

PRE-PROGRAM ACTIVITY: THE AGE OF EXPLORATION GALLERY WALK

Social Studies TEKS:

4th grade: 2A, 2B, 2C, 12C, 21B, 21C, 22A, 22E

5th grade: 1A, 8B, 24B, 24C, 25A, 25E

7th grade: 2B, 2C, 21B, 21C, 22A, 22B

8th grade: 1C, 2A, 2B, 23A, 23D, 29B, 29C, 29J, 30A, 30B

Objective:

Summarize the reasons for and impact of European exploration and colonization in North America.

During this activity students will:

- Identify political, economic and religious reasons for European exploration and colonization in North America
- Describe the achievements of European countries and the explorers they sponsored
- Map the territories of major European powers in the 16th and 17th centuries
- Summarize the impact of exploration and colonization on North America

Materials needed:

- Age of Exploration Gallery Walk Placards and images
- Age of Exploration graphic organizer
- Map pencils or crayons: 5 different colors placed at station #8

Before class begins:

- Hang the Age of Exploration Gallery Walk Placards with their corresponding images in order clockwise around the room, spacing them evenly apart to give students plenty of room between stations. Place at least five different colors of map pencils or crayons at station #8.
- Divide students into 10 small groups and assign each group to a station to begin the gallery walk.
- Based on your students ages and needs, determine how long you would like them to spend at each station (2-4 minutes)

Procedure for Age of Exploration Gallery Walk:

Students will rotate clockwise around the room to each station, summarizing the information from each station on their graphic organizer and map. Students will spend the predetermined amount of time at each station (2-4 minutes) before rotating to the next station. In order for students to pace themselves correctly and have an awareness of the time remaining to complete the task, it is recommended to use a PowerPoint countdown timer (free downloads can be found online). If you use a standard kitchen timer, it is recommended to give a one

minute warning during each rotation. After students have completed the 10 rotations, have students return to their desks for a quick debriefing session about the reasons for exploration and impact of exploration.

Suggested questions for debrief:

- What were some of the reasons for exploration?
- What countries were sending explorers across the ocean?
- In which region of the Americas did (Spain, France, England, Portugal) focus their exploration or colonization?
- Which country appears to have the most territory?
- What were some of the positive effects of exploration? And the negative effects?

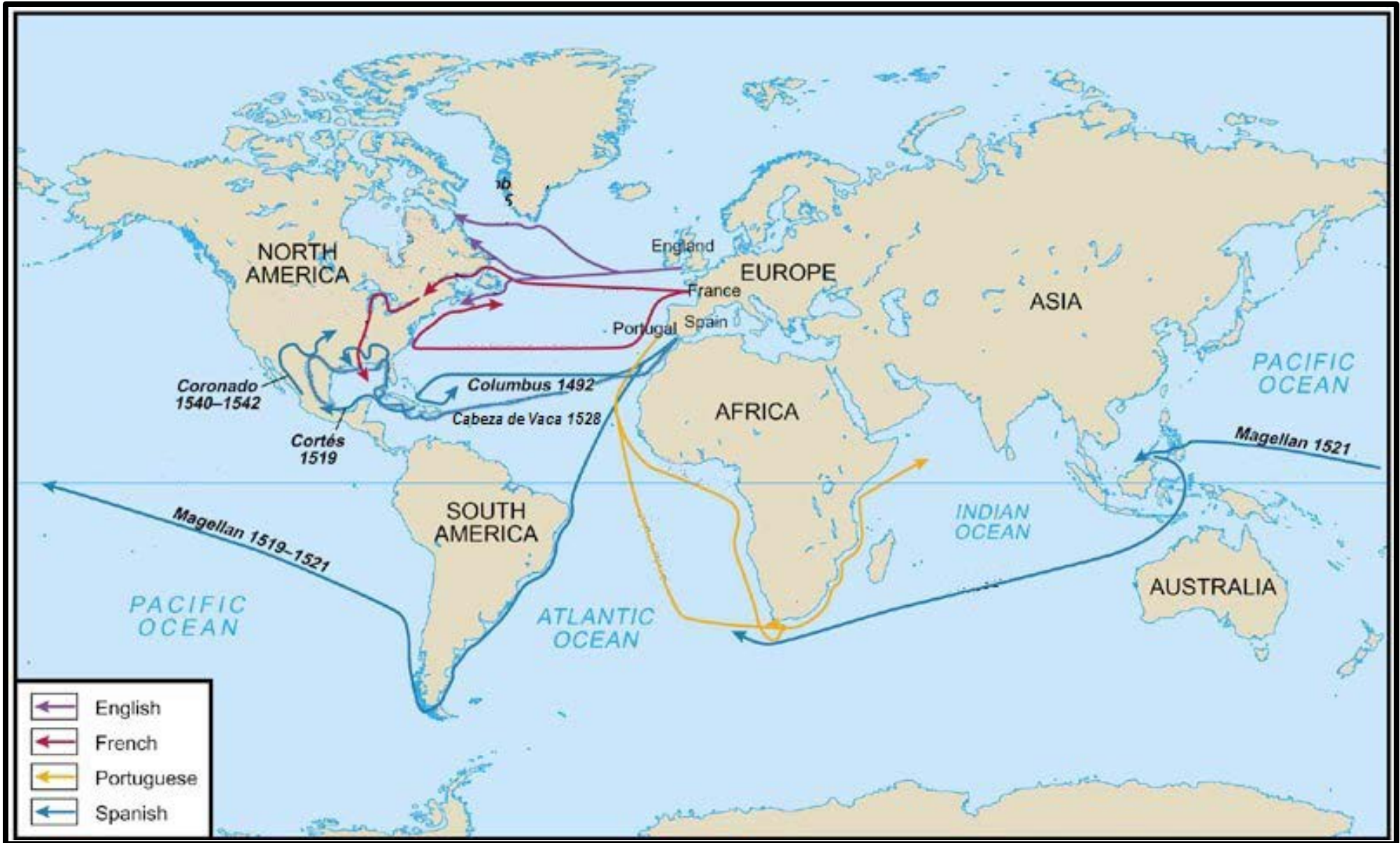
WHY EXPLORE?

Political Reasons

During this time period several countries across Europe were competing to be the most powerful and influential country in the region. Portugal, Spain, the Netherlands, England and France began exploration and colonization in the "New World" to increase their power and influence by gaining more territory, more resources and more wealth. These rulers wanted their country to be the best and most powerful!

Look at the map below: Which country explored the most during this time period?

VOYAGES OF EXPLORATION



WHY EXPLORE?

Economic Reasons

European countries sponsored exploration and colonization in hopes of increasing wealth through trade or discovering valuable natural resources. Many European explorers hoped to find a new sea route to Asia, which would give them direct access to Asia's treasured spices. Once explorers encountered North and South America, European rulers rushed to claim land in the "New World" for its valuable natural resources like gold, silver and furs.

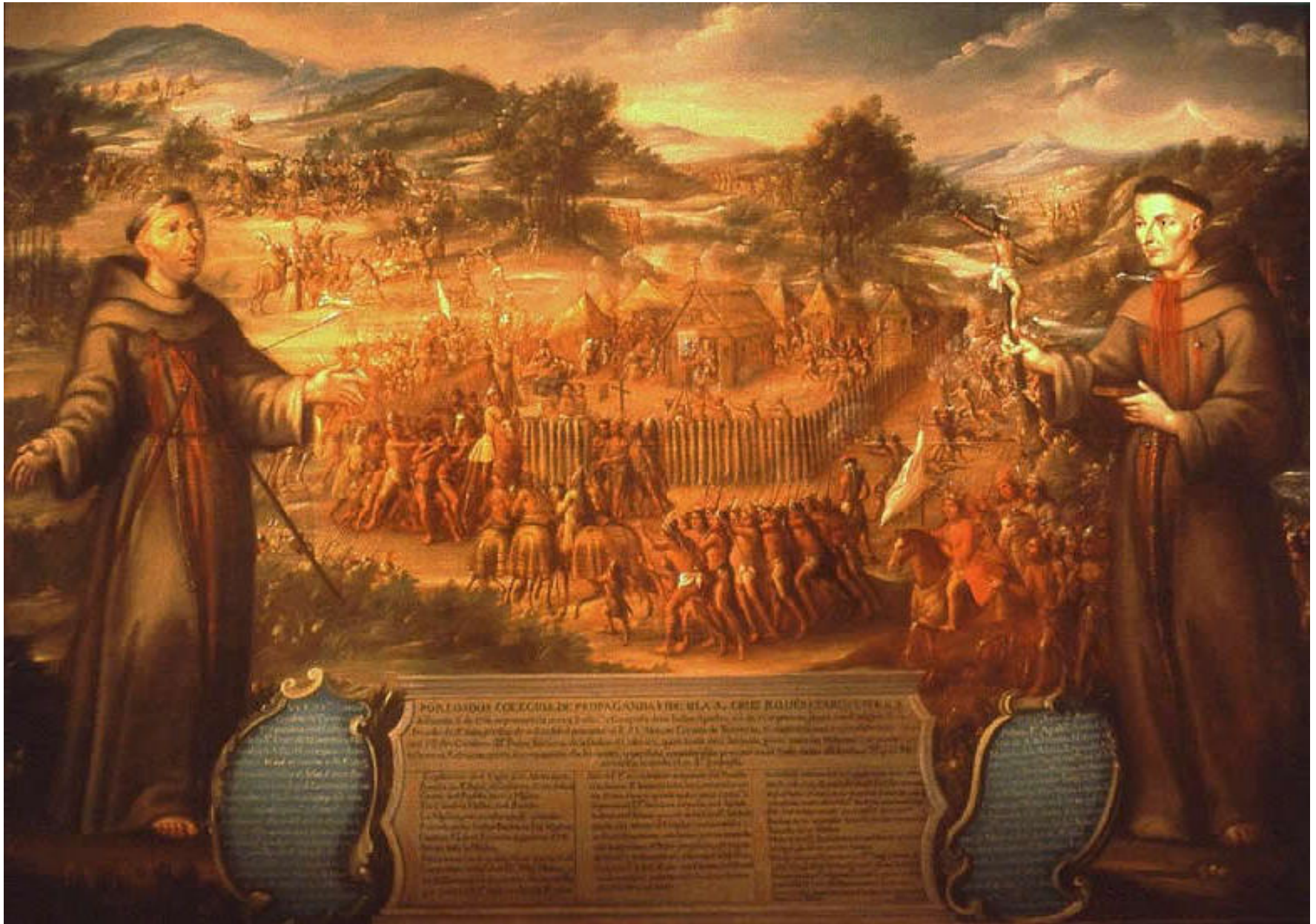


WHY EXPLORE?

Religious Regions

Some European countries, such as Spain, were motivated to spread the Christian religion to the "New World" and the Native Americans living there. The Spanish established missions throughout their territories in North America to convert the native populations to Catholicism and teach them Spanish customs.

Religion also motivated some Europeans to leave Europe for North America. Religious conflicts in England caused many groups seeking religious freedom, like the Puritans, to make settlements in the northeastern part of North America that we now call New England.



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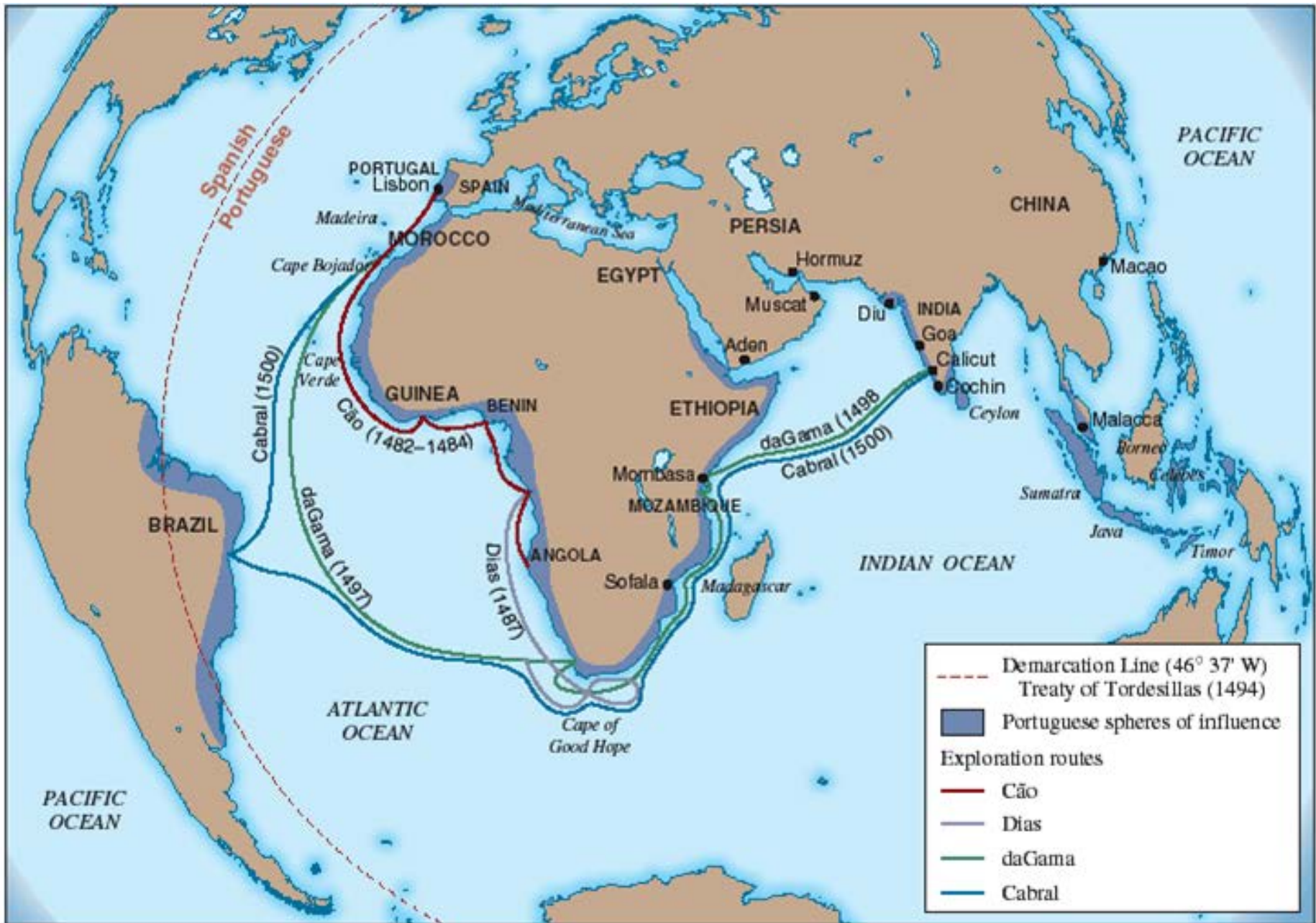
The Destruction of Mission San Sabá in the Province of Texas and the Martyrdom of the Fathers
Alonso Giraldo de Terreros, Joseph Santiesteban, 1765

WHAT DID THEY ACHIEVE?

Portugal

Portugal was the first European country to begin exploration at sea, largely due to the support of Prince Henry "The Navigator." Henry founded a school of navigation for sailors and map makers, and financed some of Portugal's first expeditions. Hoping to find a sea route to Asia's valuable spices, the Portuguese set off to explore the coast of Africa. Portuguese explorers mapped and explored the coasts of Africa, India, Southeast Asia, and Brazil.

PORTUGUESE EXPLORATION AND INFLUENCE



WHAT DID THEY ACHIEVE?

Spain

Spain began their quest for power by funding Christopher Columbus' 1492 expedition to sail west in search of a sea route to Asia. After the Aztec and Inca empires fell to conquistadors Hernán Cortés and Francisco Pizarro, Spain established its own empire that extended from present day Florida and Mexico in North America all the way to present day Chile in South America. The city of Saint Augustine, Florida, considered to be the oldest continuously occupied European settlement in the United States, was established by the Spanish in 1565. The vast Spanish empire held a variety of natural resources, including gold and silver mines.

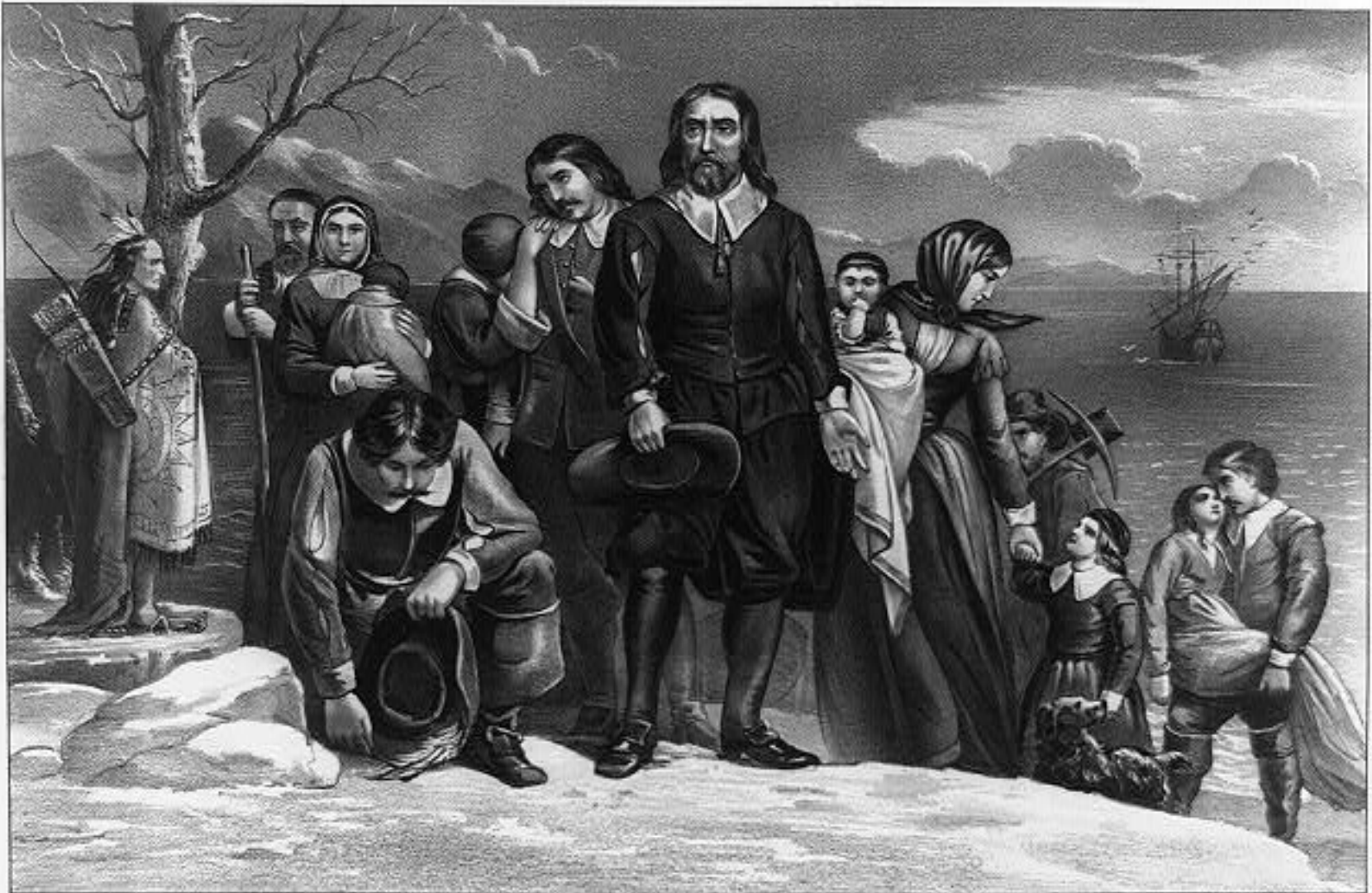


The Capture of Tenochtitlán Image courtesy of Library of Congress

WHAT DID THEY ACHIEVE?

England

Although England sponsored explorer John Cabot to search for a Northwest Passage to Asia, the English focused more on colonization than exploration. The first English settlements in North America were the failed colony at Roanoke, North Carolina, in 1584 and the first successful colony at Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607. After these first colonies on the mid-Atlantic coast, many English settlements such as the Massachusetts Bay Colony were established farther north in the area of New England. Eventually these settlements became known as the Thirteen Colonies and were a great economic asset to England.



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105 NASSAU ST. NEW YORK

THE LANDING OF THE PILGRIMS AT PLYMOUTH, MASS. DEC. 22ND 1620.

The MAYFLOWER left Delft Haven in Holland, Sept. 6TH 1620, and after a boisterous passage of sixty three days anchored within Cape Cod. In her cabin the first Republican Government in America was solemnly inaugurated. That vessel thus became truly the "Cradle of Liberty" rocked on the free waves of the Ocean.

6

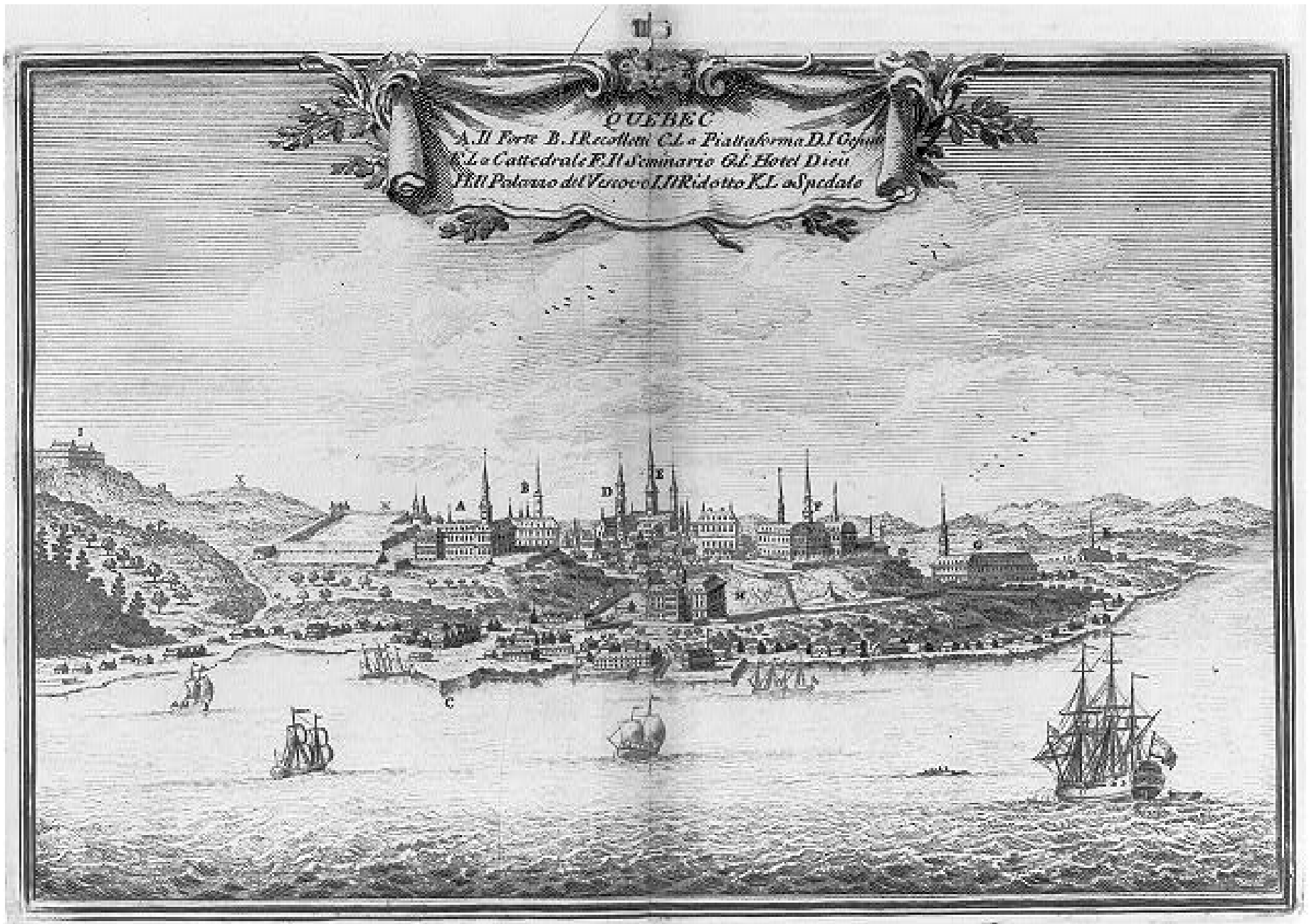
Landing of Pilgrims at Plymouth Rock

Image courtesy of Library of Congress

WHAT DID THEY ACHIEVE?

France

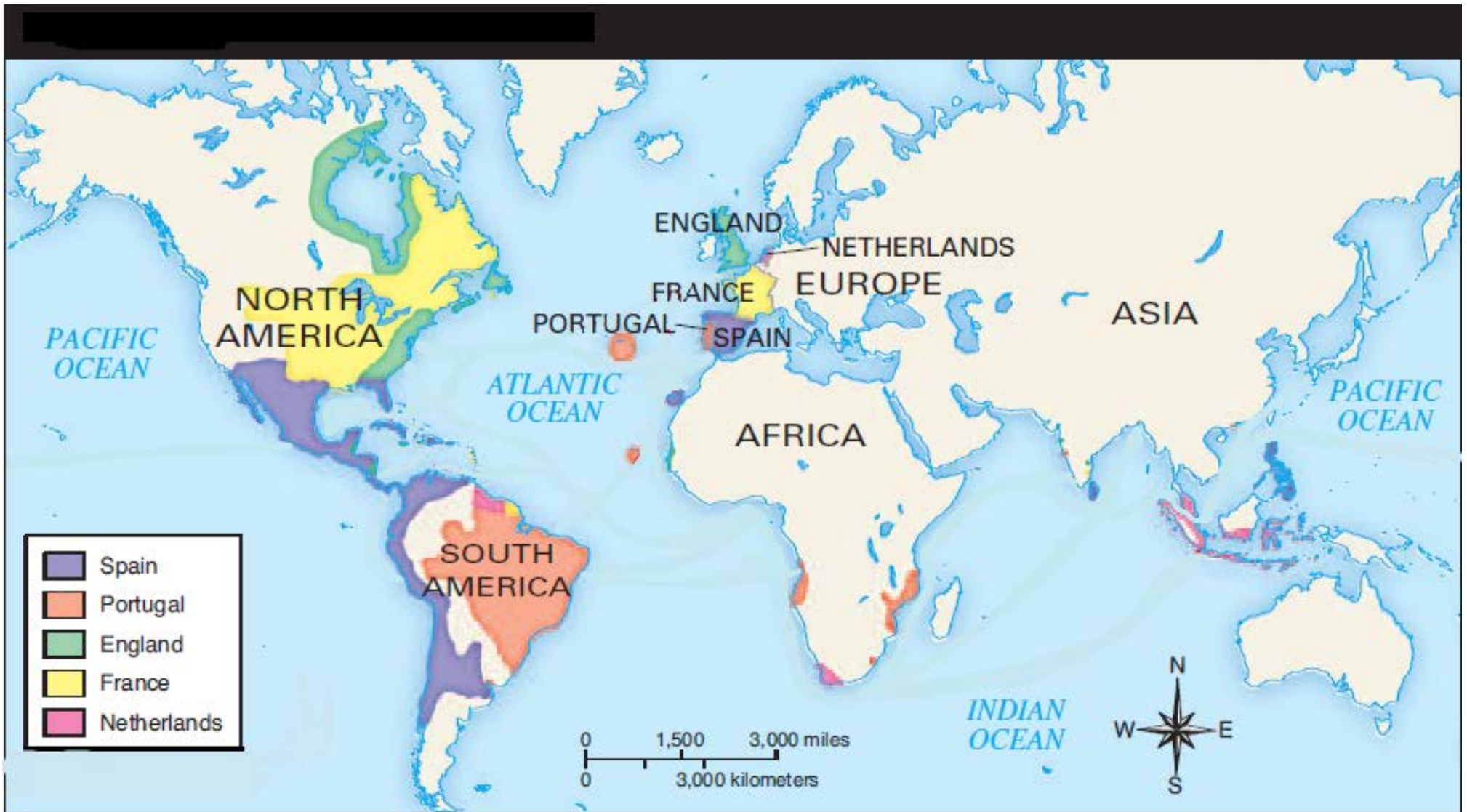
In search of the Northwest Passage to Asia, French explorer Jacques Cartier explored the area of present day Canada and the Great Lakes region, claiming large amounts of territory for France. The first permanent settlement was established in 1608 at Quebec as a headquarters for the profitable fur trade. Another French explorer, René-Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle, claimed the land near the Mississippi River for France. This extended French territorial claims from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico. The French established trading settlements along the Mississippi such as Detroit, St. Louis and New Orleans.



Quebec, 1777 Image courtesy of Library of Congress

WHO CLAIMED WHAT?

Shade your map to show the territory that each country claimed.



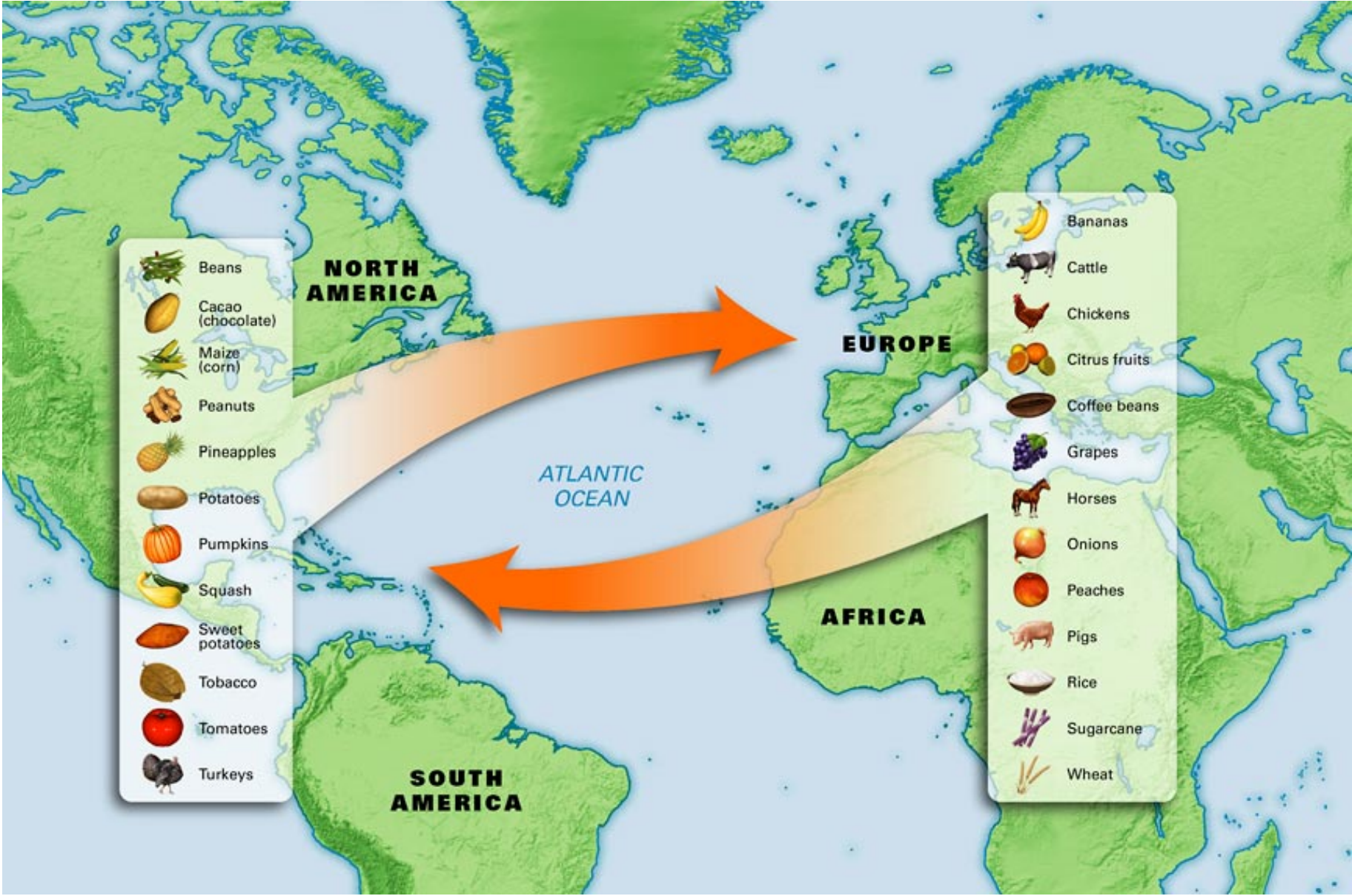
HOW DID EXPLORATION IMPACT THE WORLD?

The Columbian Exchange

When Europeans arrived in North America they introduced many new plants, animals and diseases to the region. Europeans also discovered many new plants and animals in North America and took them back to Europe. This transfer of goods became known as the Columbian Exchange, named after the explorer Christopher Columbus.

Fill in the arrows on your map with some of the items that were exchanged between the Americas and Europe, Asia and Africa.

THE COLUMBIAN EXCHANGE

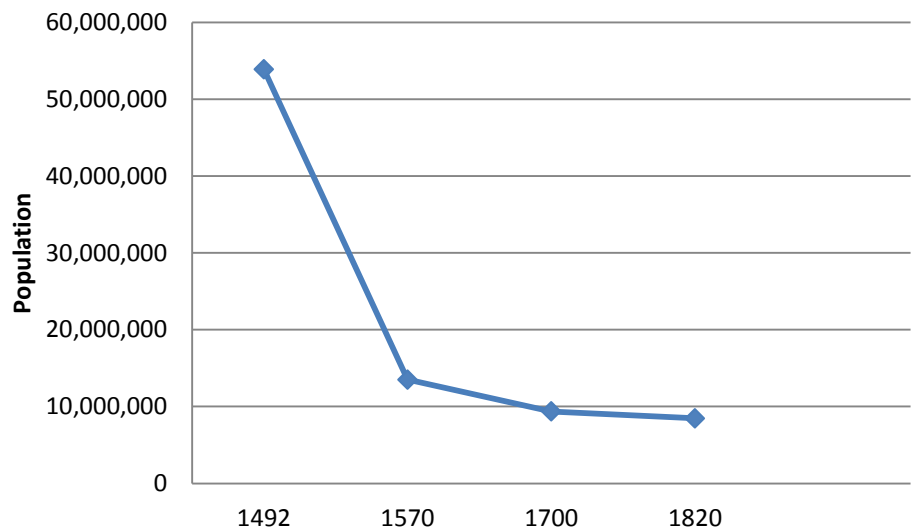


HOW DID EXPLORATION IMPACT THE WORLD?

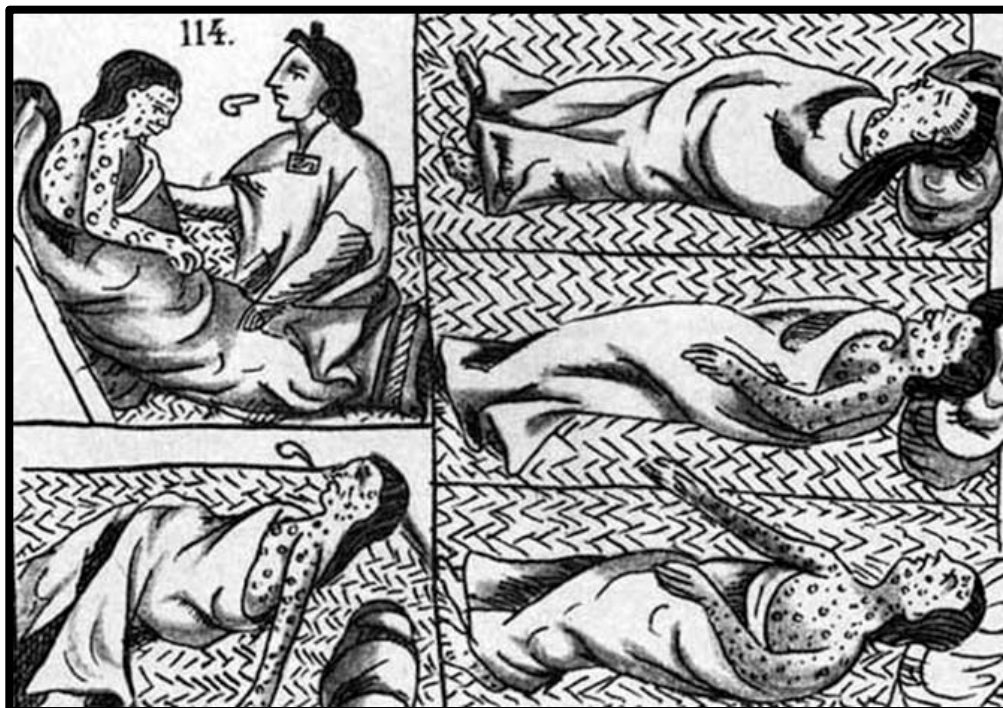
Decline of Native American Populations

Native American populations declined rapidly after Europeans began exploring and colonizing North America. One major reason for this population decrease was the exposure of Native Americans to European diseases such as small pox, measles, mumps and typhus. Native Americans had no immunity to these highly contagious diseases, which spread quickly and caused numerous deaths.

Estimated Native Population of the Americas



Sources: *La población indígena y el mestizaje en América*, "Native Americans and Europeans in English America, 1500-1700," "Indian and colonist demography, 1500-1700," *The Origins of Empire: British Overseas Enterprise to the Close of the Seventeenth Century*, *The World Economy: Historical Statistics*



Smallpox victims in this sixteenth-century Aztec drawing from the Códice Florentino, 1540-1585

WHO CLAIMED WHAT?



- Spain
- Portugal
- England
- France
- Netherlands

WHY EXPLORE?

POLITICAL REASONS

ECONOMIC REASONS

RELIGIOUS REASONS

WHAT DID THEY ACHIEVE?

PORTUGAL

SPAIN

ENGLAND

FRANCE

HOW DID EXPLORATION IMPACT THE WORLD?

AGE OF EXPLORATION RESOURCES

Online Resources

Virginia Mariners Museum:

This website provides detailed information on sailing equipment and significant explorers as well as several interactive, educational games.

<http://exploration.marinersmuseum.org/wp-content/themes/agesofex/games/explorer/>

<http://exploration.marinersmuseum.org/wp-content/themes/agesofex/games/merchants/>

<http://exploration.marinersmuseum.org/type/age-of-discovery/>

History Channel:

An infographic displays information about life at sea during the Age of Exploration

<http://www.history.com/interactives/age-of-exploration>

Crash Course US History Video: Colonizing America

A quick synopsis of the reasons for and effects of colonizing North America. This educational video series is geared towards older students.

[http://www.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/d377ad71-005f-4bb7-b0a1-](http://www.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/d377ad71-005f-4bb7-b0a1-e40a5a85aa39/colonizing-america-crash-course-us-history-2/)

[e40a5a85aa39/colonizing-america-crash-course-us-history-2/](http://www.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/d377ad71-005f-4bb7-b0a1-e40a5a85aa39/colonizing-america-crash-course-us-history-2/)

Books

The World Made New: Why the Age of Exploration Happened and How It Changed the World by Mark Aronson and John W. Glenn

Explorers Who Got Lost by Diane Sansevere-Dreher

Explorers of the New World: Discover the Golden Age of Exploration With 22 Projects (Build It Yourself) by Carla Mooney