

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.



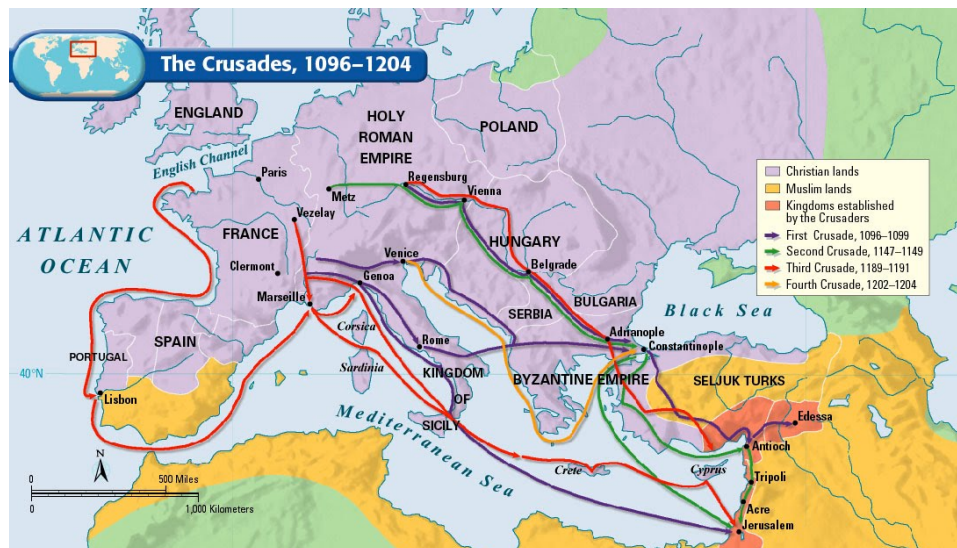
Directions:

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.

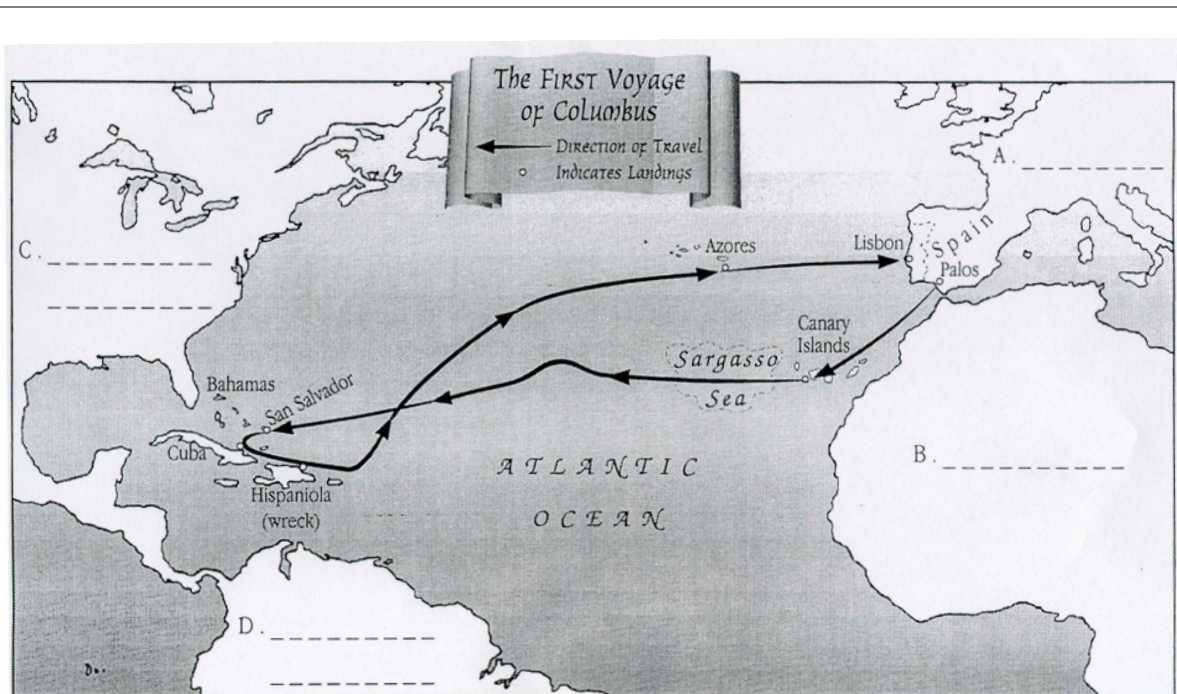
Each member of your group must have a speaking part.

Europe Explores the Americas



Christopher Columbus





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



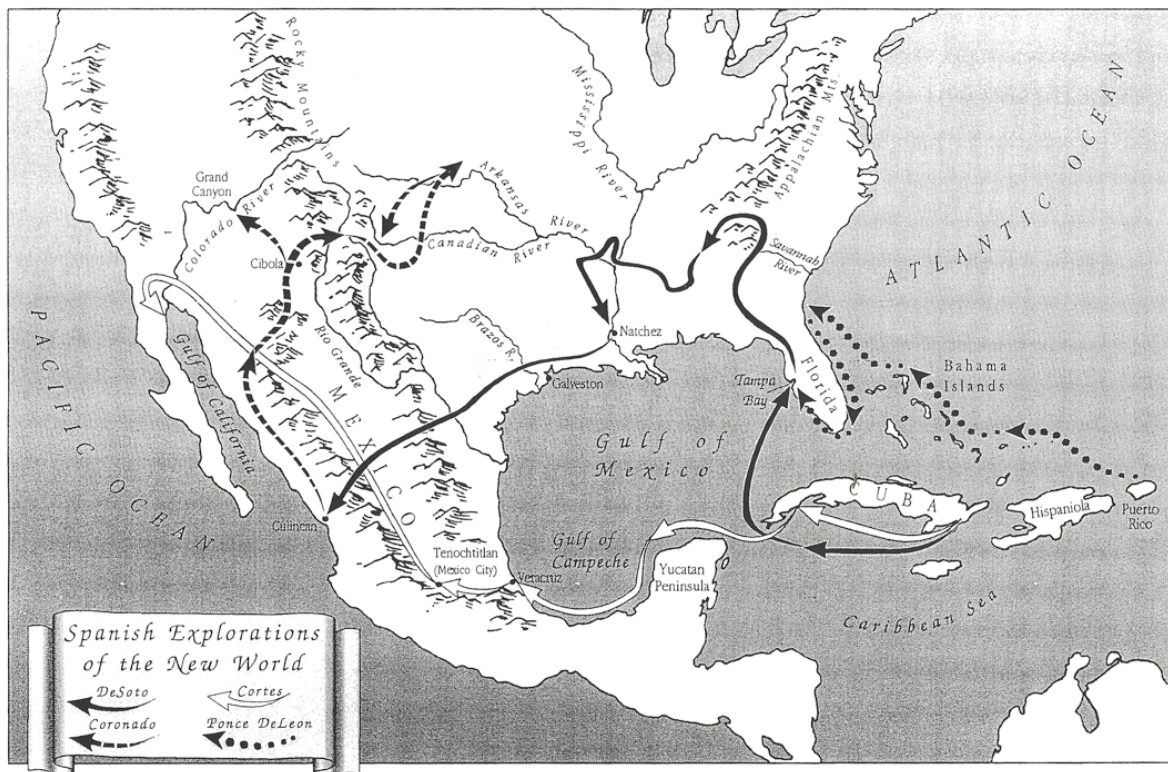
BARTOLOMÉ DE LAS CASAS

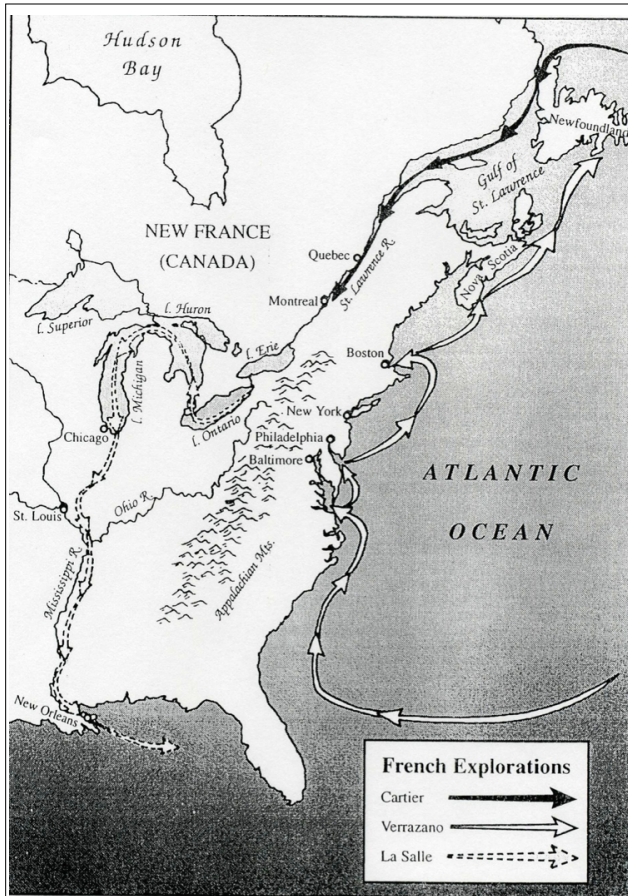
A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies

Cortez and the Aztecs



EXPLORATIONS OF THE USA'S SOUTH AND SOUTHWEST





French Explorations of North America

Dutch Explorations of North America