

Exploring the Americas

Lesson 3 Spain in America

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

What are the consequences when cultures interact?

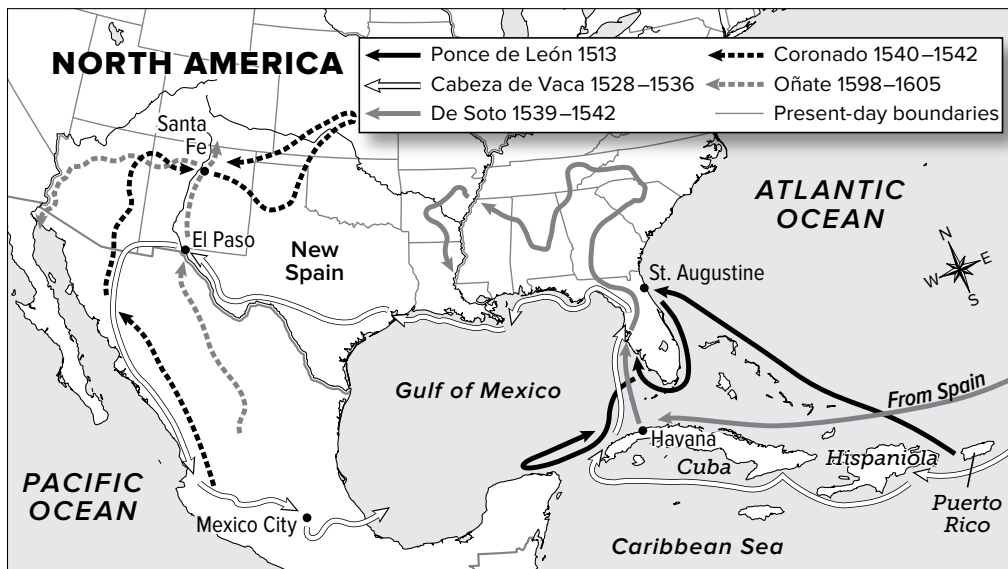
GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. *What were the goals of early Spanish explorers?*
2. *What did Spain hope to find in the Americas?*
3. *What effect did Spanish rule have on society?*

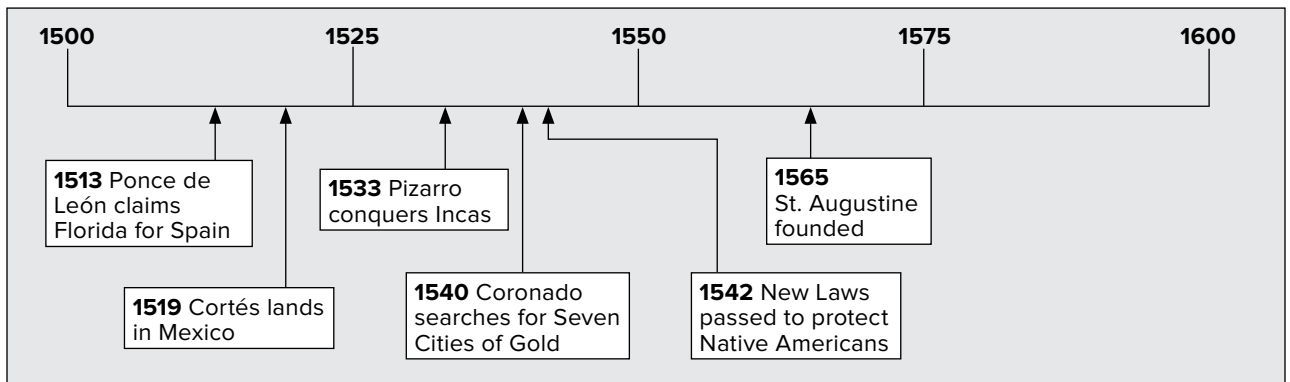
Terms to Know

- conquistador** Spanish explorer
immunity resistance, such as to a disease
pueblo a town in the Spanish-ruled lands
mission a religious community where farming was carried out and Native Americans were converted to Christianity
presidio a fort
plantation a large farm

Where in the world?



When did it happen?



Exploring the Americas

Lesson 3 Spain in America, *Continued*

European Explorers and Conquerors

Early Spanish explorers were known as **conquistadors**, or conquerors. Their main goal was to find riches. Spanish rulers gave them the right to explore and settle in the Americas. The conquistadors would give the rulers part of the wealth they found.

The Aztec Empire was in the area that is present-day Mexico and Central America. The Inca Empire was in present-day Peru. Both of these empires were very wealthy.

Hernán Cortés was a conquistador. He landed on the east coast of Mexico in 1519. He conquered the Aztec Empire by 1521. Cortés took gold from the Aztec. He shipped great amounts of gold back to Spain. In 1533 conquistador Francisco Pizarro led an army into the Inca capital city, Cuzco. He killed the Inca leader and took control of the Inca Empire.

Spanish armies were much smaller than the Aztec or Inca armies. Still, they won. There were three main reasons for this:

- The Spanish had many weapons, many which Native Americans had never seen.
- Many Native Americans helped the Spanish fight their Aztec rulers.
- Native Americans were weakened by European diseases for which they had no **immunity**, or resistance.

Spain in North America

Not everyone in the Spanish Empire was a conquistador. One important figure of the time was Juana Inés de la Cruz. She became a very famous writer at a time when women were not often taught to read. She is still considered one of the greatest Mexican writers of the colonial days.

News of the riches that Cortés and Pizarro found spread in Europe. Other conquistadors came to search for riches in the Americas.

 **Reading Check**

1. How were the Spanish able to conquer the Aztec Empire and the Inca Empire?

 **Determining Cause and Effect**

2. How did the success of Cortés and Pizarro affect later explorations of the Americas?

 **Marking the Text**

3. Underline the sentences that describe the accomplishments of Juana Inés de la Cruz.

Exploring the Americas

Lesson 3 Spain in America, *Continued*

Reading Check

4. What can you conclude about the Seven Cities of Gold?

Contrasting

5. How was a pueblo different from a mission?

Explorer	Year	Achievement
Juan Ponce de León	1513	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> landed on Florida coast established first Spanish settlement in modern United States searched for the “Fountain of Youth”
Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca	1528	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sailed south toward Mexico spent time in present-day Texas told his eager audience a legend about “Seven Cities of Gold”
Hernando de Soto	1541	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> searched for “Seven Cities of Gold” crossed Mississippi River got as far west as Oklahoma
Francisco Vásquez de Coronado	1540	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> searched for “Seven Cities of Gold” wound up in present-day Kansas

Life Under Spanish Rule

In 1598 Juan de Oñate (day ohn • YAH • tay) traveled north from Mexico. He started the province of New Mexico. He established Santa Fe in 1607. Santa Fe was the first Spanish city there. It became the province capital in 1610.

Spanish law called for three kinds of settlements in their colonies: **pueblos**, **missions**, or **presidios**.

pueblo	town, trading center
mission	religious community, including a small town, surrounding farmland, a church; goal of the mission was to spread the Catholic religion and the Spanish way of life among the Native Americans
presidio	fort, usually built near a mission

Exploring the Americas

Lesson 3 Spain in America, *Continued*

There were different classes, or levels, in Spanish American society:

- People who were born in Spain were the top class of society. They were called *peninsulares*. Peninsulares owned land and ran the government. They served in the Catholic Church.
- People who were born in America to Spanish parents were next. They were called *creoles*.
- People with one Spanish parent and one Native American parent were called *mestizos*.
- Native Americans and enslaved Africans were at the bottom level of society. The conquistadors could demand taxes or labor from the Native Americans. Therefore, they also became slaves to the Spanish. For example, Native Americans were forced to work in silver mines owned by the Spanish.

A Spanish priest, Bartolomé de Las Casas, helped to convince the Spanish government to pass the New Laws in 1542 to protect Native Americans.

Some Spanish settlers had **plantations**, or large farms. They shipped crops and raw materials to Spain. At first, they made Native Americans do the hard labor. Later, they were replaced by enslaved Africans.

In the 1600s and the 1700s, the Spanish settled the Southwest, including modern California, Texas, and New Mexico. California was the northern border of Spain’s empire. Spain wanted more colonists to live there.

The Spanish, with the help of the Native Americans, built missions along the southern coast of California. After the missions were built, Native Americans were made to live and work on the missions. They were forced to become Christians.

Check for Understanding

What were the goals of the Spanish conquistadores?

How did Native Americans contribute to the success of the Spanish American colonies?

? Explaining

6. What was the purpose of the New Laws in 1542?



7. Place a two-tab Foldable along the dotted line to cover Check for Understanding. Write the title *Searching for Riches* on the anchor tab. Label the tabs *Fountain of Youth*, and *Seven Cities of Gold*. Use both sides of the tabs to write two or more facts that you remember about each. Use your Foldable to help answer Check for Understanding.

Glue Foldable here