
Cartier:	Traveled more than half way up the river known as St. Lawrence
Where did they settle?	Canada
Occupations (what they did for money)	coureurs de bois: runners of the woods Trappers
Treatment of the Natives	Friendly relations with the Natives. • married Native American Women
Impact on the Natives:	• Disease killed Thousands of Natives • over trapped • Tried to convert N.A → Christianity



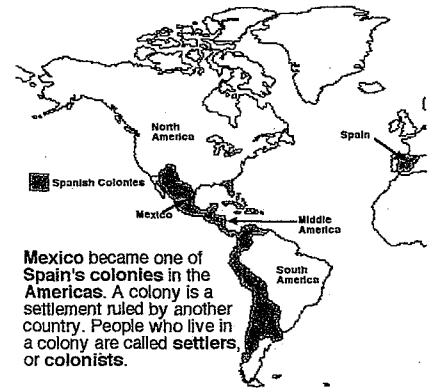
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## Spain Builds an Empire in the New World

In the 1400's, Spain led the way for exploring the New World. They also led the way for colonizing and exploiting this world and the people living there. Spanish explorers were known as **conquistadors**, or conquerors. In search of gold and glory, and to spread Christianity, these conquistadors made Spain one of the richest nations in the world.



When Columbus explored the Caribbean islands, he found simple native societies living there. Small groups of Taino and Carib Indians lived in scattered villages among the islands. The rulers of Spain had given conquistadors permission to establish settlements in the Americas. In return, conquistadors agreed to give Spain one fifth of any gold or treasure they found. Search as he might, Columbus found very little gold.

Columbus was looking in the wrong place. The central valley of Mexico and the Andes Mountains in Peru, held the riches Columbus sought. They were also home to sophisticated Native American societies (the Mayan, Aztec and Incan societies).

Tales of great riches lured Spanish conquistadors inland from the Caribbean Islands. Vasco de Balboa hacked his way across the Isthmus of Panama in 1513, discovering the Pacific Ocean.

Hernando Cortez marched his army to the Aztec capital in Mexico. The Aztecs believed Cortez and his men were gods. This belief, plus European weapons, horses and diseases, destroyed the great Aztec empire by 1521.

### The Maya

- Lived in the Yucatán area of Mexico
- Used advanced writing, math, and calendar systems
- Built great ceremonial centers

### The Aztec

- Lived in Mexico's central valley
- Had a picture-writing system
- Had a society run on strict class lines
- Ran an empire and collected tribute from conquered peoples
- Built a great city, Tenochtitlán, on an island
- Were rich in gold

### The Inca

- Lived in the Andes highlands of Peru
- Had no writing system, but built a superb network of highways for communication within the empire
- Built great cities and temples
- Were rich in gold and silver



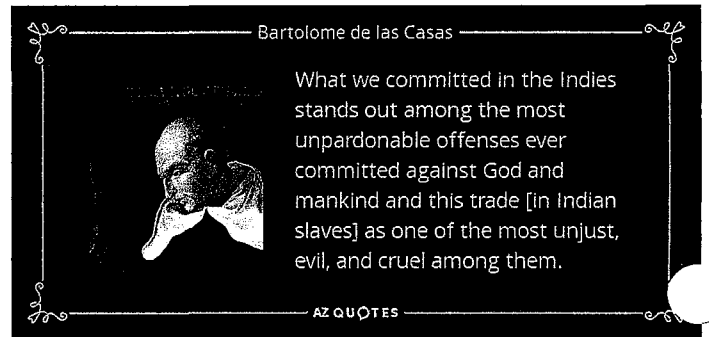
This Aztec drawing depicts a meeting between Spanish conquistadors (left) and Aztecs (right).

Francisco Pizarro heard about a rich empire farther south. He marched with his army into Peru. They too conquered and destroyed the Incan empire by 1533.

The Spanish followed up their explorations with colonization. They had mixed motives – to spread Christianity and to gain wealth and glory. In Mexico and Peru, they set up missions to convert the natives and silver and gold mines for

riches. They enslaved the conquered Indians to work the mines. On the Caribbean Islands, Spanish conquistadors set up sugar plantations. The Indians of these islands soon died from overwork and European diseases.

A Spanish priest, Bartolome de Las Casas tried to change these conditions. He asked the king of Spain to protect the natives. Laws were passed to prohibit enslavement of the Native Americans, however, few officials in the New World enforced these laws.



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Answer the following questions based on the reading.

1. Although Columbus had several major accomplishments, what did he fail to do? He failed to find gold
2. What "lured" Spanish explorers to the New World? Tales of great riches
3. Why do you suppose Spanish explorers were known as conquistadors? They went to civilizations and conquered the land & its people
4. Who destroyed the Aztec empire? Hernando Cortez



5. Why was it so easy for conquistadors to destroy these sophisticated Native American societies? Technological advances in

Weaponry

6. What were the three motives the Spanish conquistadors had?

Spread Christianity

gain wealth

gain glory

7. What methods did the Spanish use to mine for riches? enslave

the natives

8. How did the Spanish use the Caribbean islands for profit? Sugar

plantations

9. How did the Spanish colonization impact the lives of the Native Americans?

They died of over work + Diseases

10. What did Bartolome de Las Casas do that was so unusual? Was he successful? Why or why not?

Tried to change the European ways.  
by asking the king to protect the  
natives.

