

UNIT 2: THE AGE OF COLONIZATION

Major Topics:

European Colonization of New World
Monarchs
13 Colonies & other New World Colonies
Trans Atlantic Slave Trade

Unit Information:

Era: 1400's-1700's
Length of Unit: 1-2 Weeks
Prior Unit: Age of Exploration
Next Unit: Age of Revolutions

Essential Questions:

- What factors motivated colonization among European countries?
- What geographical features were beneficial for colonization? Why?
- How did colonization increase the power of European monarchs and decrease the power of indigenous cultures?
- In what ways did colonization affect the economies of European and colonized nations?
- What cultural beliefs did Europeans use to justify their colonization of peoples throughout the world?

Learning Objectives:

- H.2.1 - Competition for economic resources led Europeans into conflict with each other and the indigenous people in order to maintain trade, gather natural resources, and establish colonies.
- G.1.1 - Coastal areas, as well as those rich in natural resources and arable land, were colonized quickly by European powers.
- C&G.1.4 - Power derived from the European monarchs and religion enabled the establishment of political superiority and exclusion of indigenous people and allowed them to enforce new social hierarchies.
- E.1.1 - Various European countries competed for natural resources and labor by establishing colonies in Africa, India and the New World.
- C.1.1 - European powers justified their domination of people and places around the world with a sense of cultural superiority.

Essential Standards:

- H.2.1 - Analyze the effects of social, economic, military and political conflict among nations, regions, and groups (e.g. war, genocide, imperialism and colonization).
- G.1.1 - Explain how environmental conditions and human response to those conditions influence modern societies and regions (e.g. natural barriers, scarcity of resources and factors that influence settlement)
- C&G.1.4 - Compare the sources of power and governmental authority in various societies (e.g. monarchs, dictators, elected officials, anti-governmental groups and religious, political factions)
- E.1.1 - Explain how competition for resources affects the economic relationship among nations (e.g. colonialism, imperialism, globalization and interdependence)
- C.1.1 - Explain how culture unites and divides modern societies and regions (e.g. enslavement of various peoples, caste system, religious conflict and Social Darwinism).