

**Unit
1****Mankind: The Story of All of Us
Episode 7: "New World"****Understanding Connections**

Mankind: The Story of All of Us is the History Channel's epic miniseries that focuses on world history and geography. Episode 7: "New World" begins with the Viking expedition to America and ends with Cortes and his conquest of the Aztecs. This document is a viewing guide for students to use through the video. All questions must be answered independently.

Vikings in America

00:00 – 7:26

1. When the Vikings arrived in America, with whom did they come into contact? How many people were estimated to be in the Americas at that time?
2. What was the result of this early encounter? For what reasons did this encounter occur in the manner that it did?
3. Even though the Vikings were the first Europeans recorded to arrive in the Americas, why do you think they have not been typically credited as great discoverers?

Tenochtitlan of the Aztecs

7:26 – 16:43

4. Why did the Aztecs prefer to take their captives alive?
5. The Aztecs didn't only enjoy fighting. What other things did their civilization admire?
6. What did the Aztecs believe they would receive for sacrificing Tlahuicole's heart to the sun god Huitzilopochtli?
7. What do you think enabled the Aztecs to rise to such great power and prominence, and why do you suppose their culture was concurrently so savage?

Siege of Constantinople

16:43 – 25:35

8. Why was Constantinople so prosperous and powerful?
9. Sultan Mehmet II's big challenge was to take down the walls of Constantinople. Describe his attack, and the technology used by the Ottoman Turks.
10. Explain why the Europeans responded as they did - once their key trade route fell to the Turks.

Bartholomeu Dias and the Cape of Good Hope

25:35 – 31:53

11. What advantage does a triangular lateen sail have compared to a traditional square sail?
12. What is an ocean gyre? How do you think the discovery of this natural force would eventually aid in connecting the Eastern and Western Hemispheres?
13. What was the result of the discovery of the Cape of Good Hope?

Christopher Columbus Meets the Taino

31:54 – 37:11

14. What things interested Columbus the most in his first meeting with the Taino?
15. Why do you think some resources are more valuable to some societies as compared to others?
16. What major problem did the Europeans introduce to the Americas?

Hernan Cortes and His Conquest of the Aztecs

37:11 – 44:11

17. Cortes, a renowned conquistador, was invited into Montezuma's throne room. Explain Cortes' plan?
18. Many Aztecs led a revolt against their captive emperor. Cortes tried to get Montezuma to stop the revolt. How did that work out? Why do you think the people reacted this way?
19. More than any other weapon, _____ helped Cortes defeat the Aztecs. Why were the Americans so susceptible to European diseases?
20. Discuss one reason why the Europeans had such an advantage over the Americans (think about the reasons why the Europeans dominated the Americans, and not the other way around).