Spain and France Build Empires

Objective: To have students understand the impact of European Cultures on the New World.
The Conquest of Mexico

- **Hernan Cortes** arrives in present day Mexico to find Native Americans to toil for the Spanish in Cuba and to investigate the Aztec.

- **Malinche** was a Native American woman who served as Cortes’s interpreter and advisor.
Cortes allied with the Aztec’s enemy, the Tlaxcala tribe.

The Aztec leader, Montezuma, believed that Cortes was Quetzalcoatl, an Aztec god.

Montezuma decided to attack Cortes, but the Spanish had swords, crossbows, guns and cannons.

The result was the Spanish killed over 6,000 Native Americans.

After this, Montezuma allowed Cortes to enter Tenochtitlan.
Aztec are Defeated

- Cortes took Montezuma hostage.
- He also ordered the Aztec to stop human sacrifice and replace the statues of the Aztec gods with Christian crosses and statues of the Virgin Mary.
- This led to a rebellion in which the Spanish retreated from Tenochtitlan.
- Smallpox devastated the Aztecs within the city.
- Cortes returned with his army and defeated the Aztec forces.
Conquering the Inca

- Another conquistador (conqueror), Francisco Pizarro, captured the Inca ruler, Atahualpa in 1532.
- Pizarro ruled the Incan empire by keeping Atahualpa hostage.
- Pizarro killed Atahualpa and set up puppet rulers in his place.
Searching for Cities of Gold

- Many conquistadors searched for fabled cities of gold, however they were not successful.
- Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Vaca and Esteban, an enslaved African, explored present day Texas.
- Francisco Vasquez de Coronado searched for the Seven Golden Cities of Cibola in present day Southwestern United States.
- Hernando de Soto explored north of Florida.
Pedro de Peralta, the governor of New Mexico, founded the city of Santa Fe around 1610.

Spanish built forts called presidios throughout New Mexico to protect settlers.

In the 1600s and 1700s, Spanish priests built missions to spread the faith among the Navajo and Pueblo Native Americans.

Pope, a Native American religious leader, led an uprising against the Spanish in 1680 because of the harsh practices by the missionaries.
Spanish American Society

- Spanish built gold and silver mines to gain riches.
- To feed the miners, the Spanish created large cattle ranches called haciendas.
- Vaqueros worked the cattle and sheep.
- An encomienda was a system where Native American villagers gave an overseer a share of what they harvested in exchange for protection and conversion to Christianity.
Spanish Social Classes

- **Peninsulares** - people born in Spain who emigrated over.
- **Criollos** - those born in the New World.
- **Mestizos** - people of mixed Spanish and Native American heritage.
- Native Americans and Africans.
French Empire in America

- In 1524, King Francis I of France sent Giovanni da Verrazano to find the Northwest Passage.
- Jacques Cartier explored the St. Lawrence River.
- In 1602, Samuel de Champlain founded the trading post of Quebec.
- France sought riches in furs, not natural resources.
- Jesuit missionaries and fur trappers lived among the Native Americans.
France’s Empire Expands

- In 1663, King Louis the XIV paid for over 4,000 immigrants to travel to the New World.
- By 1760, New France’s population was over 70,000.
- Louis Joliet and Fr. Jacques Marquette find the Mississippi River.
- Rene-Robert Cavalier de La Salle travels on the Mississippi to the Gulf of Mexico. He claimed the land for France and called it Louisiana.
Lord d’Iberville founded Biloxi in 1698. Mobile and New Orleans were founded soon afterwards.

French settlers realized that crops such as sugar, rice, tobacco and indigo were able to grow in Louisiana.

Enslaved Africans were brought over to work on these plantations.
Rivalry with Spain

- Spain founded St. Augustine in 1565 to counter French settlement.
- In 1716, Spanish settlers arrived in eastern Texas to stop French expansion to the East.