

Conquistadors

-- Spanish Exploration and Colonization --

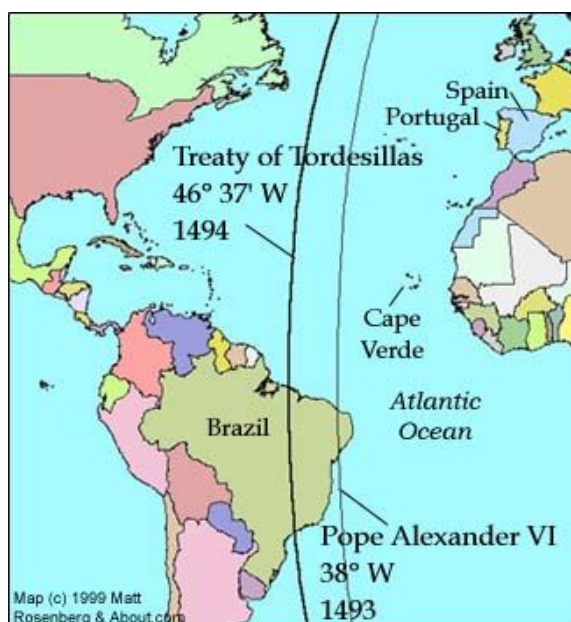
VOCABULARY:

- Conquistadors - a conqueror; someone who takes control of a place or people.
Examples: the Spanish conquerors of Mexico and Peru in the 1500s.
 1. Hernán Cortés - conquered the Aztec Empire in Mexico in 1521
 2. Francisco Pizzaro - conquered the Inca Empire in Peru in 1532
- Encomiendas - large plantations
- Encomienda System - a system created by the Spanish to control American Indian labor and behavior during the colonization of the Americas. The king of Spain gave land and Indians (Native Americans) to individual Spaniards.
- Line of Demarcation - a vertical north-south line on a world map, giving Spain all lands west of the line, and Portugal all lands east of the line.

PERU



LINE DIVIDING TERRITORY



Dividing the New World

Spain and Portugal were the first kingdoms to lay claim to territories in the New World. The Catholic monarchs of both countries turned to the pope in Rome to help settle their dispute over the ownership of newly discovered lands. In 1493, the pope drew a vertical, north-south line on a world map, giving Spain all lands to the west of the line and Portugal all lands to the east.

In 1494, the two disputing kingdoms signed a treaty (or agreement) called the Treaty of Tordesillas, which moved the line a few degrees to the west. The line passed through what is now Brazil. This helped establish Portugal's claim to Brazil. Spain claimed the rest of the Americas.

Spanish Exploration and Conquest

Spanish dominance in the Americas was based on more than a treaty and a line of demarcation. Spain owed its power in the New World to the efforts of explorers and conquerors. Feats such as the journey across the Isthmus of Panama to the Pacific Ocean by Vasco Nunez de Balboa, the circumnavigation of the world by one of Ferdinand Magellan's ships, and the conquests of the Aztecs in Mexico by Hernán Cortés and of the Incas in Peru by Francisco Pizarro secured Spain's initial supremacy in the New World.

The conquistadores sent ships loaded with gold and silver back to Spain from the New World. They increased the gold supply by over 500 percent, making Spain the richest and most powerful nation in Europe. Other nations were encouraged to turn to the Americas in search of wealth and power. After seizing the wealth of the Indian empires, the Spanish turned to an encomienda system, with the king of Spain giving grants of land and Indians (Native Americans) to individual Spaniards. These Indians had to farm or work in the mines. The fruits of their labors went to their Spanish masters, who in turn had to "care" for them. When Europeans' brutality and diseases reduced Native American population, The Spanish brought slaves from West Africa

under the asiento system. This required the Spanish to pay a tax to their king on each slave they imported to the Americas.

BRAINPOP: CONQUISTADOR NOTES

**** Main Idea** - *Who* conquered the Inca and the Aztec? And *How* did they manage to defeat such powerful civilizations?

- In 1532, the Spanish explorer _____ defeats the Inca Emperor.
- Pizarro was a _____ .
- The _____ were European soldiers and adventurers who traveled to the Americas to colonize it.
- In the 1500s, they took over most of Latin America.
- They were generally violent with the native people that they encountered.
- Thousands were murdered and thousands were forced into _____ .
- Columbus's arrival in the New World opened the door for more Europeans to follow him.
- The Americas had lots of natural resources - (such as Gold and Silver!)
- Conquistadors wanted to gain _____ and _____. They also fought for the glory of their home countries.
- They were sponsored by Kings and Queens who were hungry for money and power.
- European countries were competing against each other to form the biggest, richest Empire.
- They set up American _____ as fast as they could.
- Whoever go the most _____ and the most _____ could dominate the other countries.
- The conquistadors wanted to convert native people to Christianity because they thought they needed to be saved.
- Pizzaro had fewer than 200 soldiers, and the Incas outnumbered them 10 to 1.
- But he had steel swords, horses and firearms, while the Incas only had _____ and stone _____ .
- Europeans had also been exposed to Smallpox for hundreds of years. But, the people living in the New World had never been exposed to them. The natives died because of this disease.
- In 1521, _____ defeated the Aztec Empire in Mexico.
- Smallpox killed many Aztecs. Cortés defeated the Aztecs because of this and because of a strong military strategy.
- Once the native people were conquered, their lands became _____ .

- Most people in Latin America speak Spanish or Portuguese today.
- The Spanish empire became the largest and most powerful in the world.

BRAINPOP: ABOUT THE AZTEC EMPIRE

- The Aztec Civilization was a powerful society that dominated central Mexico from 1428 -1521
- It was a civilization made of people from different tribes with unique cultures and backgrounds.
 - The “Aztecs” all spoke the same language: Nahuatl
- The Mexicas expanded the Aztec Empire in the 1400s and allowed the people they controlled to keep their customs and culture
- Aztec society was highly advanced
 - They were skilled farmers
 - They had thriving trade and commerce
 - They loved art: poetry and song
- Worshipped many Gods that represented parts of the natural world
- In 1519, Hernán Cortés **arrives in Peru on an expedition**
- **The Peruvian leader, Moctezuma welcomed Cortés**
- Cortés **formed alliances with local tribes who were enemies with the Aztecs**
- **Smallpox killed almost half of the Aztecs**
- **In 1521, Cortés and his allies destroyed the Aztec Empire**
- **This was the end of the Aztec Empire and the beginning of the Spanish conquest**
- they took land from Central Mexico all the way to Costa Rica.

BRAINPOP: ABOUT THE INCA EMPIRE

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