

# SOCIAL STUDIES NOTES

## Age of Exploration

### Section 1: Exploration and Encounters

#### Lesson 4: Christopher Columbus's Voyage

##### Columbus's Background

1. Christopher Columbus is probably the most Well-known of all European explorers.
2. He was from Genoa, Italy which was a huge center of trade in Europe at that time.
3. Columbus grew up listening to the tales of Sea Captains and the travels of Marco Polo.
4. Columbus is said to have read Marco Polo's book many times.

##### How and Why Columbus Sailed

5. After Portugal began to lead the way in exploration, the country of Spain, Portugal's rival, decided they wanted to beat the rest of Europe, especially Portugal, in finding the shortest water route to India (Asia).
6. Columbus was turned down by his native Italy when he petitioned the king for financial backing to make his journey.
7. Finally, after several years of making his case to Spain, King Ferdinand, and Queen Isabella gave Columbus the money, ships, and crew to set out.
8. Since he knew the world was round, as most people did during this time, Columbus believed if he sailed west across the Atlantic, he would eventually reach India (Asia).
9. He did not know North America and South America were in his way.

##### Columbus Lands in "India"

10. After 5 weeks at sea, Columbus and his crew finally reached land.
11. The land Columbus reached was in what is today called the Bahamas.

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12. The island was called Guanahani by the natives who lived there called the Taino.
13. Columbus renamed the island San Salvador; it remains San Salvador to this day.
14. Since Columbus thought he was in India, he called the natives he met there Indians. The Bahamas are called the "West Indies" because of Columbus's mistake.
15. Later, other explorers would prove Columbus did not reach India, but had indeed discovered two continents previously unknown to Europeans.
16. Until his death in 1506, Columbus refused to accept he had not reached India.

## **Little Known Facts About Columbus\***

17. When Columbus returned to Spain after his first journey there, he took around 500 native people from the island of Guanahani, and what is today Haiti back to Spain as slave gifts to the King and Queen.
18. Columbus made 3 more trips to the Bahamas, and to explore the continent of South America, for a total of 4 trips in all.
19. Columbus never set foot on the continent of North America ~~South America~~ although there is an American holiday for him.
20. Columbus made some of his sons governors of the colonies he made in South America.
21. These sons enslaved many of the native people there, forcing them to work in gold and silver mines.

**\*For more information about Christopher Columbus, or to confirm the information presented in this section, you can Google "Christopher Columbus", or see the following sources:**

-The United Confederation of Taino People [www.uctp.org](http://www.uctp.org)

-American Holocaust by David F. Stannard

-Rethinking Columbus by Bill Bigelow

-In Defense of the Indians: The Journal of Bartolome de Las Casas by Bartolome de Las Casas

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## The Age of Exploration

### Section 1: Explorations and Encounters

#### Lesson 5: The Voyages of Vespucci, Balboa, and Magellan

##### Amerigo Vespucci

1. Amerigo Vespucci looked for evidence that Columbus had reached India, but using his experiences and knowledge, he found that he had actually found two new continents.
2. The continents of North America and South America were named after Amerigo Vespucci, because he proved Columbus wrong.
3. The Americas are named for an explorer who never set foot there. The United States has a holiday for an explorer who never set foot there.

##### Vasco Nunez de Balboa

4. Vasco Nunez de Balboa was the first known European to see the Pacific Ocean.
5. Balboa sailed inland into South America along the Amazon River.
6. Balboa is said to have Wept when he saw the peace and beauty of the Pacific Ocean. It was vastly different from the turbulent Atlantic Ocean.

##### Ferdinand Magellan

7. The first European explorer to sail around the world was Ferdinand Magellan.
8. Magellan left Spain with 250 men. (5 ships)
9. They sailed south around the tip of South America, then west toward Asia.
10. The Pacific Ocean was named by him.
11. The crew developed Scurvy and nearly starved to death. They ate rats and boiled their shoe leather for food. They may have resorted to cannibalism.
12. Only 47 returned to Spain 4 years later.
13. Ferdinand Magellan himself was killed in a battle with natives in the Phillippines, but he is still given Credit for the journey.

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### Section 1: Encounters in the Americas

#### Lesson 6: Juan Ponce de Leon, Francisco Coronado, Hernando de Soto and New Spain

#### Juan Ponce de Leon

1. In addition to Spanish Conquistadors Hernando Cortes and Francisco Pizarro, there was Juan Ponce de Leon.
2. In 1513, a Spaniard named Juan Ponce de Leon sailed to the New World looking for a fountain of youth.
3. People in Europe during this time believed if you drank from this fountain, or bathed in it, you would be young forever.
4. Juan Ponce de Leon, sometimes only called Ponce de Leon thought the fountain was on an island called Cuba.
5. When he was unsuccessful finding it there, he sailed on and landed upon the North American mainland, in what is today Florida.
6. "Florida" is a derivative of "La Florida", which means "Filled with beautiful flowers" in Spanish.
7. Ponce de Leon is the first European to set foot on North America; he also founded the city of St. Augustine in Florida, which is known as the oldest EUROPEAN settlement in the Americas.
8. Ponce de Leon never found the fountain of youth, but he continued to explore and later explored many parts of Florida, Alabama, Georgia, and Mississippi.
9. On one trip back to the Florida/Alabama area, Ponce de Leon engaged in war with a group of Calusa Indians.
10. He was shot with an arrow in the hip and later died.

#### Francisco Coronado

11. The lure of fame and gold continued to tempt many Spanish explorers to come to the Americas.
12. One of them was Francisco Coronado. In 1540, he set out with 300 soldiers, looking for "El Dorado", or the city of gold.

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13. Some Spaniards believed there was a place in the Americas that contained Seven cities of gold.
14. Coronado traveled through the Southwest, creating what was later called the El Camino Real.
15. Later, others would take this road as they traveled Westward from the eastern part of the United States.
16. Coronado claimed the lands he traveled through for Spain, although Native American Indians already lived there.
17. Coronado was the first known European to see the Grand Canyon.
18. Coronado never found "El Dorado" or seven cities of gold. The closest he came was seven mud hogans or huts.

## Hernando de Soto

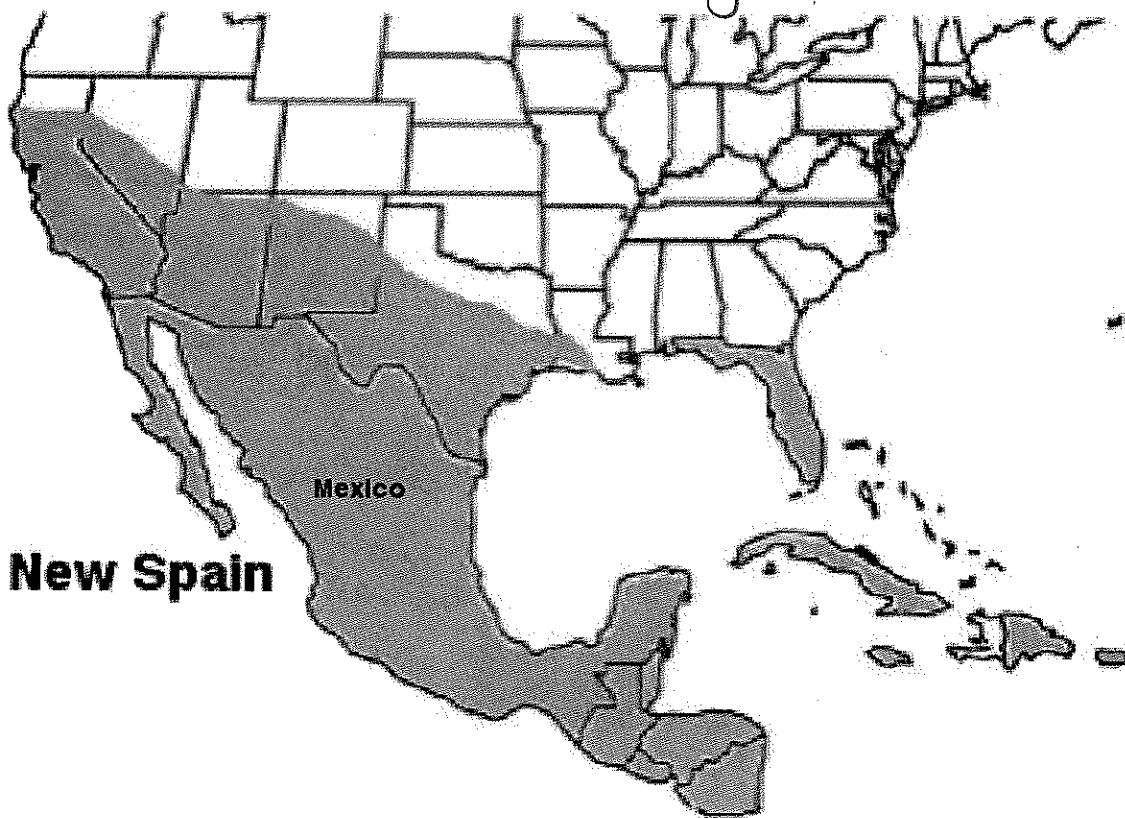
19. Another Spanish explorer, Hernando de Soto, also traveled to the Americas and explored much of what is today the southeastern United States; he claimed the land for Spain.
20. Hernando de Soto was with Francisco Pizarro when he destroyed the Incan Empire.
21. De Soto was the first European to see the Mississippi River.
22. De Soto was very cruel to the Native American Indians he encountered.
23. In a battle with some of them, de Soto was killed.
24. His men buried him in the Mississippi River.

## "New Spain"

25. In the late 1500s, Spanish exploration began to settle down.
26. However, there were many Spanish colonies in the Americas that had been created and "given" by the King of Spain as gifts to those with power and influence.
27. Although these colonies were in North and South America, they were collectively called New Spain.
28. Few Spanish colonists came to New Spain to begin a new life; most came to pillage silver and gold and become wealthy.

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29. They set up huge plantations, and used enslaved Native American Indians to both farm the plantations and mine for the silver and gold.
30. After most of the enslaved Indians died from overwork and disease, the Spanish looked for another labor force.
31. The Spanish colonists began to enslave people captured by their own people and sold in Africa.
32. This is how slavery began in the United States. These enslaved people were brought to the New Spain against their will.
33. Now that North and South America had been discovered and colonized, Europeans were still hungry to find a shorter water route to India. This was known as the Northwest Passage.



**Spain** rewarded many of the **conquistadors** by giving them land in the Americas. Most of the land was in **Mexico**. The Spaniards called Mexico, **New Spain**.