

European Exploration in the Americas
Theme: America in the World

Learning Objective Unit 1.C: Explain the causes of exploration and conquest of the New World by various European nations.

KC-1.2.1.A: European nations' efforts to explore and conquer the New World stemmed from a search for new sources of wealth, economic and military competition, and a desire to spread Christianity.

- Western European crusades to take control of the holy land exposed them to new products like _____, _____, _____ and other luxuries.
- Existing overland and sea routes drove up the price of these traded goods forcing Europeans to find new routes
- The Portuguese led the way by reaching South Africa in 1488 and circumnavigation of the African continent by _____ in 1498.
- _____, commissioned by Spain in 1492, attempted an Atlantic route with the accidental discovery of the American continent.
- Once news reached Europe about the new continent, people, and its precious resources, interest in the _____ increased
- As a major patron of the _____, the Spanish Monarchs _____ and _____ were interested in the conversion of the newly discovered people.
- The rivalry with Portugal and possibility of precious metals like _____ fueled further exploration, while the geography of the Caribbean where Columbus landed was favorable for sugarcane plantation.

Quick Recap

- Motivations of European explorers

Part II
Short Answer Response

Answer each prompt using at least THREE sentences.

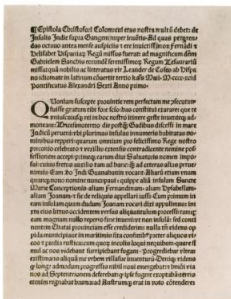
1. Explain the causes of exploration and conquest of the New World by various European nations.

#3 - 1.3 European Exploration in the Americas

APUSH

Name: _____

Document Analysis - Columbus's Journal



For nearly five months, Columbus explored the Caribbean, particularly the islands of Juana (Cuba) and Hispaniola (Santo Domingo), before returning to Spain. He left thirty-nine men to build a settlement called La Navidad in present-day Haiti. He also kidnapped several Native Americans (between ten and twenty-five) to take back to Spain—only eight survived. Columbus brought back small amounts of gold as well as native birds and plants to show the richness of the continent he believed to be Asia.

When Columbus arrived back in Spain on March 15, 1493, he immediately wrote a letter announcing his discoveries to King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella, who had helped finance his trip.

Excerpt

I have determined to write you this letter to inform you of everything that has been done and discovered in this voyage of mine.

On the thirty-third day after leaving Cadiz I came into the Indian Sea, where I discovered many islands inhabited by numerous people. I took possession of all of them for our most fortunate King by making public proclamation and unfurling his standard, no one making any resistance. The island called Juana, as well as the others in its neighborhood, is exceedingly fertile. It has numerous harbors on all sides, very safe and wide, above comparison with any I have ever seen. Through it flow many very broad and health-giving rivers; and there are in it numerous very lofty mountains. All these islands are very beautiful, and of quite different shapes; easy to be traversed, and full of the greatest variety of trees reaching to the stars. . . .

In the island, which I have said before was called Hispana, there are very lofty and beautiful mountains, great farms, groves and fields, most fertile both for cultivation and for pasturage, and well adapted for constructing buildings. The convenience of the harbors in this island, and the excellence of the rivers, in volume and salubrity, surpass human belief, unless one should see them. In it the trees, pasture-lands and fruits different much from those of Juana. Besides, this Hispana abounds in various kinds of species, gold and metals. The inhabitants . . . are all, as I said before, unprovided with any sort of iron, and they are destitute of arms, which are entirely unknown to them, and for which they are not adapted; not on account of any bodily deformity, for they are well made, but because they are timid and full of terror. . . . But when they see that they are safe, and all fear is banished, they are very guileless and honest, and very liberal of all they have. No one refuses the asker anything that he possesses; on the contrary they themselves invite us to ask for it. They manifest the greatest affection towards all of us, exchanging valuable things for trifles, content with the very least thing or nothing at all. . . . I gave them many beautiful and pleasing things, which I had brought with me, for no return whatever, in order to win their affection, and that they might become Christians and inclined to love our King and Queen and Princes and all the people of Spain; and that they might be eager to search for and gather and give to us what they abound in and we greatly need.

1. What does Columbus's letter reveal about Spanish intentions in the New World?

2. What is Columbus's perception of the natives he encountered? Provide an excerpted quote that supports your answer.