

Study Guide - Chapter 1: New World Beginnings, 33,000 B.C.-1769

Theme: The first discoverers of America, the ancestors of the American Indians, were small bands of hunters who crossed a temporary land bridge from Siberia and spread across both North and South America. They evolved a great variety of cultures, which ranged from the sophisticated urban civilizations of Mexico and South America to the seminomadic societies of North America.

Theme: Motivated by economic and technological developments in European society, Portuguese and Spanish explorers encountered and then conquered much of the New World. This “collision of worlds” deeply affected all the Atlantic societies - Europe, the Americas, and Africa - as the effects of disease, conquest, slavery, and intermarriage began to create a truly “new world” in Latin America, including the borderlands of Florida, New Mexico, and California, all of which later became part of the United States.

Summary: Millions of years ago, the two American continents became geologically separated from the Eastern Hemisphere land masses where humanity originated. The first people to enter these continents came across a temporary land bridge from Siberia about 35,000 years ago. Spreading agriculture and hunting. In North America their societies were less numerous and urbanized than in South America, though some peoples like the Pueblo and Iroquois developed complex social orders.

The impetus for European exploration came from the desire for new trade routes to the East, the spirit and technological discoveries of the Renaissance, and the power of the new European national monarchies. The European encounters with America and Africa, beginning with the Portuguese and Spanish explorers, convulsed the entire world. Biological change, disease, population loss, conquest, African slavery, cultural change, and economic expansion were just some of the consequences of the commingling of two ecosystems.

After they conquered and then intermarried with Indians of the great civilizations of South America and Mexico, the Spanish *conquistadors* expanded northward into the northern border territories of Florida, New Mexico, and California. There they established small but permanent settlements in competition with the French and English explorers who also were venturing into North America.

STUDY GUIDE:

A. Identification - Supply the correct identification for each numbered description.

- _____ 1. Extended period when glaciers covered most of the North American continent.
- _____ 2. Staple crop that formed the economic foundation of Indian civilizations
- _____ 3. Important Mississippi culture site, near present East St. Louis, Illinois
- _____ 4. First European nation to send explorers around the west coast of Africa
- _____ 5. Flourishing West African kingdom that had its capital and university at Timbuktu
- _____ 6. Mistaken term that European explorers gave to American lands because of the false belief that they were off the coast of Asia.
- _____ 7. Animal introduced by Europeans that transformed the Indian way of life on the Great Plains
- _____ 8. Among the major European diseases that devastated Native American populations after 1492 (name two)
- _____ 9. Disease originating in Americas that was transmitted to Europeans after 1492
- _____ 10. Treaty that secured Spanish title to lands in Americas by dividing them with Portugal

- _____ 11. Wealthy capital of the Aztec empire
- _____ 12. Person of mixed European and Indian ancestry
- _____ 13. Indian uprising in New Mexico caused by Spanish efforts to suppress Indian religion
- _____ 14. Indian people of the Rio Grande Valley who were cruelly oppressed by the Spanish conquerors.
- _____ 15. Roman Catholic religious order of friars that organized a chain of missions in California.

B. Matching People, Places, and Events - Match the person, place, or event in the left column with the proper description in the right column by inserting the correct letter on the blank line.

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| _____ 1. Ferdinand and Isabella | A. A. Female Indian slave who served as interpreter for Cortes |
| _____ 2. Cortes and Pizarro | B. Legendary founder of the powerful Iroquois Confederacy |
| _____ 3. Lake Bonneville | C. Wealthy capital of the Aztec empire |
| _____ 4. Dias and da Gama | D. Financiers and beneficiaries of Columbus's voyages to the New World |
| _____ 5. Columbus | E. Portuguese navigators who sailed around the African coast |
| _____ 6. Malinche | F. Founded in 1565, the oldest continually inhabited European settlement in United States territory |
| _____ 7. Montezuma | G. Italian-born navigator sent by the English to explore North American coast in 1498 |
| _____ 8. Hiawatha | H. Italian-born explorer who thought that he had arrived off the coast of Asia rather than on unknown continents |
| _____ 9. Tenochtitlan | I. Powerful Aztec monarch who fell to Spanish conquerors |
| _____ 10. St. Augustine | J. Spanish conquerors of great Indian civilizations |
| _____ 11. John Cabot | K. Franciscan missionary who settled California |
| _____ 12. Junipero Serra | L. Inland sea left by melting glaciers whose remnant is the Great Salt Lake. |

C. Putting Things in Order - Put the following events in correct order by numbering them from 1 to 5.

- _____ The wealthy Aztec civilization falls to Cortes.
- _____ Portuguese navigators sail down the west coast of Africa.
- _____ The first human inhabitants cross into North America from Siberia across a temporary land bridge.
- _____ The once-strong Iroquois confederacy divides and collapses.
- _____ Spanish conquerors move into the Rio Grande valley of New Mexico.

D. Matching Cause and Effect - Match the historical cause in the left column with the proper effect in the right column by writing the correct letter on the blank line.

Cause	Effect
_____ 1. The Great Ice Age	A. Rapid expansion of global economic commerce and manufacturing
_____ 2. Cultivation of corn (maize)	B. European voyages around Africa and across the Atlantic attempting to reach Asia
_____ 3. New sailing technology and desire for spices	C. Establishment of Spanish settlements in Florida and New Mexico
_____ 4. Portugal's creation of sugar plantations on Atlantic coastal islands	D. Exposure of a "land bridge" between Asia and North America
_____ 5. Columbus's first encounter with the New World	E. Formation of a chain of mission settlements in California
_____ 6. Native Americas' lack of immunity to smallpox, malaria, and yellow fever	F. A global exchange of animals, plants and diseases
_____ 7. The Spanish conquest of large quantities of New World gold and silver	G. The formation of large, sophisticated civilizations in Mexico and South America
_____ 8. Aztec legends of a returning god, Quetzalcoatl	H. Cortes relatively easy conquest of Tenochtitlan
_____ 9. The Spanish need to protect Mexico against French and English encroachment	I. A decline of 90 percent in the New World Indian population
_____ 10. Franciscan friars' desire to convert Pacific coast Indians to Catholicism	J. The rapid expansion of the African slave trade.

E. Thought Provokers: IN YOUR OWN WORDS, provide a response to each of the following questions that includes references to and discussion of specific evidence from the reading. Your answers may be typed or handwritten and must be given in complete sentences.

1. What were the common characteristics of all Indian cultures in the New World, and what were the important differences among them?
2. What was the impact on the Indians, Europeans, and Africans when each of their previously separate worlds "collided: with one another?
3. In what ways might the European encounter with the Americans be seen as a disaster or tragedy, and in what ways might it be seen as an inevitable development in the history of humanity with long-run positive results?