Exploration, Discovery, and Settlement: 1492-1700

The original exploration, discovery, and settlement of North and South America occurred thousands of years before Christopher Columbus was born. Many archeologists now believe that the first people to settle North America arrived as much as 40,000 years ago. At that time, waves of migrants from Asia may have crossed a ______ that then connected Siberia and Alaska (a bridge now submerged under the Bering Sea). Over a long period of time, successive generations migrated southward from the Arctic Circle to the southern tip of South America. The first Americans (______ Americans) adapted to the varied environments of the regions that they found. They divided into hundreds of tribes, spoke different languages, and practiced different cultures. Estimates of the Native population in the Americas in the 1490s vary from ___ to ___ million persons.

Cultures of North America

Estimates vary widely as to the population in the region north of Mexico (present-day U.S. & Canada) in the 1490s, when Columbus made his historic voyages. From under __ million to over ____ million people may have been spread across this area.

Small settlements

Most of the Native Americans lived in semi-permanent settlements, each with a small population seldom exceeding ___. The men spent their time making tools and hunting for game, while the women grew crops such as corn, beans, and tobacco. Some tribes were more ______ than others. On the Great Plains, for example, the Sioux and the Pawnee followed the ______ herds.

Larger societies

A few tribes had developed more complex cultures and societies in which thousands lived and worked together. The Pueblos in the Southwest lived in multistoried buildings and developed intricate ______ systems for farming. East of the Mississippi River, the Woodland Native Americans prospered with a rich _____ supply. Mound-building cultures, including the Adena, Hopewell, and Mississippian, evolved in the Mississippi and Ohio River valleys and elsewhere. Supported by hunting, fishing, and agriculture, many _______ settlements developed. Cahokia (near present-day East St. Louis, Illinois), the largest, had as many as _______ inhabitants. For unknown reasons, Mississippian culture began to decline in the 15th century. In the Northeast (present-day New York), Iroquois tribes formed a political ________, the League of the Iroquois, which withstood attacks from opposing Native Americans and Europeans during much of the 17th and 18th centuries.

Cultures of Central and South America

While the exact population of Native Americans in this region in the 1490s is unknown, most historians agree that it was greater than that of ______ _______. The great majority of Native Americans (estimates as many as ___ million people) lived in Central and South America. Three peoples in this region developed complex civilizations. Between A.D. 300 and 800, the _____ built remarkable cities in the rain forests of the Yucatan Peninsula (present-day Guatemala, Belize, and southern Mexico). Centuries later, the _______ in central Mexico and the _______ in Peru ruled over vast empires. All three civilizations developed highly organized societies, carried on an extensive trade, and created calendars that were based on accurate scientific observations. The Aztecs’ capital of Tenochtitlan was equivalent in size and population to the largest cities of _________.

Europe moves toward exploration

Until the late 1400s, Americans had no knowledge of the continents on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean. Neither did Europeans or Asians know of the existence of the two American continents (North & South America). Voyages and settlements such as those of the ________, around the year 1000 to Greenland and North America had no lasting impact. Columbus’s voyages of exploration finally brought Europe and the Americas into contact. But why was an oceanic crossing and exploration accomplished in the late 15th century and not before?

Improvements in Technology

In Europe, there occurred a rebirth of classical learning and an outburst of artistic and scientific activity known as the _________. Columbus and other explorers lived when this era of creative vitality was at its height, in the late 1400s and early 1500s. One aspect of the Renaissance was a gradual increase in scientific knowledge and _________ change. Europeans made improvements in the inventions of others. For example, they began to use ________ (invented by the Chinese) and the sailing _______ (adopted from the Chinese by Arab merchants). There were also major improvements in ________ and _________. The invention of the ________ in the 1450s also aided the spread of knowledge across Europe.
Religious Conflict
The later years of the Renaissance were a time of intense religious zeal and conflict. The Roman Catholic Church that had once dominated the culture of Western Europe was threatened by Ottoman Turks (followers of Islam) and by a Protestant revolt against the ______ authority.

Catholic victory in Spain
In the Middle Ages, Spain had been partly conquered by Muslim invaders. Only one Moorish stronghold remained in that country when Isabella, queen of Castile, and Ferdinand, king of Aragon, united their separate Christian kingdoms. In 1492, (the year that Columbus sailed on his historic first voyage), Isabella and Ferdinand succeeded in defeating the Moors of Granada. The uniting of ______ under Isabella and Ferdinand was a sign of new leadership, hope, and power for European believers in the ______ faith.

Protestant revolt in northern France
In the early 1500s, certain Christians in Germany, England, France, Holland, and other northern European countries revolted against the authority of the pope in Rome. Their revolt was known as the ______ Reformation. Conflict between Catholics and Protestants led to a series of religious wars. It also caused the Catholics of Spain and Portugal and the Protestants of England and Holland to want their own versions of Christianity adopted by non-Christian peoples in Africa, Asia, and the Americas. Thus, a ______ motive for exploration and colonization was added to ______ and ______ motives.

Expanding Trade
Economic motives for exploration grew out of a fierce competition among European kingdoms for increased ______ with Africa, India, and China. In the past, this trade had traveled from the Italian city-state of Venice and the Byzantine city of Constantinople on to an overland route that reached all the way to the capital of the Chinese empire. This land route to Asia had become blocked when, in 1453, the Ottoman Turks seized control of Constantinople. Might a new way to the rich Asian trade be opened up by sailing either west across the Atlantic Ocean or south along the West African coast? At first, the latter possibility (sailing around ______) seemed more promising. Voyages of exploration sponsored by ______ Prince Henry the Navigator eventually succeeded in opening up a long sea route around South Africa's Cape of Good Hope. In 1498, the Portuguese sea captain Vasco da Gama was the first European to reach ______ by this route. By this time, Columbus had attempted what he thought would be a shorter route to Asia. What he found was a sea route to the ______

Developing Nation-States
Europe was also changing politically in the 15th century. Monarchs were gaining power and building ______-_______ in Spain, Portugal, France, England, and the Netherlands. A nation-state is a country in which the majority of people share both a common culture and common political loyalties toward a central government. The monarchs of the emerging nation-states depended on ______ to bring in needed revenues and the ______ to justify their right to rule. Among these monarchs were Isabella and Ferdinand of ______ and Prince Henry the Navigator of ______, who used their power to search for riches abroad and to spread the influence of the Roman _________ _________ to new overseas dominions.

Early Explorations and Christopher Columbus
Changing economic, political, and social conditions in Europe shaped the ambitions of the Italian-born Christopher Columbus. Columbus spent eight years seeking ______ support for his plan to sail west from Europe to the "Indies." Finally, in 1492, he succeeded in winning the backing of the two Spanish monarchs. Isabella and Ferdinand were then at the height of their power, having just defeated the Moors. They agreed to outfit ______ ships and to make Columbus governor, admiral, and viceroy of all the lands that he would claim for ______. After sailing from the Canary Islands on September 6, Columbus landed in the ________ on October 12. His success in discovering lands on the other side of the ocean brought him a burst of glory in Spain. But three subsequent voyages across the Atlantic were _________. Columbus died in 1506, still believing that he had found a western route to Asia.
Columbus’ legacy
At the time of his death, many Spaniards viewed Columbus as a failure because they suspected that he had not found a route to the riches of China and the Indies, as he claimed, but a "New World." Today, some people scoff at Columbus for having erroneously given Native Americans the name "______." Even the land that he had explored was named for someone else, ______. Vespucci, another Italian sailor. Also Columbus’ critics point out the many problems and injustices suffered by Native Americans after Europeans arrived and took over their land. Nevertheless, no one can seriously dispute Columbus’ importance. Modern scholars have recognized his great skills as a navigator and his daring and commitment in going forth where nobody else had every dared to venture. Columbus’ voyages brought about for the first time in history permanent interaction between _______________ and Native Americans.

Exchanges
Europeans and Native Americans had developed vastly different cultures. The contact between the peoples of the Americas and the Europeans had both immediate and long-term effects. The Native Americans introduced Europeans to many new ______ & ________, including beans, corn, sweet and white potatoes, tomatoes, and tobacco. They also infected Europeans with syphilis for the first time. Europeans brought sugar cane, bluegrasses, pigs, and ________, which all flourished in the new lands. They also introduced the wheel, iron implements, and _________ to the Americans. Deadlier than all the guns was the European importation of germs and diseases, such as smallpox and measles, which within a century decimated the Native American population. Millions died in which there was a mortality rate of over _______ including entire tribal communities. These exchanges, biological and cultural, would permanently change the entire world.

Dividing the New World
Spain and Portugal were the first kingdoms to lay claim to territories in the New World. The Catholic monarchs of both countries turned to the ______ in Rome to help settle their dispute over the ownership of newly discovered lands. In 1493, the pope drew a vertical, north-south line on a world map, giving ______ all lands to the west of the line and _________ all lands to the east. In 1494, the two disputing kingdoms signed the Treaty of _______, which moved the line a few degrees to the west. It was later discovered that the line passed through what is now the country of Brazil, and this, together with Portuguese explorations, established Portugal’s claim to ______. Spain claimed the rest of the _______. Other European countries would soon challenge these claims.

Spanish Exploration and Conquest
Spanish dominance in the Americas was based on more than a treaty and a papal line of demarcation. Spain owed its power in the New World to the efforts of explorers and conquerors or conquistadores. Feats such as the journey across the Isthmus of Panama to the Pacific Ocean by Vasco de Balboa, the circumnavigation of the world by one of Ferdinand Magellan’s ships, and the conquests of the Aztecs in Mexico by Hernan Cortes and of the Incas in Peru by Francisco Pizzaro secured _______ initial supremacy in the New World. The _________ sent ships loaded with gold and silver back to Spain from the New World. They increased the gold supply by over 500%, making Spain the richest and most powerful nation in Europe. Other nations were encouraged to turn to the Americas in search of wealth and power. After seizing the wealth of the Indian empires, the Spanish turned to an encomienda system, with the king of Spain giving grants of ______ and _________ (Native Americans) to individual Spaniards. These Indians had to farm or work in the mines. The fruits of their labors went to the Spanish masters, who in turn had to care for them. When Europeans’ brutality and diseases reduced the Native American population, the Spanish brought slaves from ______ _________. This required the Spanish to pay a tax to their king on each slave they imported to the Americas.

English Claims
England’s earliest claims to territory in the New World rested on the voyages of ______, an Italian sea captain who was under contract to England’s VII. Cabot explored the coast of ____________ in 1497. England, however, did not follow up Cabot’s discoveries with other expeditions of exploration and settlement. England’s monarchy in the 1500s was preoccupied with other matters, including Henry VIII’s break with the _________ Church. In the 1570s and 1580s, under Queen _________ I, England challenged Spanish shipping in both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Sir Francis Drake, for example, attacked Spanish ships, seized the gold and silver that they carried, and even attacked Spanish settlements on the coast of Peru. Sir Walter Raleigh, attempted to establish a settlement at Roanoke Island off the _______ ________ coast in 1587, but it failed.
French Claims
The French monarch first showed interest in exploration in 1524 when it sponsored a voyage by an Italian navigator, Giovanni da Verrazano. Hoping to find a northwest passage leading through the Americas to Asia, Verrazano explored part of North America's eastern coast, including New York harbor. French claims to American territory were also based on the voyages of Jacques Cartier (1534-1542), who explored the ________ River extensively. Like the English, the French were slow to develop colonies in the New World. During the 1500s, the French monarchy was preoccupied with European wars as well as with internal religious conflict between Roman ______ and ______ Huguenots. Only in the next century did France develop a strong interest in following up its claims to North American land. The first permanent French settlement in America was established by Samuel de Champlain in 1608 at ______, a fortified village on the St. Lawrence River. Champlain was later regarded as the "Father of _____ _____" because of his strong leadership in establishing the colony. In time, other explorers extended French claims across a vast territory. In 1673, Louis Jolliet and Father Jacques Marquette explored the upper Mississippi River, and in 1682, Robert de La Salle explored the Mississippi basin, which he named Louisiana (after the French King ____________).

Dutch Claims
During the 1600s, the Netherlands also began to sponsor voyages of exploration. The Dutch government hired Henry Hudson, an experienced English seaman, to seek a northwest passage. In 1609, Hudson sailed up a broad river (later named for him as the Hudson River), an expedition that established Dutch claims to the surrounding area that would become _______ (and later New York). A private joint-stock company, the Dutch West India Company, was given the privilege of taking control of the region for ________ ________.

Early English Settlements
In the early 1600s, England was finally in a position to colonize the lands explored more than a century earlier by John Cabot. By defeating a large Spanish fleet-the _____ _______-in 1588, England had gained a reputation as a major naval power. Also in this period, England's population was growing rapidly while its economy was depressed. This condition gave rise to a large number of poor and landless people who were attracted by the idea of __________ opportunities in the Americas. The English had also devised a practical method for financing the costly and risky enterprise of founding new colonies. Their joint-stock companies pooled the savings of people of moderate means and supported trading ventures that seemed potentially profitable. In the 1600s various colonies on the North Atlantic Coast were able to attract large numbers of _______ settlers.

Jamestown and Early Problems
England's King James I chartered the ________ Company, a joint-stock company that established the first permanent English colony in America at ________ in 1607. The first settlers of Jamestown suffered great hardships from Indian attacks, famine, and disease and their own mistakes. The settlement's location in a swampy area along the _____ River resulted in outbreaks of dysentery and malaria, diseases that were fatal to many. Many of the settlers were gentlemen unaccustomed to physical work. Others were gold-seeking adventurers who refused to _____ or ______. Food supplies dwindled to almost nothing, and the colonists nearly starved.

Tobacco Prosperity
Through the leadership of Captain _____ and the establishment of a tobacco industry by ______, the Jamestown colony survived. Rolfe and his Indian wife, ______, developed a new variety of tobacco, which became very popular in Europe and brought financial prosperity to the colony. The growing of tobacco on Jamestown's plantations required a large labor force. At first, the Virginia Company hoped to meet the need for labor by sending _____ servants to the colony. An indentured servant was often a young man who, in exchange for free transportation to a colony, was obligated to work on a plantation for a certain number of years. After the arrival in Jamestown in 1619 of a few Africans who became indentured servants, the Virginia tobacco growers began to employ a combination of both forced labor (slavery) and free labor (indentured servitude).

Transition to a royal colony
Although it made profits from tobacco sales, the Virginia Company made unwise decisions that caused it to fall heavily into _____. The bankrupt company's charter was revoked in 1624, and the colony, now known as Virginia, came under the direct control of King ______ I. Thus, Virginia became England's first _____ colony (a colony under the control of a king or queen).