

What It Is:

You and the members of your group will be responsible for presenting the information on one slide of the following Keynote presentation.



Explorers Presentations Activity

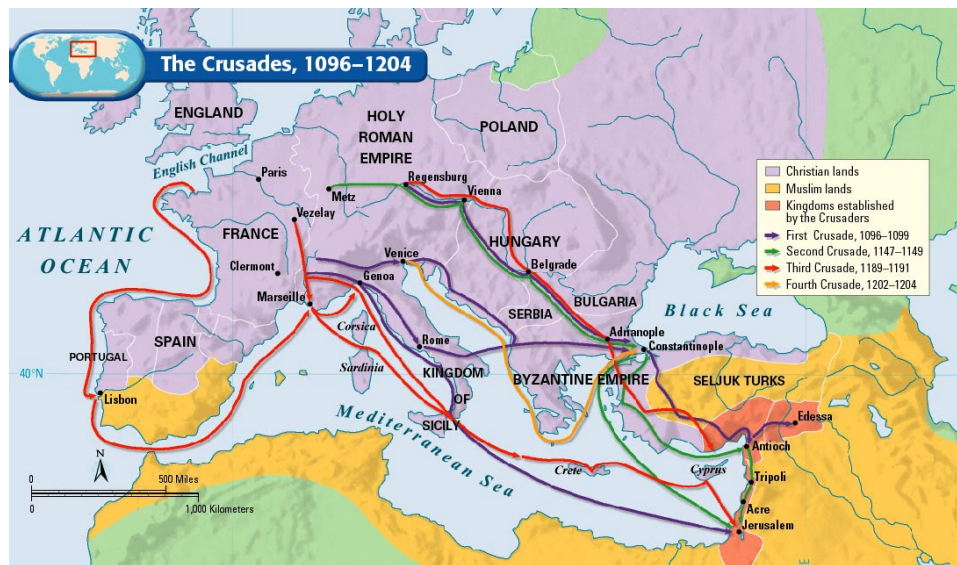
Directions:

Work within your group to summarize the main points of your slide.

Then decide what the other students will need to write on your slide.

Each member of your group must have a speaking part.

Europe Explores the Americas



The Crusades brought Europeans into contact with Arab civilizations in the Middle East
the Europeans began buying luxury goods Arab traders obtained from East Asia:
spices, sugar, tapestries, silk, and other items
the trade route from the East was a long, difficult, land-based path through Asia
Europeans wanted to find another way to acquire trade goods from the East

Christopher Columbus



Portugal, Spain, England, and France began financing exploration, hoping to find a new route to Asia

Christopher Columbus believed he could find a trade route to Asia by sailing west

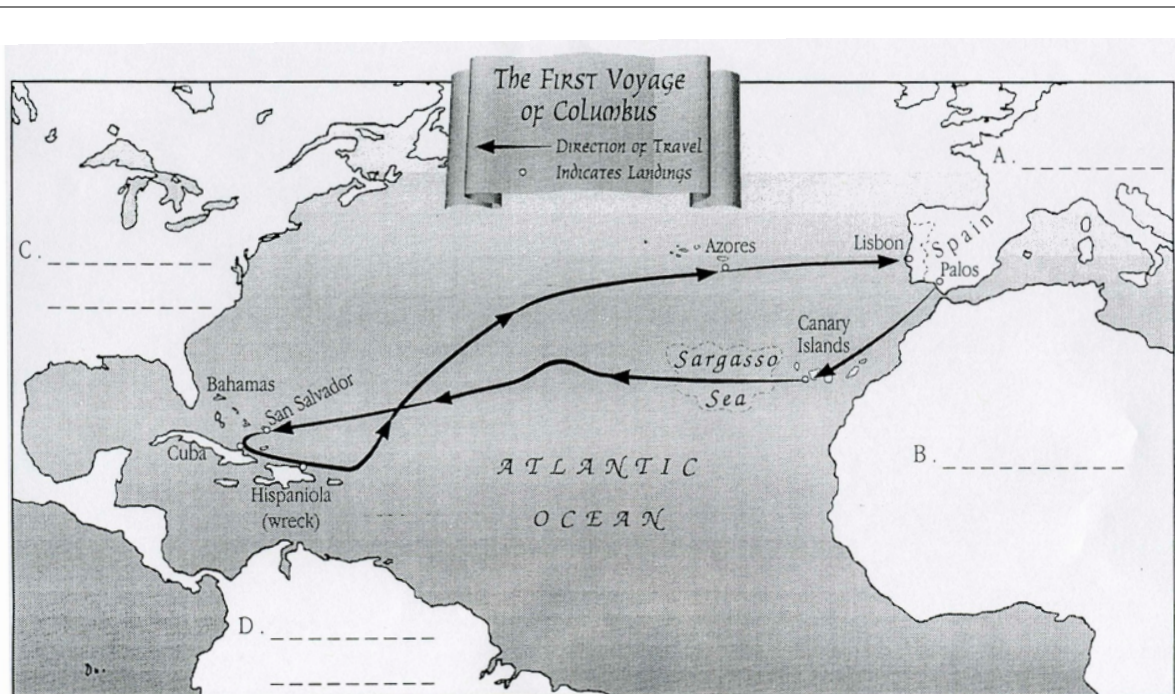
in 1492 Spain's King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella agreed to finance Columbus's voyage

Columbus and his three ships - the Niña, the Pinta, and the Santa María - left Spain in August 1492

they reached the Bahamas in October and traveled on to the islands of Cuba and Hispaniola

in March 1493, Columbus returned to Spain with gold, parrots, spices, and Native Americans

Columbus sailed back across the Atlantic three more times, mapping part of the coastline of South America and Central America



Label the following locations on the map above:

North America

South America

Europe

Africa

A Letter From Christopher Columbus

1 In thirty-three days I passed from the Canary Islands to the Indies. I
2 found very many islands filled with people . . . and of them all I have
3 taken possession for Their Highnesses, by proclamation . . . and no
4 opposition was offered to me.
5 This island and all the others . . . are most beautiful . . . filled with trees of
6 a thousand kinds and tall, and they seem to touch the sky. And I am told
7 that they never lose their foliage . . . I saw them as green and as lovely as
8 they are in Spain in May, and some of them were flowering, some bearing
9 fruit.
10 They [the Indians] have no iron or steel or weapons, nor are they fitted to
11 use them . . . because they are very marvelously timorous. After they have
12 been reassured and have lost their fear, they are . . . so generous . . . They
13 never refuse anything which they possess.
14 As soon as I arrived in the Indies, in the first island which I found I took
15 by force some of them, in order that they might learn and give me
16 information of that which there is in those parts. And so it was they soon
17 understood us, and we them, either by speech or signs, and they have been
18 very serviceable. I still take them with me. They are always assured that
19 I come from Heaven . . . they were the first to announce this wherever I
20 went . . . with loud cries of, "Come! Come to see the people from Heaven!"
21 I have taken possession of a large town, to which I gave the name Villa
22 de Navidad. And in it I have made fortifications and a fort . . . I have
23 left in it sufficient men . . . with arms and artillery and provisions for
24 more than a year.
25 I will give them as much gold as they may need, if Their Highnesses will
26 render me very slight assistance; moreover, spice and cotton . . .

El Almirante

Bartolomé de las Casas Criticizes Spanish Cruelty



ABOUT THE SOURCE In the 1500s Spanish explorers conquered a vast empire in the Americas. These conquistadors came to the New World to find wealth, spread Christianity, and win fame. In pursuing these goals, some Spanish explorers brutalized the native population. The arrival of the Spanish meant death or enslavement for millions of Native Americans. The passage below was written by a Spanish priest who observed the cruelty firsthand.



As you read note the specific words de las Casas uses to describe the actions of the Spanish. The following words may be new to you: **iniquity**, **perpetrators**, **solemnity**. You may want to use a dictionary to look them up.

New Spain was discovered in 1517. The explorers treated the inhabitants offensively and murdered some Indians. Under the guise of developing the country, the Christians (as they call themselves) in 1518 engaged in plunder and slaughter. From 1518 until the present day, and it is now 1542, the **iniquity**, injustice, violence, and tyranny that the Spanish have committed against the Indians has escalated as the **perpetrators** lost all fear of God and the King and all self-respect as well . . .

During the 12 years, the Spanish killed more than four million men, women, and children with swords and lances, and by burning people alive . . . This does not count those who have died, and continue to die every day, from the slavery and the oppression that the Spanish impose . . .

Among other massacres perpetrated by the Spanish was one that took place in Cholula, a city with thirty thousand inhabitants. Dignitaries and priests from the city and the surrounding countryside greeted the Spanish with great **solemnity** and respect, and escorted them into the city and lodged them in the homes of the local nobility. The Spanish decided to stage a massacre—or a "chastisement" as they call it—in order to terrorize the population.

To accomplish this, the Spanish summoned the local dignitaries. As soon as they arrived to hold talks with the Spanish commander, they were taken captive and had no opportunity to warn others. Then the Spanish demanded five or six thousand Indians to carry their loads . . . Once these poor wretches assembled in the courtyard, guards blocked the gates while Spanish soldiers slaughtered the Indians with swords and lances.

Bartolomé de las Casas



PENGUIN CLASSICS

BARTOLOMÉ DE LAS CASAS

A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies

Cortez and the Aztecs

In 1519 a Spaniard named Hernán Cortés sailed from Cuba to explore the Yucatán Peninsula



Cortés and his men attacked,
killing 6,000 Aztecs

*[the local people were very scared -
they'd never seen caucasians or horses before!]*

the Aztecs and their emperor, Montezuma,
believed Cortés was a god

afraid, they allowed them to enter their
capital, Tenochtitlán, which had more than
200,000 residents

Cortés had statues of Aztec gods replaced
with Christian crosses and images of the
Virgin Mary

at least 450 Spaniards and more than 4,000
Aztecs died by the time the fighting ended
thousands more died later from smallpox

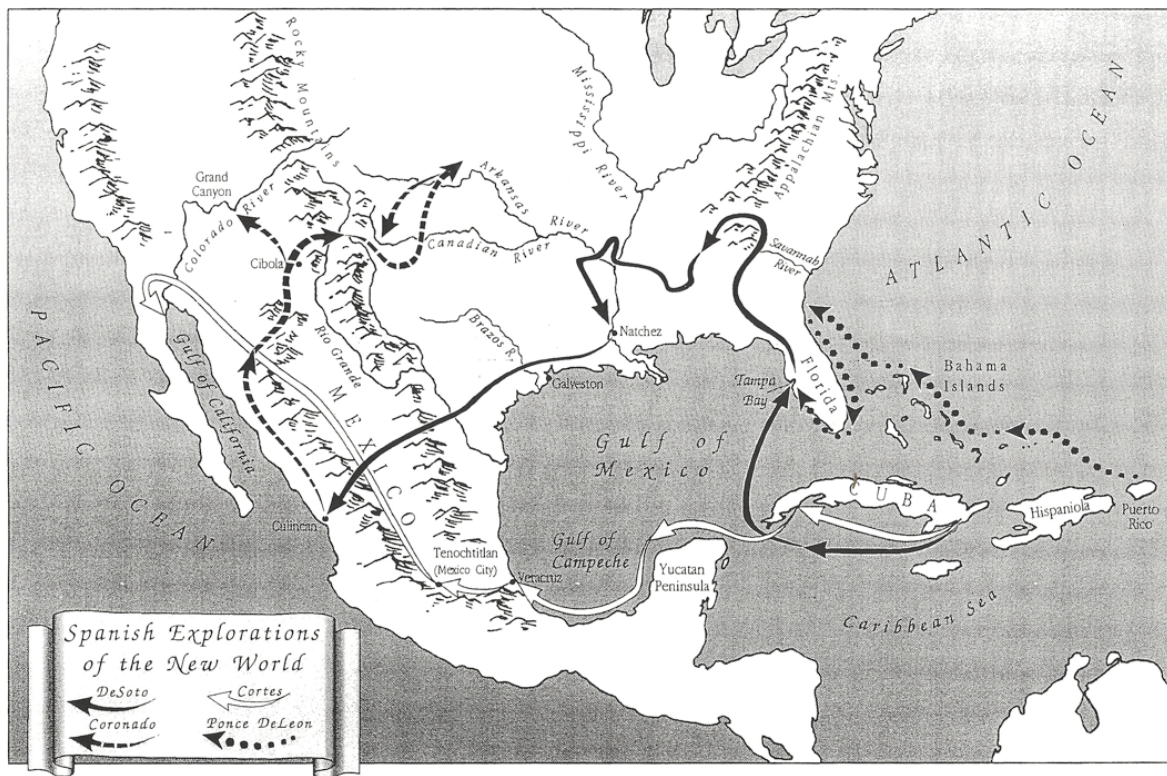
in 1521 Cortés returned with reinforcements and destroyed the city of Tenochtitlán

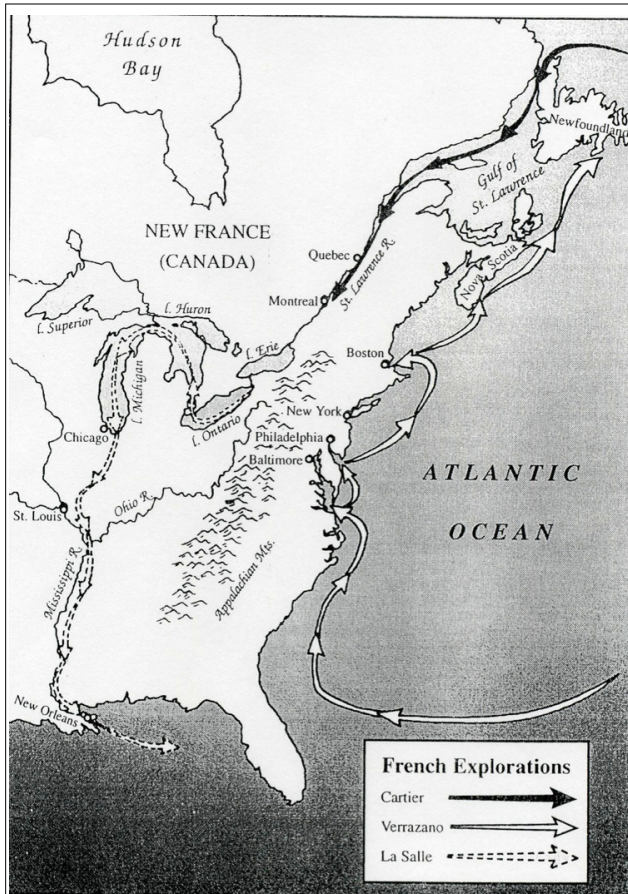
on its ruins, the Spanish built Mexico City, which became the capital of the colony of New Spain

Cortés then sent several expeditions to take over the rest of Central America

he men who led these expeditions became known as conquistadors, or “conquerors”

EXPLORATIONS OF THE USA'S SOUTH AND SOUTHWEST





French Explorations of North America

in 1524 France sent Giovanni da Verrazano to find the Northwest Passage - the hoped-for northern route through North America to the Pacific Ocean
(he didn't find it)

in 1534 French explorer Jacques Cartier explored and mapped the St. Lawrence River

in 1608 Samuel de Champlain founded Quebec
(became the capital of the colony of New France)

most of the French settlers were fur traders who lived among the Native Americans

in 1673 Louis Jolliet and Jacques Marquette found a waterway the Algonquian people called the "big river" - the Mississippi

in 1682 René de La Salle followed the Mississippi to the Gulf of Mexico and claimed the region for France, naming it Louisiana for King Louis XIV

Dutch Explorations of North America

in 1609 Henry Hudson also tried to locate the Northwest Passage
instead, he found a wide river (now the Hudson River)

the Dutch claimed the region and named it New Netherland
they established a settlement named New Amsterdam on Manhattan Island



like New France, the economy of New Netherland was focused on the fur trade
as late as 1646, New Netherland still only had about 1,500 people