

Study Guide



Chapter 2, Section 1

For use with textbook pages 50–57

THE SPANISH AND FRENCH BUILD EMPIRES

KEY TERMS AND NAMES

- conquistador** a Spanish explorer in the Americas (page 53)
- Francisco Pizarro** Spanish army captain who conquered the Inca empire (page 53)
- presidio** a Spanish fort (page 54)
- Popé** Native American religious leader who organized an uprising against the Spanish (page 54)
- hidalgos** low-ranking nobles (page 54)
- encomienda** a system of rewarding conquistadors by giving them control of Native American villages (page 54)
- hacienda** a huge ranch in New Spain (page 55)
- vaquero** Spanish cowhand (page 55)
- Northwest Passage** the northern route through North America to the Pacific Ocean (page 55)
- coureur de bois** French fur traders (page 56)

DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

Do you know people who have moved to your community from other parts of the country or world? What reasons did they have for moving? What do you think are some positive aspects of moving? What are some negative aspects?

In this section, you will learn about Spanish and French exploration and settlement of the Americas. You will also learn about the kind of society each nation established there.

ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the chart below to help you take notes. The Spanish and French explored the Americas and started colonies there. Explain the effects on colonization by each of the explorers listed in the chart.

Explorer	Effects on Colonization
Hernán Cortés	1.
Francisco Pizarro	2.
Francisco Vásquez de Coronado	3.
Hernando de Soto	4.
Jacques Cartier	5.
René-Robert Cavelier de La Salle	6.

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READ TO LEARN

- **The Conquest of Mexico** (page 50)

The Spanish conquered Cuba in 1511. Hernán Cortés participated in the invasion. In 1517 smallpox swept through Cuba, and thousands of Native Americans died. As a result, the Spanish did not have enough laborers to work the farms and mines they started in Cuba. The government of Spain asked Cortés to lead an expedition to the Yucatán Peninsula in Mexico to find people who could be forced to work for the Spanish.

When Cortés and his troops landed in the Yucatán Peninsula, they were attacked by thousands of warriors from a nearby city. The Spanish with their swords, guns, and cannons had a technological advantage over the local people. They easily killed more than 200 warriors. After talking with local rulers, Cortés learned that the Aztec were at war with many people in the region, including the powerful Tlaxcalans. After several displays of Spanish power, he convinced the Tlaxcalans to join the Spanish against the Aztec.

Montezuma, the Aztec ruler, decided to attack the advancing Spanish-Tlaxcalan forces. Cortés was warned of the upcoming attack and attacked the Aztec first, killing thousands. Montezuma now believed that Cortés could not be stopped, and in 1519 the Spanish peacefully entered the Aztec capital of Tenochtitlán. When thousands of Aztec surrounded Cortés, he decided to take Montezuma hostage. He then ordered the statues of Aztec gods to be replaced by Christian images. This angered the Aztec priests, who organized a rebellion against the Spanish in 1520 and forced them out of the city. Cortés did not give up, and in May 1521 the Spanish again attacked the Aztec. By August they had conquered them.

7. Why did the Spanish easily conquer the people in the Yucatán Peninsula?

- **New Spain Expands** (page 52)

After defeating the Aztec, the Spanish built a new city, Mexico, where Tenochtitlán had been. Mexico became the capital of the Spanish colony of New Spain. Cortés sent expeditions to conquer what is present-day Mexico and Central America. The men who led these expeditions were known as **conquistadors**.

At the same time, **Francisco Pizarro**, a Spanish army captain, began to explore the Inca empire on the western coast of South America. In 1532 he took the powerful Incan emperor prisoner and executed him a year later. Pizarro appointed other Incan emperors, who were forced to follow his

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orders. Many Incas did not accept the new system and continued to fight the Spanish until 1572.

Rumors about wealthy cities in the Americas led to expeditions by other conquistadors. In 1528 Pánfilo de Narváez searched northern Florida to find a rumored city of gold. In 1540 the Spanish sent an expedition led by Francisco Vázquez de Coronado to find the Seven Golden Cities of Cibola that were rumored to exist north of New Spain. He did not find these cities but did explore much of what is present-day southwestern United States. Hernando de Soto explored parts of a region north of present-day Florida. His expedition killed many Native Americans and raided their villages for supplies.

The Spanish gave the name New Mexico to the area north of New Spain. They built forts called **presidios** throughout the area to protect the Spanish settlers and to serve as trading posts. Few Spaniards, however, were interested in settling the territory.

The Catholic Church became important in colonizing the area. Spanish priests built missions and spread Christianity to the Native Americans living there. Father Junipero Serra took control of California by establishing missions there. The Spanish priests tried to end traditional Native American practices that were in conflict with Catholic beliefs. As a result, in 1680 thousands of warriors, led by a Native American religious leader named **Popé**, destroyed most of the missions in New Mexico.

8. Why did many conquistadors explore different parts of present-day United States?

- **Spanish American Society** (page 54)

Most of the conquistadors were low-ranking nobles, called **hidalgos**, or working-class tradespeople who came to the Americas in search of wealth and prestige. They set up a society that reflected these goals. After Cortés defeated the Aztec, he rewarded his men by giving them control over some villages in the Aztec empire. This was known as the **encomienda** system. The Native Americans were forced to pay the men part of the products they farmed or made. In exchange, the men were to protect the Native Americans and convert them to Christianity. However, many of the Spaniards abused their power and mistreated the Native Americans.

The Spanish in the Americas built a highly structured society. At the top were *peninsulares*—people who had been born in Spain. Below them were the *criollos*—those born in the colonies of Spanish parents. Next were the *mestizos*—those born of Spanish and Native American parents. The lowest level included Native Americans, Africans, and people of mixed Spanish and African or African and Native American ancestry.

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The Spanish king created a council to advise him and watch over colonial activities. The king divided the empire into regions called viceroalties and appointed a viceroy to rule each region.

Although the Spanish did not find gold, they did find silver and set up silver mines all across northern Mexico. They used the Native Americans to work the mines. To feed the miners, the Spanish set up large cattle ranches, called **haciendas**, in northern Mexico. The men who herded the cattle were called **vaqueros**. Cowhands in the United States later adopted the lifestyles of the vaqueros.

9. Who made up the highest social class in New Spain?

- **The French Empire in America** (page 55)

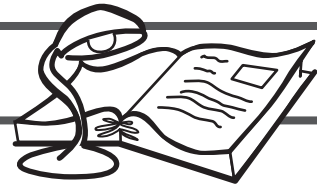
In 1542 King Francis I of France sent Giovanni da Verrazano to explore North America to find the **Northwest Passage**—the northern route through North America to the Pacific Ocean. He never found such a passage. In 1534 France sent Jacques Cartier to explore North America. He discovered the St. Lawrence River.

In the 1500s, the French began fishing near North America. Fishing crews often traded their goods for furs from the Native Americans. Fur had become very fashionable in Europe. As demand for fur grew, French merchants began to expand their fur trade. In 1602 King Henry IV of France authorized some French merchants to create colonies in North America. The merchants hired Samuel de Champlain to help them colonize the area. He established a colony in what is today Nova Scotia, and he founded Quebec, which became the capital of the French colony of New France.

New France grew slowly because few people came to build farms and settle there. The colony was made up mostly of fur traders known as **coreurs de bois**, which is French for “runners of the woods.” They lived among the Native Americans with whom they traded.

10. Why did New France grow slowly?

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- **New France Expands** (page 56)

In 1663 France's King Louis XIV was concerned about the slow growth of New France. He saw how the Spanish and English colonies to the south had prospered. His government created several projects to increase the colony's population. It sent several thousand immigrants to the colony and rewarded parents who had many children. The government also began to explore North America. Louis Joliet, Jacques Marquette, and René-Robert Cavelier de La Salle explored the Mississippi River. La Salle claimed the region for France and named it Louisiana in honor of the French king.

The French did not permanently settle the region until 1698. The settlers in southern Louisiana realized that the crops that grew there, such as sugarcane and rice, needed hard labor. Few settlers were willing to do that kind of work. As a result, the French brought enslaved Africans and forced them to work on their plantations.

11. In what ways did the French government try to increase the population in New France?
