

AP US History

Summer Assignments

1. Complete Native American assignment. Answer all questions using the internet to research. Please use .org/.gov/.edu when available. Cite your sources (any format for citations is fine).

2. Complete the Explorers assignment. You should carefully examine the primary sources in the packet and then answer the questions for each group of explorers (French, Spanish, and British).

Very Important Notice

- This is not an optional assignment. It must be done by the beginning of next school year.
- Failure to complete this assignment will negatively impact your grade.
- Be prepared to discuss what you read when we return in the fall.
- If you have any questions please email Mr. Bowman at john-david.bowman@dvusd.org

Pre- Columbian Civilizations

You should use the entire space for you answer.

1. Prior to the arrival of Columbus compare Native American populations in North America economically, socially, and politically

2. Explain the differences in climate, natural resources, agriculture, and societal structure between indigenous regions of North America

3. Define and explain the Columbian Exchange and its impact on Indigenous groups in North America and in Europe. (Both positive and negative).

English Exploration

Early Exploration – Cabot

“Be it known and made manifest that we have given and granted as by these presents we give and grant, for us and our heirs, to our well beloved John Cabot, citizen of Venice, and to Lewis, Sebastian and Sancio, sons of the said John, and to the heirs and deputies of them, and of any one of them, full and free authority, faculty and power to sail to all parts, regions and coasts of the eastern, western and northern sea, under our banners, flags and ensigns, with five ships or vessels of whatsoever burden and quality they may be, and with so many and such mariners and men as they may wish to take with them in the said ships, at their own proper costs and charges, to find, discover and investigate whatsoever islands, countries, regions or provinces of heathens and infidels, in whatsoever part of the world placed, which before this time were unknown to all Christians. We have also granted to them and to any of them, and to the heirs and deputies of them and of any one of them, and have given licence to set up our aforesaid banners and ensigns in any town, city, castle, island or mainland whatsoever, newly found by them. And that the before-mentioned John and his sons or their heirs and deputies may conquer, occupy and possess whatsoever such towns, castles, cities and islands by them thus discovered that they may be able to conquer, occupy and possess, as our vassals and governors lieutenants and deputies therein, acquiring for us the dominion, title and jurisdiction of the same towns, castles, cities, islands and mainlands so discovered . . . In witness whereof, etc. Witness ourself at Westminster on the fifth day of March [1496]. By the King [Henry VII] himself, etc.”

“Patent Granted by King Henry VII to John Cabot and his Sons, March 1496.” [Heritage.nf.ca/](http://www.heritage.nf.ca/). Retrieved 14 August 2007, <<http://www.heritage.nf.ca/exploration/1496patent.html>>.

“That Venetian of ours [Cabot] who went with a small ship from Bristol to find new islands has come back and says he has discovered mainland 700 leagues away, which is the country of the Grand Khan, and that he coasted it for 300 leagues and landed and did not see any person; but he has brought here to the king [Henry VII] certain snares which were spread to take game and a needle for making nets, and he found certain notched [or felled] trees so that by this he judges that there are inhabitants. Being in doubt he returned to his ship; and he has been three months on the voyage; and this is certain. . . . The discoverer of these things planted on the land which he has found a large cross with a banner of England and one of St. Mark, as he is a Venetian, so that our flag has been hoisted very far afield.”

Lorenzo Pasqualigo, London, to his brothers Alvise and Francesco in Venice, 23 August 1497. Heritage.nf.ca/. Retrieved 14 August 2007, <<http://www.heritage.nf.ca/exploration/pasqualigo.html>>.

“[John Cabot] landed at only one spot of the mainland, near the place where land was first sighted, and they disembarked there with a crucifix and raised banners with the arms of the Holy Father and those of the King of England, my master; and they found tall trees of the kind masts are made, and other smaller trees, and the country is very rich in grass. In that particular spot, as I told your Lordship, they found a trail that went inland, they saw a site where a fire had been made, they saw manure of animals which they thought to be farm animals . . . and by such signs they believe the land to be inhabited. Since he was with just a few people, he did not dare advance inland beyond the shooting distance of a crossbow, and after taking in fresh water he returned to his ship. All along the coast they found many fish like those which in Iceland are dried in the open and sold in England and other countries, and these fish are called in English 'stockfish'; and thus following the shore they saw two forms running on land one after the other, but they could not tell if they were human beings or animals; and it seemed to them that there were fields where they thought might also be villages, and they saw a forest whose foliage looked beautiful.”

John Day, Bristol, to the Lord Admiral of Castile, ca. 1497-1498. Heritage.nf.ca/. Retrieved 14 August 2007, <<http://www.heritage.nf.ca/exploration/johnday.html>>.

Roanoke

“The second of July [1584], we found shoal water, where we smelled so sweet, and so strong a smell, as if we had been in the midst of some delicate garden abounding with all kind of odoriferous flowers, by which we were assured, that the land could not be far distant: and keeping good watch, and bearing but slack sail, the fourth of the same month we arrived upon the coast, which we supposed to be a continent and firm land, and we sailed along the same a hundred and twenty English miles before we could find any entrance, or river issuing into the Sea. The first that appeared unto us, we entered, though not without some difficulty, & cast anchor about three harquebuz-shot within the havens mouth, on the left hand of the same: and after thanks given to God for our safe arrival thither, we manned our boats, and went to view the land next adjoining, and to take possession of the same, in the right of the Queen's most excellent Majesty . . .

The next day there came unto us diverse boats, and in one of them the Kings brother, accompanied with forty or fifty men, very handsome and goodly people, and in their behavior as mannerly and civil as any of Europe. . . . A day or two after this we fell to trading with them, exchanging some things that we had, for Chamois, Buffe, and Deer

skins: when we showed him all our packet of merchandise, of all things that he saw, a bright tin dish most pleased him, which he presently took up and clapped it before his breast, and after made a hole in the brim thereof and hung it about his neck, making signs that it would defend him against his enemies arrows: for those people maintain a deadly and terrible war, with the people and King adjoining. We exchanged our tin dish for twenty skins, worth twenty Crowns, or twenty Nobles: and a copper kettle for fifty skins worth fifty Crowns. They offered us good exchange for our hatchets, and axes, and for knives, and would have given any thing for swords: but we would not depart with any. . . . He sent us diverse kinds of fruits, Melons, Walnuts, Cucumbers, Gourds, Peas, and diverse roots, and fruits very excellent good, and of their Country corn, which is very white, fair and well tasted, and grows three times in five months . . . our selves proved the soil, and put some of our Peas in the ground, and in ten days they were of fourteen inches high: they have also Beans very fair of diverse colors . . . The soil is the most plentiful, sweet, fruitful and wholesome of all the world: there are above fourteen several sweet smelling timber trees . . . they have those Oaks that we have, but far greater and better. . . . We were entertained with all love and kindness, and with as much bounty (after their manner) as they could possibly devise. We found the people most gentle, loving, and faithful, void of all guile and treason, and such as live after the manner of the golden age. The people only care how to defend themselves from the cold in their short winter, and to feed themselves with such meat as the soil affords . . . within the place where they feed was their lodging, and within that their Idol, which they worship, of whom they speak incredible things. . . . Beyond the Island called Roanoak, are main Islands very plentiful of fruits and other natural increases, together with many towns, and villages, along the side of the continent, some bounding upon the Islands, and some stretching up further into the land.”

“The first voyage made to the coasts of America . . . by one of the said captains, 1584.”

Virtualjamestown.org. Retrieved 14 August 2007, <<http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/etcbin/jamestown-browsemod?id=J1014>>.

Jamestown

“The six and twentieth day of April, about four o’clock in the morning, we descried the land of Virginia;¹ the same day we ent’red into the Bay of Chesupioc directly without any let or hindrance; there we landed and discovered a little way, but we could find nothing worth the speaking of but fair meadows and goodly tall trees, with such fresh waters running through the woods as I was almost ravished at the first sight thereof. . . .

This river which we have discovered is one of the famousest rivers that ever was

found by any Christian. It ebbs and flows a hundred and threescore miles where ships of great burthen may harbor in safety.

Wheresoever we landed upon this river we saw the goodliest woods, as beech, oak, cedar, cypress, walnuts, sassafras, and vines in great abundance which hang in great clusters on many trees, and other trees unknown, and all the grounds bespread with many sweet and delicate flowers of divers colors and kinds. There are also many fruits, as strawberries, mulberries, raspberries, and fruits unknown.

There are many branches of this river which run flowing through the woods with great plenty of fish of all kinds; as for sturgeon, all the world cannot be compared to it. In this country I have seen many great and large meadows having excellent good pasture for any cattle. There is also great store of deer, both red and fallow; there are bears, foxes, otters, beavers, musk cats, and wild beasts unknown.”

George Percy, “Observations gathered out of a discourse of the plantation of the southern colony in Virginia by the English, 1606,” in *Jamestown Narratives: Eyewitness Accounts of the Virginia Colony, The First Decade: 1607-1617*, Edward Wright Haile, ed., (Roundhouse: Champlain, Va.), pp. 90, 96.

¹“We were driven to try that night, and by the storm were forced near the shore, not knowing where we were.” (margin note) *To try* or *to lie atry* means to lie hove to with all sails furled.

“This land lieth low at the mouth of the river and is sandy ground, all over beset with fair pine trees. But a little up the river it is reasonable high. And the further we go, till we come to the overfall, it still riseth increasing. It is generally replenish’d with wood of all kinds and that the fairest, yea, and best that ever any of us (traveler or workman) ever saw, being fit for any use whatsoever, as ships, houses, planks, pales, boards, masts, wainscot, clapboard—for pikes or elsewhat.

The soil is more fertile than can be well express’d; it is altogether aromatical, giving a spicy taste to the roots of all trees, plants, and herbs, of itself a black, fat, sandy mould, somewhat slimy in touch and sweet in savor, under which about a yard is in most places a red clay fit for brick, in other marl, in some [places] signification of mineral, in other gravel, stones, and rocks . . . It produceth of one corn of that country wheat sometimes two or three stems, or stalks, on which grow ears above a span long, beset with corns at least 300 upon an ear, for the most part 5, 6, and 700. The beans and peas of this country have a great increase also; it yields two crops a year. . . . All our garden seeds that were carefully sown prosper well, yet we only digged the ground half a— deep, threw in the seeds at random carelessly, and scarce rak’d it.”

Gabriel Archer, “The description of the now-discovered river and country of Virginia,” in *Jamestown Narratives*, pp. 119-120.

“There is a king in this land called Great Pawatah, under whose dominions are at least 20ty several kingdoms, yet each king potent as a prince in his own territory. These have their subjects at so quick command as a beck brings obedience, even to the restitution of stolen goods, which by their natural inclination they are loth to leave.

They go all naked save their privities, yet in cool weather they wear deerskins with the hair on loose. Some have leather stockings up to their twists,² and sandals on their feet. . . . These [women] do all the labor, and the men hunt and go at their pleasure. . . . They live upon sodden wheat, beans, and peas for the most part. Also they kill deer, take fish in their weirs, and kill fowl [in] abundance. They eat often and that liberally. . . . The people steal anything comes near them, yea, are so practiced in this art that looking in our face they would with their foot between their toes convey a chisel, knife, piercer, or any indifferent light thing; which having once conveyed, they hold it an injury to take the same from them. They are naturally given to treachery, howbeit we could not find it in our travel up the river, but rather a most kind and loving people.

They sacrifice tobacco to the sun, [a] fair picture, or a harmful thing (as a sword or piece) also; they strinkle some into the water in the morning before they wash. . . .

I found they account after death to go into another world, pointing eastward to the element. And when they saw us at prayer they observed us with great silence and respect, especially those to whom I had imparted the meaning of our reverence.

To conclude, they are a very witty³ and ingenious people, apt both to understand and speak our language, so that I hope in God, as He hath miraculously preserved us hither from all dangers, both of sea and land and their fury, so He will make us authors of His holy will in converting them to our true Christian faith by His own inspiring grace and knowledge of His deity.”

Gabriel Archer, “A Brief Description of the People,” ca. 1607, in *Jamestown Narratives: Eyewitness Accounts of the Virginia Colony, The First Decade: 1607-1617*, Edward Wright Haile, ed., (Roundhouse: Champlain, Va.), pp. 122-124.

Plymouth Colony

“In ye name of God, Amen. We whose names are underwritten, the loyall subjects of our dread soveraigne Lord, King James, by the grace of God, of Great Britaine, Franc, and Ireland king, defender of the faith, etc.

Haveing undertaken, for ye glorie of God, and advancemente of ye Christian faith, and honour of our king & countrie, a voyage to plant ye first colonie in ye Northerne parts of Virginia, doe by these presents solemnly & mutuallly in ye presence of God, and one of another, covenant & combine our selves together into a civill body politick, for our better ordering & preservation & furtherance of ye ends aforesaid; and by vertue hearof to enacte lawes, ordinances, acts constitutions, & offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meet & convenient for ye generall good of ye Colonie, unto which

we promise all due submission and obedience. In witness whereof we have hereunder subscribed our names at Cap-Codd ye 11th. of November, in ye year of ye raigne of our soveraigne lord, King James, of England, France, & Ireland ye eighteenth, and of Scotland, ye fiftie fourth. Ano: Dom. 1620.”

“Mayflower Compact,” 11 November 1620. Plimoth.org. Retrieved 14 August 2007, <<http://www.plimoth.org/discover/colonial-life/mayflower-compact.php>>.

To answer the third objection, besides Cabota and all other travellers navigations, the onely credit of M. Frobisher* may suffice, who lately through all these Islands of ice, and mountaines of snow, passed that way, euen beyond the gulfe that tumbleth downe from the North, and in some places though he drewe one inch thicke ice, as he returning in August did, yet came he home safely againe Goldsmid, Edmund, “The Voyages of The English Nation to America Before the year 1600 From Hakluyt’s Collection of Voyages (1598 – 1600)”. 1889. <<http://ia340939.us.archive.org/0/items/voyagesofenglish01hakluoft/voyagesofenglish01hakluoft.pdf> >.

Among which in three several attempts for the discovery of the Northwest passage, thereby to find a short and Navigable course into the rich and famous Countries of Cathyo China, Pegu, the isles Molucan and Phillipins, that thereby to the great and inestimable benefit of our Country, there might be a rich and plentiful trade procured between us and the said Nations, in short time to be performed, and with great safety in regard to the courtes: which action and discovery (by means of that honorable Counsellor, Sir Frances Walsingham, Knight, Principal Secretary to her Majesty) was with a good resolution accepted by the Merchants of London, but in the decay of his honourable life, the attempt was likewise equaled: but however mens minds alter, yet undoubtedly there is passage Navigable, and easie to be performed by that course (whensorever it shall please God to reveal the same) by invincible reasons and sufficient experience to be proved: and although before I entered into that discovery, I was sufficiently perswaded of the certainty thereof, by historical relation, substantially confirmed, whereof to the Adventures I made sufficient proof, but especially to my worshipful good friend Mr. William Sanderson, the only Merchant that to his great charges, with most constant travel, did labour for the finishing thereof: yet I thank God that of late it hath been my very good chance, to receive better assurance than ever before of the certainty of that passage, and such was my vehement desire for the performance thereof that where-by I was only induced to go with M. Candish in his second attempt for the South Seas, upon his constant promise unto me, that when we came to Callifornia, I should there have his Pinnace with my own Bark (which for that purpose went with me to my great charges) to search that Northwest discovery upon those back parts of America,

but God hath otherwise disposed our purposes in his divine judgements, for Mr. Candish being half way through the Straits of Magi lane, and impatient of the tempestuous furiosness of that place, having all his Ships and company eith him, returned for Brasil, by the aurtory of his command, when with a leaking wind we might have passed the same, and returning more than 80 leagues toward Brasil, my self being in his SHip named the Desire without Boat, Oares, Sails, Cables, Cordage, Victuals, or health of my Company sufficient for that attempt, was separated in a freit of weather, and forced to seek the next shore for my relief, & recovering a Harborow by us named Port Desire, being in the latitude of 48 degr. did there repair my most miserable wants, and there staying four months in the most lamentable distress did again conclude with my Company, to give another attempt to pass the Straits, as my best mean to gain relief. And three times I was in the South Seas but still by furious weather forced back again: yet notwithstanding all this my labour to perform the voyage to his profit, and to save my self (for I did adventure, and my good friends for my sake, 1100 pounds in the action) Mr. Candish was content to account me to be the Author of his overthrow, and to write with his dying hand that I ran from him, when that his own Ship was returned many months before me. . . .

And now that I may return to the Painful Seaman, it is not unknown unto all Nations of the Earth, that the English goeth efore all others in the practices of Sayling, as appeareth by the excellent discovery of Sir Francis Drake in his passages through the Straits of Magilane, which being then so rashly known, he could not have passed, unless he had been a man of great practice asn rare resolution: so much I may boldly say, because I have seen and tasted the frowsrdness of the place, with the great unlikelihood of any passage to be that way. I might here repeat the most valiant and excellent attempts of Sir Hugh Willoughbie, Sir John Hawkins, Sir Humphrey Gilbert, and your Lordships servant, Mr. George Raymond, with divers others that have given most resolute attempts in the practices of Navigation, as well for the discovery as other execution, whereby good proof is made, that not only in the skill of Navigation, but also in the mechanical execution of the practices of sayling, we are not to be matched by any Nation of the earth. And such Navigtion is the mean whereby Countries are discovered and community drawn between Nation and Nation, the Word of God published to the blessed recovery of the forreign off c_fts, from whence it hath pleased his divine Majesty as yet to detain the brightness of his glory: and that by Navigation Common weilles through mutual trade are not only sufficiently sustained, but mightily enriched; with how great esteem ought the painful Seaman to be embraced, by the whole hard adventures sach excellent benefits are achieved, for by his exceeding great hazards the form of the earth, the quantities of Countries, the diversity of Nations, and the natures of Zones, Clumats, Countries and people are apparently made known unto us Besides, the great benefits mutually interchanged between Nations, of such fruits, commodities, and artificial practices, where

with God hath blessed each particular country, coast, and Nation, according to the nature and situation of the place. For what hath made the Spaniard to be so great a Monarch, the commander of both Indies, to abound in wealth & all natures benefits but only the painful industry of his subjects in Navigation, their former trade was only figs, oranges, and oyl, but now through Navigation is brought to be gold, silver, pearls, silks, and spice, by long and painful trade recovered. Which great benefits only by her Majesties loving clemency and merciful favour he doth possesse: for if her Highnesse and her most honorable Lords would not regard the small distance between her Dominions and those famous rich Kingdoms, the easiness of the passage being once discovered (the North west I mean) with the full sufficiency of her Highnesse subjects to effect the same, there could then be no doubt, but her stately seat of London should be the store house of Europe, and nurse to all Nations, in yielding all Indian commodities in a far better condition, as a more easie rate than now brought unto us exchanging commodities of our own store, with a plentiful return at the first hand, which now by many exchanges are brought to us. To manifest the necessary conclusions of Navigation in brief and short terms, is my only intent, and therefore I omit to declare the causes of terms and definition of artificial words, as matters superfluous to my purpose, neither have I laid down the cunning conclusions apt for Schollers to practice upon the shore, but only those things that are needfully required in a sufficient Seaman: beseeching your honorable Lordship to pardon my boldnesse, and with your favorable countenance to regard my dutiful affection, I must humbly commit your good Lordship to the mercies of God, who long preserve your health, with continual increase of honour.

From samdrudge by Dartmouth
the 20, of August, 1594.

Davis, John, "Seaman's Secrets", 1594, < <http://www.mcallen.lib.tx.us/books/seasectr/dseasec1.htm> >

On Hudson's Voyage, 1610

We have observed in our last book that the Directors of the East India Company in Holland had sent out in March last, on purpose to seek a passage to China by northeast or northwest, a skilful English pilot, named Herry Hutson, in a Vlie boat, having a crew of eighteen or twenty men, partly English, partly Dutch, well provided.

This Henry Hutson left the Texel on the 6th of April, 1609, doubled the Cape of Norway the 5th of May, and directed his course along the northern coasts towards Nova Zembla; but he there found the sea as full of ice as he had found it in the preceding year, so that they lost the hope of effecting anything during the season. This circumstance, and the

cold, which some of his men, who had been in the East Indies, could not bear, caused quarrels among the crew, they being partly English, partly Dutch, upon which Captain Hutson laid before them two propositions.

The first of these was to go to the coast of America, to the latitude of 40 degrees, moved thereto mostly by letters and maps which a certain Captain Smith had sent him from Virginia, and by which he indicated to him a sea leading into the western ocean, by the north of the southern English colony. Had this information been true (experience goes as yet to the contrary), it would have been of great advantage, as indicating a short way to India. The other proposition was to direct their search through Davis's Straits. This meeting with general approval, they sailed thitherward on the 14th of May, and arrived on the last day of May with a good wind at the Faroe Islands, where they stopped but twenty-four hours, to supply themselves with fresh water.

After leaving these islands, they sailed on, till on the 18th of July they reached the coast of Nova Francia, under 44 degrees, where they were obliged to run in, in order to get a new foremast, having lost theirs. They found one, and set it up. They found this a good place for cod-fishing, as also for traffic in good skins and furs, which were to be got there at a very low price. But the crew behaved badly towards the people of the country, taking their property by force, out of which there arose quarrels among themselves. The English, fearing that between the two they would be outnumbered and worsted, were therefore afraid to pursue the matter further.

So they left that place on the 26th of July, and kept out at sea till the 3d of August, when they came near the coast, in 42 degrees of latitude. Thence they sailed on, till on the 12th of August they again reached the shore, under 37 degrees 45'. Thence they sailed along the shore until they reached 40 degrees 45', where they found a good entrance, between two headlands, and entered on the 12th of September into as fine a river as can be found, wide and deep, with good anchoring ground on both sides.

Their ship finally sailed up the river as far as 42 degrees 40'. But their boat went higher up. In the lower part of the river they found strong and warlike people; but in the upper part they found friendly and polite people, who had an abundance of provisions, skins, and furs, of martens and foxes, and many other commodities, as birds and fruit, even white and red grapes, and they traded amicably with the people. And of all the above-mentioned commodities they brought some home. When they had thus been about fifty leagues up the river, they returned on the 4th of October, and went again to sea. More could have been done if there had been good-will among the crew and if the want of some necessary provisions had not prevented it.

While at sea, they held counsel together, but were of different opinions. The mate, a

Dutchman, advised to winter in Newfoundland, and to search the northwestern passage of Davis throughout. This was opposed by Skipper Hutson. He was afraid of his mutinous crew, who had sometimes savagely threatened him; and he feared that during the cold season they would entirely consume their provisions, and would then be obliged to return, [with] many of the crew ill and sickly. Nobody, however, spoke of returning home to Holland, which circumstance made the captain still more suspicious. He proposed therefore to sail to Ireland, and winter there, which they all agreed to.

At last they arrived at Dartmouth, in England, the 7th of November, whence they informed their employers, the Directors in Holland, of their voyage. They proposed to them to go out again for a search in the northwest, and that, besides the pay, and what they already had in the ship, fifteen hundred florins should be laid out for an additional supply of provisions. He [Hudson] also wanted six or seven of his crew exchanged for others, and their number raised to twenty. He would then sail from Dartmouth about the 1st of

March, so as to be in the northwest towards the end of that month, and there to spend the whole of April and the first half of May in killing whales and other animals in the neighborhood of Panar Island, then to sail to the northwest, and there to pass the time till the middle of September, and then to return to Holland around the northeastern coast of Scotland. Thus this voyage ended.

A long time elapsed, through contrary winds, before the Company could be informed of the arrival of the ship in England. Then they ordered the ship and crew to return as soon as possible. But, when this was about to be done, Skipper Herry Hutson and the other Englishmen of the ship were commanded by the government there not to leave [England], but to serve their own country. Many persons thought it strange that captains should thus be prevented from laying their accounts and reports before their employers, having been sent out for the benefit of navigation in general. This took place in January, [1610]; and it was thought probably that the English themselves would send ships to Virginia, to explore further the aforesaid river.

Emanuel Van Meteren, On Hudson's Voyage, 1610. In J. Franklin Jameson, ed., **Narratives of New Netherland, 1609-1664** (Original Narratives of Early American History). NY: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1909.

Spanish Exploration

Early Exploration – Columbus, Ponce de León

“As I know you will be rejoiced at the glorious success that our Lord has given me in my voyage, I write this to tell you how in thirty-three days I sailed to the Indies with the fleet that the illustrious King and Queen, our Sovereigns, gave me, where I discovered a great many islands, inhabited by numberless people; and of all I have taken possession for their Highnesses by proclamation and display of the Royal Standard without opposition. To the first island I discovered I gave the name of San Salvador, in commemoration of His Divine Majesty, who has wonderfully granted all this. . . When I came to Juana, I followed the coast of that isle toward the west, and found it so extensive that I thought it might be the mainland, the province of Cathay; and as I found no towns nor villages on the sea-coast, except a few small settlements, where it was impossible to speak to the people, because they fled at once, I continued the said route, thinking I could not fail to see some great cities or towns; and finding at the end of many leagues that nothing new appeared, and that the coast led northward, contrary to my wish, because the winter had already set in, I decided to make for the south . . . This island [Hispaniola], like all the others, is most extensive. It has many ports along the sea-coast excelling any in Christendom--and many fine, large, flowing rivers. The land there is elevated, with many mountains and peaks incomparably higher than in the centre isle. They are most beautiful, of a thousand varied forms, accessible, and full of trees of endless varieties, so high that they seem to touch the sky, and I have been told that they never lose their foliage. I saw them as green and lovely as trees are in Spain in the month of May. Some of them were covered with blossoms, some with fruit, and some in other conditions, according to their kind. The nightingale and other small birds of a thousand kinds were singing in the month of November when I was there. There were palm trees of six or eight varieties, the graceful peculiarities of each one of them being worthy of admiration as are the other trees, fruits and grasses. There are wonderful pine woods, and very extensive ranges of meadow land. There is honey, and there are many kinds of birds, and a great variety of fruits. Inland there are numerous mines of metals and innumerable people. Hispaniola is a marvel. Its hills and mountains, fine plains and open country, are rich and fertile for planting and for pasturage, and for building towns and villages. The seaports there are incredibly fine, as also the magnificent rivers, most of which bear gold . . . There are many spices and vast mines of gold and other metals in this island. They have no iron, nor steel, nor weapons, nor are they fit for them, because although they are well-made men of commanding stature, they appear extraordinarily timid. The only arms they have are sticks of cane, cut when in seed, with a sharpened stick at the end, and they are afraid to use these. Often I have sent two or three men ashore to some town to converse with them, and the natives came out in great numbers, and as soon as they saw

our men arrive, fled without a moment's delay although I protected them from all injury . . . They have no religion, nor idolatry, except that they all believe power and goodness to be in heaven. They firmly believed that I, with my ships and men, came from heaven, and with this idea I have been received everywhere, since they lost fear of me. They are, however, far from being ignorant. They are most ingenious men, and navigate these seas in a wonderful way, and describe everything well, but they never before saw people wearing clothes, nor vessels like ours. Directly I reached the Indies in the first isle I discovered, I took by force some of the natives, that from them we might gain some information of what there was in these parts; and so it was that we immediately understood each other, either by words or signs. . . . Therefore I hope that their Highnesses will decide upon the conversion of these people to our holy faith, to which they seem much inclined. . . . To speak, in conclusion, only of what has been done during this hurried voyage, their Highnesses will see that I can give them as much gold as they desire, if they will give me a little assistance, spices, cotton, as much as their Highnesses may command to be shipped . . . and as many slaves as they choose to send for, all heathens. I think I have found rhubarb and cinnamon. Many other things of value will be discovered by the men I left behind me, as I stayed nowhere when the wind allowed me to pursue my voyage, except in the City of Navidad, which I left fortified and safe. . . . The eternal and almighty God, our Lord, it is Who gives to all who walk in His way, victory over things apparently impossible, and in this case signally so, because although these lands had been imagined and talked of before they were seen, most men listened incredulously to what was thought to be but an idle tale. But our Redeemer has given victory to our most illustrious King and Queen, and to their kingdoms rendered famous by this glorious event, at which all Christendom should rejoice, celebrating it with great festivities and solemn Thanksgivings to the Holy Trinity, with fervent prayers for the high distinction that will accrue to them from turning so many peoples to our holy faith; and also from the temporal benefits that not only Spain but all Christian nations will obtain. Thus I record what has happened in a brief note written on board the *Caravel*, off the Canary Isles, on the 15th of February, 1493. Yours to command, THE ADMIRAL”

Christopher Columbus, to Luis de Sant' Angel, 15 February 1493. Historicaldocuments.com. Retrieved 14 August 2007 <<http://www.historicaldocuments.com/ColumbusDiscoveryLetter1493.htm>>.

“Among my services I discovered, at my own cost and charge, the Island Florida, and others in its district, which are not mentioned as being small and useless; and now I return to that island, if it please God’s will, to settle it, being enabled to carry a number of people with which I shall be able to do so, that the name of Christ may be praised there, and Your Majesty served with the fruit that land produces. And I also intend to explore the coast of said island further, and see whether it is an island, or whether it connects with

the land . . . and I shall endeavor to learn all I can. I shall set out to pursue my voyage hence in five or six days.” Juan Ponce de León, Puerto Rico, to Charles V, 10 February 1521.

Americanjourneys.org. Retrieved 14 August

2007, <<http://content.wisconsinhistory.org/cdm4/document.php?CISOROOT=/aj&CISOPTR=12071&CISOSHOW=6229>>.

The Spanish in Mexico, 1519-1521

“Be it known to Your Majesties that the captain [Cortés] urged the chieftans of that island [Cozumel] to renounce their heathen religion; and when they asked him to give them instead a precept by which they might henceforth live, he instructed them as best he could in the Catholic Faith. He left them a wooden cross fixed on top of a high building and an image of Our Lady the Virgin Mary, and told them most full all they were to do to be good Christians; and they showed him that they had received everything with great good will, and thus we left them very happy and contented.” (18)

“as of the wealth in gold and silver and precious stones which Your Majesties may judge according to the samples we are sending. In our view it cannot be doubted that there must be in this land as much as in that from which Solomon is said to have taken the gold for the temple. But so little time has passed since we first landed that we have been unable to explore more than five leagues inland and some ten or twelve leagues along the coast on either side of the place where we landed, although from the sea there appears to be much more, and indeed we saw more while sailing hither.” (29-30)

Hernán Cortés, to Queen Doña Juana and the Emperor Charles V, 10 July 1519, in Hernan Cortes, *Letters from Mexico*, trans. and ed. A.R. Pagden (New York: Grossman Publishers, 1971), 18, 29-30.

“On the following day I left this city and after traveling for half a league came to a causeway which runs through the middle of the lake for two leagues until it reaches the great city of Temixtitlan [Tenochtitlan], which is built in the middle of the lake . . . After we had crossed this bridge, Mutezuma [Moctezuma] came to greet us and with him some two hundred lords, all barefoot and dressed in different costume, but also very rich in their way and more so than the others. They came in two columns, pressed very close to the walls of the street, which is very wide and beautiful and so straight that you can see from one end to the other. It is two-thirds of a league long and has on both sides very good and big houses, both dwellings and temples.” (83-84)

“When the submission of these chiefs to Your Majesty’s service was complete, I spoke one day with Mutezuma and told him that Your Highness had need of gold for certain works . . . I asked him therefore to send some of his people together with some Spaniards

to the countries and dwellings of those chiefs who had submitted themselves, to ask them to render to Your Majesty some part of what they owned . . . With them he sent some of his own people, and ordered them to go to the chiefs of those provinces and cities and tell them I demanded that each of them should give me a certain quantity of gold. And so it was done, and all the chiefs to whom he sent gave very fully of all that was asked of them, both in jewelry and in ingots and gold and silver sheets, and other things which they had.

When all was melted down that could be, Your Majesty's fifth came to more than 32,400 *pesos de oro*, exclusive of the gold and silver jewelry, and the featherwork and precious stones and many other valuable things which I designated for Your Holy Majesty and set aside; all of which might be worth a hundred thousand ducats or more. All these, in addition to their intrinsic worth, are so marvelous that considering their novelty and strangeness they are priceless; nor can it be believed that any of the princes of this world, of whom we know, possess and things of such high quality." (99-100)

"I saw how hard pressed these Spaniards were, and knew that if I did not go to their aid not only would they be killed by the Indians and all the gold and silver we had acquired that belonged to Your Highness as well as to the Spaniards and myself be taken, but the greatest and most noble city [Tenochtitlan] of all the newly discovered part of the world would be lost, and with it all we had gained, for it was the capital city of the land which all others obeyed." (128)

Hernán Cortés, to Emperor Charles V, 30 October 1520, in *Letters from Mexico*, 83-84, 99-100, 128.

"From all I have seen and understood touching the similarity between this land and that of Spain, in its fertility and great size and the cold and many other things, it seemed to me that the most suitable name for it was New Spain of the Ocean Sea, and so in Your Majesty's name I called it that. I humbly entreat Your Highness to look favorably on this and order it to be so called."

Hernán Cortés, to Emperor Charles V, 30 October 1520, in *Letters from Mexico*, 158.

The Narváez Expedition, 1527-1536

"All over this country [present-day Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona] there are a great many deer, fowl, and other animals, which I have already recounted. Here they also encounter cows [buffalo], which I have seen three times and whose meat I have eaten. They appear to me of the size of those in Spain. Their horns are small, like those of the

Moorish cattle; their hair is very long. Some are brownish and others black, and to my taste they have better and more meat than those from here. From the smaller ones, the Indians make blankets to cover themselves and from the larger they make shoes and shields. These cows come from the north, across the country further on, to the coast of Florida, and are found all over the land for over four hundred leagues. All along this road, through the valleys along which they come, the people who inhabit the area come down to live off them, and a great quantity of hides can be found throughout the land.” (52)

“We told them [the Indians] by signs that they understood, that in Heaven there was a man we called God, who had created Heaven and earth, and whom we worshipped as our Lord; that we did as he ordered us to do, since all good things came from his hand, and that if they were to do the same it would go very well with them. They were so well inclined that, had there been a language in which we could have made ourselves perfectly understood, we would have left them all Christians. All this we gave them to understand as clearly as possible. Afterward, when the sun rose, with great shouts they would lift their clasped hands to Heaven and then pass them all over their bodies. They did the same thing at sunset. These people are well made and are apt to follow any line that is well traced for them.” (88)

Alvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca, *Chronicle of the Narváez Expedition*, trans. Fanny Bandelier (New York: Penguin Books, 2002), 52, 88.

Ferdinand Magellan, 1521

“Those people go naked, wearing only a piece of cloth made of palm around their shameful parts. They have as many wives as they wish, but there is always a chief one. . . . Whenever any of our men went ashore and landed, be it by day or night, everyone invited him to eat and drink. . . . On Friday the twenty-sixth of April Zzula, lord of the aforesaid island of Mattan, sent one of his sons to present to the captain-general two goats, saying that he would keep all his promises to him, but because of the lord of Cilapulapu (who refused to obey the King of Spain) he had not been able to send them to him. And he begged that on the following night he would send but one boat with some of his men to fight. The captain-general resolved to go there with three boats. . . . At midnight we set forth, sixty men armed with corselets and helmets, together with the Christian king . . . When day came, we leapt into the water, being forty-nine men, and so we went for a distance of two crossbow flights before we could reach the harbor, and the boats could not come further inshore because of the stones and rocks which were in the water. The other eleven men remained to guard the boats. Having thus reached land we attacked them. Those people had formed three divisions, of more than one thousand fifty persons. And immediately they perceived us, they came about us with loud voices and cries, two divisions on our flanks, and one around and before us. When the captain saw this he divided us in two, and thus we began to fight. . . . And thus defending themselves

they fired at us so many arrows, and lances of bamboo tipped with iron, and pointed stakes hardened by fire, and stones, that we could hardly defend ourselves. . . . And they followed us, hurling poisoned arrows four or six times; while recognizing the captain, they turned toward him inasmuch as twice they hurled arrows very close to his head. . . . Then, trying to lay hand on his sword, he could draw it out but halfway . . . which seeing, all those people threw themselves on him, and one of them with a large javelin . . . thrust it into his left leg, whereby he fell face downward. On this all at once rushed upon him with lances of iron and of bamboo and with these javelins, so that they slew our mirror, our light, our comfort, and our true guide.”

Antonio Pigafetta, *Magellan's Voyage: A Narrative Account of the First Circumnavigation*, translated and edited by R. A. Skelton (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1969), pp.85-88.

Collapse of the Inca Empire, 1532-1533

“When my uncle [Atahualpa] was approaching Cajamarca with all of his people, the Spaniards met them . . . one and a half leagues from Cajamarca. Having arrived there, he asked them why they had come, and they answered that they had come on orders of Viracocha [God] in order to tell them how to get to know him. After having heard what they had to say, my uncle attended to them and calmly offered one of them a drink . . . in order to see if these people, too, would waste the drink as the other two had done before. And, indeed, it happened just like before; they neither drank it nor concerned themselves with it. Having seen how little they minded his things, my uncle said, ‘If you disrespect me, I will also disrespect you.’ He got up angrily and raised a cry as though he wanted to kill the Spaniards. However, the Spaniards were on the lookout and took possession of the four gates of the plaza where they were, which was enclosed on all sides.

The Indians were thus penned up like sheep in this enclosed plaza, unable to move because there were so many of them. Also, they had no weapons as they had not brought any, being so little concerned about the Spaniards . . . The Spaniards stormed with great fury to the center of the plaza, where the Inca's seat was placed on an elevated platform, like a sort of fortress . . . They took possession of it and wouldn't let my uncle ascend but instead forced him out of his seat, turned it over and took away everything he carried, as well as his tassel, which among us serves as a crown. After they had taken everything from him, they apprehended him, and because the Indians uttered loud cries, they started killing them with the horses, the swords or guns, like one kills sheep, without anyone being able to resist them. Of more than ten thousand not even two hundred escaped. When all were dead, they took my uncle to jail, where they kept him all night, stark naked and his neck in shackles.”

Titu Cusi Yupanqui, *An Inca Account of the Conquest of Peru*, trans. Ralph Bauer (Boulder:

University Press of Colorado, 2005), 61-62.

“Returning now to the imprisonment of Atabalipa [Atahualpa], as I have said, the Marquis Don Francisco Pizarro kept him prisoner, awaiting the time when the treasure which he had promised should be assembled, and also awaiting the time when more Spaniards should come to the land, because he did not dare to press on further with only those whom he had, especially as he had to keep guard over Atabalipa, because in accordance with the degree in which the natives feared and obeyed him, it was not possible to go up to Cuzco [the capital of the Inca empire] without freeing him, otherwise so many people would attack the Spaniards in the many bad passes which there are, that they would kill them all.”

Pedro Pizarro, *Relation of the Discovery and Conquest of the Kingdoms of Peru*, trans. Philip Ainsworth Means (New York: The Cortes Society, 1921. Reprint, New York: Kraus Reprint, 1969), 206-207.

The De Soto Expedition

“At my arrival here I received news of there being a Christian in the possession of a Cacique, and I sent Baltazar de Gallegos, with XL men of the horse, and as many of the foot, to endeavour to get him. He found the man a day’s journey from this place, with eight or ten Indians, whom he brought into my power. We rejoiced no little over him, for he speaks the language; and although he had forgotten his own, it directly returned to him. His name is Juan Ortiz, an hidalgo, native of Sevilla.

In consequence of this occurrence, I went myself for the Cacique, and came back with him in peace. I then sent Baltazar de Gallegos, with eighty lancers, and a hundred foot soldiers, to enter the country. He has found fields of maize, beans, and pumpkins, with other fruits, and provision in such quantity as would suffice to subsist a very large army without its knowing want.”

Letter of Hernando de Soto at Tampa Bay to the Justice and Board of Magistrates in Santiago de Cuba, July 9, 1539. Americanjournays.org. Retrieved 14 August 2007, <<http://www.americanjournays.org/aj-024/index.asp>>, 160-161.

The Coronado Expedition, 1540-1542

“This is what you, Fray Marcos de Niza, are to observe in the expedition which you are undertaking for the honor and glory of the Holy Trinity and for the exultation of the holy Catholic faith.

First: Upon arriving at the province of Culucán [in northwestern Mexico], you are to exhort and urge the Spaniards residing in the town of San Miguel to treat the peaceful

Indians well and not to employ them in excessive tasks . . . You shall make clear to the Indians that I am sending you, in the name of his Majesty, to tell them that the Spaniards shall treat them well, to let them know that he regrets the abuses and harm they have suffered, and that, from now on, they shall be well treated and those who may mistreat them shall be punished.

Likewise you are to assure them that no more slaves shall be taken from among them and that they are not to be taken away from their lands; on the contrary, they shall be left alone, as free people, without suffering any harm; tell them that they should not be afraid, but acknowledge God, our Lord, who is in heaven, and the emperor, as he has been placed on earth by His hand to rule and govern it.”

Don Antonio de Mendoza, “Instructions of the Viceroy [of New Spain] to Fray Marcos de Niza, November 1538, in *Narratives of the Coronado Expedition, 1540-1542*, ed. George P. Hammond (Albuquerque: The University of New Mexico Press, 1940), 58-59.

“The climate of this country [territory in present-day New Mexico] and the temperature of the air are almost like those of Mexico, because now it is hot and now it rains. I have not yet seen it rain, however, except once there fell a little shower with wind, such as often falls in Spain. . . . There are no fruits or fruit trees. The country is all level and is nowhere shut in by high mountains, although there are some hills and rough passages. There are not many birds, probably because of the cold and because there are no mountains near. There are not many trees fit for firewood here, although they can bring enough for their needs from a clump of very small junipers four leagues distant. Very good grass was found a quarter of a league away, both for pasturage for our horses and for mowing for making hay . . . The food which they eat in this country consists of maize, of which they have great abundance, beans, and game, which they must eat (although they say they do not), because we found many skins of deer, hares, and rabbits. They make the best tortillas that I have ever seen anywhere, and this is what everybody ordinarily eats. They have the very best arrangement and method for grinding that was ever seen. One of these Indian women here will grind as much as four of the Mexicans do. They have very good salt in crystals, which they bring from a lake a day’s journey distant from here.

I have gained no information from them about the North sea or that on the west, nor am I able to tell your Lordship which we are nearest to. I should judge that we are nearer to the western, and 150 leagues is the nearest that it seems to me it can be to there. The North sea must be much farther away.

Your lordship may thus see how extensive this country is. There are many animals, bears, tigers, lions, porcupines, and some sheep as big as horses, with very large horns and little tails. I have seen some of their horns, the size of which was something amazing. . . .

Some gold and silver has been found in this place, which those who know about minerals say is not bad. I have not yet been able to learn from these people where they got it. I perceive that they refuse to tell me the truth in everything, because they think that I shall have to depart from here in a short time, as I have said. But I trust in God that they will not be able to avoid answering much longer.”

Francisco Vázquez de Coronado, to Don Antonio de Mendoza, Viceroy of New Spain, 3 August 1540, in *Narratives of the Coronado Expedition*, 171-173, 178.

“In the places where we erected crosses we taught the natives to worship them, and they offered them their powders⁴ and feathers, some even the blankets they were wearing. They did it with such eagerness that some climbed on the backs of others in order to reach the arms of the crosses to put plumes and roses on them. Others brought ladders, and while some held them others climbed up to tie strings in order to fasten the roses and the feathers.”

“Discovery of Tiguex [north of present-day Albuquerque, New Mexico] by [Hernando de] Alvarado and [Fray Juan de] Padilla,” in *Narratives of the Coronado Expedition*, 184.

French Exploration

Verrazzano's 1524 Voyage

“Pursuing our voyage towards the west . . . we reached a new country, which had never before been seen by any one, either in ancient or modern times. At first it appeared to be very low, but on approaching it to within a quarter of a league from the shore we perceived, by the great fires near the coast, that it was inhabited. . . . Many people who were seen coming to the sea-side fled at our approach, but occasionally stopping, they looked back upon us with astonishment, and some were at length induced, by various friendly signs, to come to us. These showed the greatest delight on beholding us, wondering at our dress, countenances and complexion. They then showed us by signs where we could more conveniently secure our boat, and offered us some of their provisions. . . . They go entirely naked, except that about the loins they wear skins of small animals like martens fastened by a girdle of plaited grass . . . all other parts of the body and the head are naked. Some wear garlands similar to birds' feathers. . . .

The complexion of these people is black, not much different from that of the Ethiopians . . . They are not very strong in body, but acute in mind, active and swift of foot, as far as we could judge by observation. In these last two particulars they resemble

the people of the east, especially those the most remote. . . .

We often went five or six leagues into the interior, and found the country as pleasant as is possible to conceive, adapted to cultivation of every kind, whether of corn, wine or oil; there are open plains twenty-five or thirty leagues in extent, entirely free from trees or other hinderances, and of so great fertility, that whatever is sown there will yield an excellent crop. . . . We found, also, apples, plumbs . . . and many other fruits, but all of a different kind from ours. The animals, which are in great numbers, as stags, deer, lynxes, and many other species, are taken by snares, and by bows, the latter being their chief implement . . .

As to the religious faith of all these tribes, not understanding their language, we could not discover either by sign or gestures any thing certain. It seemed to us that they had no religion nor laws, nor any knowledge of a First Cause or Mover . . . our conclusion was, that they have no religious belief whatever, but live in this respect entirely free. All which proceeds from ignorance, as they are very easy to be persuaded, and imitated us with earnestness and fervour in all which they saw us do as Christians in our acts of worship. . . .

My intention in this voyage was to reach Cathay, on the extreme coast of Asia, expecting to find in the newly discovered land some such an obstacle, as they have proved to be, yet I did not doubt that I should penetrate by some passage to the eastern ocean. . . . the country which has been discovered, and which was unknown to the ancients, is another world compared with that before known . . .”

Giovanni da Verrazzano, to King Francis I of France, July 8, 1524. Americanjourneys.org. Retrieved 14 August 2007, <<http://www.americanjourneys.org/aj-094/index.asp>>, 41-42, 48, 50-52.

New France

“Upon the [24] day of the moneth [July 1534] wee caused a faire high Crosse to be made of the height of thirty foote, which was made in the presence of many of them [Indians], upon the point of the entrance of the sayd haven [Gaspé Bay], in the midst whereof we hanged up a Shield with three Floure de Lucis in it, and in the top was carved in the wood with Anticke letters the posie, Vive le Roy de France. Then before them all we set it upon sayd point. They with great heed beheld both the making and setting of it up. So soone as it was up, we altogether kneeled downe before them, with our hands toward Heaven, yielding God thanks: and we made signes unto them, shewing them the Heavens, and that all our salvation dependeth onely on him which in them dwelleth: whereat they shewed a great admiration, looking first one at another, and then upon the Crosse. And after wee were returned to our ships, their Captaine clad with an old Beares skin, with three of his sonnes, and a brother of his with him, came unto us in one of their boates . . . there he made a long Oration unto us, shewing us the crosse we had set up, and

making a crosse with two fingers, then did he shew us all the Countrey about us, as if he would say that all was his, and that wee should not set up any crosse without his leave. . . . Then did we shew them with signes, that the crosse was but onely set up to be as a light and leader which wayes to enter into the port, and that wee would shortly come againe, and bring good store of iron wares and other things, but that we would take two of his children with us, and afterward bring them to the sayd port againe . . . in the afternoone there came to our ships sixe boates of them, with five or sixe men in every one, to take their farewells of those two we had detained to take with us,⁵ and brought them some fish, uttering many words which we did not understand, making signes that they would not remove the crosse we had set up.”

Jacques Cartier, *First Relation of Jaques Carthier of S. Malo, 1534*. Americanjourneys.org. Retrieved 14 August 2007, <www.americanjourneys.org/aj-026/>, 24-26.

“We staid and rested our selves in the sayd haven, until the [eighth] of August being Sunday: on which say we hoysed sayle, and came toward land on the South side . . . distant from the sayd haven about twentie leagues Northnortheast, and Southsouthwest: but the next day there rose a stormie and contrary winde, and because we could find no haven there toward the South, thence we went coasting along toward the North, beyond the abovesayd haven about ten leagues, where we found a goodly great gulfe, full of Islands, passages, and entrances toward what wind soever you please to bend: for the knowledge of this gulfe there is a great Island that is like to a Cape of lande, stretching somewhat further foorth than the others, and about two leagues within the land, there is an hill fashioned as it were an heape of corne. We named the sayd gulfe Saint Laurence his bay.” (40)

“Our Captaine hearing their talke, and how they did affirme no other passage to be there, would not at that time proceede any further, till he had seene and noted the other lands, and coast toward the North, which he had omitted to see from S. Laurence his gulfe, because he would know, if between the lands toward the North any passage might be discovered.”⁶ (42)

“The same day came also many other boates full of those countrey men and weomen, to see and take acquaintance of our two men [Taignoagny and Domagaia⁷], all which were as courteously received and friendly entertained of our Captaine, as possibly could be. And to have them the better acquainted with him, and make them his friends, hee gave them many small gifts, but of small value: neverthelesse they were greatly contented with them. . . . Our Captaine then caused our boates to be set in order, that with the next tide he might goe up higher into the river, to find some safe harborough for our ships: and we passed up the river against the streame about tenne leagues, coasting the said Iland, at the

end whereof, we found a goodly and pleasant sound, where there is about three fadome water. This place seemed to us very fit and commodious to harbour our ships therein, and so we did very safely, we named it the holy Crosse, for on that day we came thither. Neere unto it, there is a village . . . it is called Stadacona,⁸ as goodly a plot of ground as possibly may be seene, and therewithal very fruitfull, full of goodly trees even as in France, as Okes, Elmes, Ashes, Walnut trees, Maple tres, Cydrons, Vines, and white Thornes, that bring fourth fruit as bigge as any damsons, and many other sortes of trees, under which groweth as faire tall hempe, as any in France, without any seede or any mans worke or labour at all. . . . as we were comming out of the river we met comming against us one of the Lords of the said village of Stadacona, accompanied with many others, as men, weomen, and children, who after the fashion of their country, in signe of mirth and joy, began to make a long Oration, the women still singing and dancing up to the knees in water. Our Captaine knowing their good will and kindesse toward us, caused the boat wherein they were to come unto him, and gave them certaine trifles, as knives, and beades of glasse, whereat they were marvellous glad, for being gone about leagues from them, for the pleasure they conceived of our comming we might heare them sing, and see them dance for all they were so farre.” (46-48)

“[W]e went along, and about a mile and a halfe farther, we began to finde goodly and large fielded, full of such corne as the countrie yeeldieth. It is even as the Millet of Bresil, as great and somewhat bigger than small peason, wherewith they live even as we doe with ours. In the midst of those fields is the citie of Hochelaga, placed neere, and as it were joined to a great mountaine that is tilled round about, very fertill, on the top of which you may see very farre, we named it Mount Roiall.⁹ (59)

“Our Captaine seeing the misery and devotion of this poore people, recited the Gospel of Saint John, that is to say, In the beginning was the word; touching every one that were diseased, praying to God that is would please him to open the hearts of this poore people, and to make them know his holy word, and that they might receive Baptisme and Christendome: that done, he tooke a Service-booke in his hand, and with a loud voice read all the passion of Christ, word by word that all the standers by might heare him: all which while this poore people kept silence, and were marvelously attentive, looking up to heaven, and imitating us in gestures. Then he caused the men all orderly to be set on one side, the women on another, and likewise the children on an other, and to the chiefest of them he gave hatchets, to the other knives, and to the women beads and such other small trifles. Then where the children were, he cast rings, counters, and brooches made of Tin, whereat they seemed to be very glad. That done, our Captaine commanded Tumpets and other musicall instruments to be sounded, which when they heard, they were verie merie. Then we tooke our leave and went to our boate: the women seeing that, put themselves before to stay us, and brought us out of their meates that they had made readie for us, as fish, pottage beanes, and such other things, thinking to make us eate, and

dine in that place: but because the meates had no savour at all of salt, we liked them not, but thanked them, and with signes gave them to understand that we had no neede to eate. . . .” (62-63)

“There is great store of Stags, Deere, Beares, and other such beasts, as Connies, Hares, Marterns, Foxes, Otters, Bevers, Weasels, Badgers, and Rats exceeding great and divers other sortes of wilde beasts. . . . There are also many sorts of birdes, as Cranes, Swannes, Bustards, wild Geese white and gray, Duckes, Thrushes, Blackbirdes, Turtles, wilde Pigeons, Lenites, Finches, Redbreasts, Stares, Nightingales, Sparrowes, and other Birdes, even as in France. Also, as we have said before, the said river is the plentifullest of fish that ever hath of any man bene seene or heard of, because that from the mouth to the end of it, according to their seasons, you shall finde all sorts of fresh water fish and salt. . . . there is a river that goeth Southwest, from whence there is a whole moneths sayling to goe to a certaine land¹⁰ . . . where the inhabitants doe continually warre one against another, where there is great store of Oranges, Almonds, Nuts, and Apples, with many other sorts of fruits . . . we asked them if there were any gold or red copper, they answered no. I take this place to be toward Florida, as farre as I could perceive and understand by their signes and tokens.” (71-72)

Jacques Cartier, *Shorte and Briefe Narration (Cartier's Second Voyage), 1535-1536.*

Americanjourneys.org. Retrieved 14 August 2007, <www.americanjourneys.org/aj-027/>, 40, 42, 46-48, 59, 62-63, 71-72.

“From the Island of Orleans to Quebec the distance is a league. I arrived there on the 3d of July, [1608,] when I searched for a place suitable for our settlement, but I could find none more convenient or better situated than the point of Quebec, so called by the savages,¹¹ which was covered with nut-trees. I at once employed a portion of our workmen in cutting them down, that we might construct our habitation there: one I set to sawing boards, another to making a cellar and digging ditches, another I sent to Tadoussac with the barque to get supplies. The first thing we made was the storehouse for keeping under cover our supplies, which was promptly accomplished through the zeal of all, and my attention to the work. . . .

While the carpenters, sawers of boards, and other workmen, were employed on our quarters, I set all the others to work clearing up around our place of abode, in preparation for gardens in which to plant grain and seeds, that we might see how they would flourish, as the soil seemed to be very good. . . .

These people [the Indians] suffer so much from lack of food that they are sometimes obliged to live on certain shell-fish, and eat their dogs and the skins with which they clothe themselves against the cold. I am of opinion that, if one were to show them how to live, and teach them the cultivation of the soil and other things, they would learn very

aply. For many of them possess good sense, and answer properly questions put to them. They have a bad habit of taking vengeance, and are great liars, and you must not put much reliance on them, except judiciously, and with force at hand. They make promises readily, but keep their word poorly. The most of them observe no law at all, so far as I have been able to see, and are, besides, full of superstitions. I asked them with what ceremonies they were accustomed to pray to their God, when they replied that they had none, but that each prayed to him in his heart, as he wished. That is why there is no law among them, and they do not know what it is to worship and pray to God, living as they do like brute beasts. But I think that they would soon become good Christians, if people would come and inhabit their country, which they are for the most part desirous of. . . . So, also, they believe that all their dreams are true; and, in fact, there are many who say that they have had visions and dreams about matters which actually come to pass or will do so. But, to tell the truth, these are diabolical visions, through which they are deceived and misled. This is all I have been able to learn about their brutish faith. . . .

On the 1st of October, I had some wheat sown, and on the 15th some rye. On the 3d, there was a white frost in some places, and the leaves of the trees began to fall on the 15th. On the 24th, I had some native vines set out, which flourished very well. But, after leaving the settlement to go to France, they were all spoiled from lack of attention, at which I was much troubled on my return. On the 18th of November, there was a great fall of snow, which remained only two days on the ground, during which time there was a violent gale of wind. There died during this month a sailor and our locksmith of dysentery, so also many Indians from eating eels badly cooked, as I think. On the 5th of February, it snowed violently, and the wind was high for two days.”

Samuel de Champlain, *Voyages of Samuel de Champlain*, vol. 2, trans. Charles P. Otis. Gutenberg.org. Retrieved 14 August 2007, <<http://www.gutenberg.org/dirs/etext04/8vcv210.txt>>, chapters 3-5.

“It was when the Hurons returned from their journey to Quebec that [smallpox] entered the country, our Hurons having thoughtlessly mingled with some Algonquians whom they met on the way up here, most of whom were infected with [it]. The first Huron who introduced it came ashore just beside our house, newly built on the edge of a lake, and from there he carried it to his own village, about a league distant from us, and then promptly died. It would take no great prophet to predict that the illness would soon be spread abroad through all these regions, for the Hurons, regardless of any plague or contagion, live in the midst of their sick, sharing and mingling with them as if they were in perfect health. And indeed, within a few days, almost everyone in the cabin of the deceased was infected, and then the disease spread from house to house, from town to town, and eventually affected the entire country. . . .

Because the towns nearest our new house were the first ones attacked and the most

severely afflicted, the Devil did not fail to seize the opportunity to reawaken all the hoary delusions and revive the former complaints against us, attributing to our living here all their misfortunes and especially all their sickness. They no longer speak of anything else, crying aloud that the French must be massacred. These barbarians excite one another to that effect. The death of those they love deprives them of reason and heightens their rage against us in every town, so that the best informed among them can hardly believe we are able to survive so horrible a storm. They observed, with some basis in reason, that since our arrival in these lands, those who were nearest to us happened to be those most ruined by the diseases and that the towns that welcomed us now appear utterly exterminated. Certainly, they said, the same fate will befall all the others if the course of this misfortune is not stopped by the massacre of those who were the cause of it. This was a common opinion, not only in private conversation but in the general councils held on this account, where the plurality of voices voted for our death, with only a few elders kindly obliging us with a verdict of banishment.

At the same time, this false imagination seemed to be powerfully confirmed by the fact that they saw us going through the country using every means possible to gain access to the cabins and taking unheard-of pains to instruct and baptize the most seriously ill. No doubt, they said, we must have a secret understanding with the disease (for they believe that it is a demon), since we alone were all full of life and health, though we constantly breathed nothing but a totally infected air, staying whole days close by the side of the most foul-smelling patients, for whom everyone felt horror. No doubt we carried misery with us, since, wherever we set foot, either death or disease followed us.

In consequence of all these sayings, many held us in abomination. They expelled us from their cabins and did not allow us to approach their sick, especially the children, not even to lay eyes on them. In a word, we were dreaded as the greatest sorcerers on earth.

Wherein truly it must be acknowledged that these poor people are in some sense excusable. For it has happened very often, and has been remarked more than a hundred times, that where we were most welcome and baptized the greatest number of people was in fact where the greatest number died. Conversely, in the cabins to which we were denied entrance, though they were sometimes extremely sick, at the end of a few days one saw every person happily cured. We shall see in heaven the secret, but ever adorable, judgments of God herein . . .”

Jesuit Relations, vol. 19, 88-93, Jérôme Lalemant, *Relation of 1640*, in *The Jesuit Relations: Natives and Missionaries in Seventeenth-Century North America*, ed. Allan Greer (Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2000), 90-91.

Exploration of the Mississippi River, 1673, 1682

“No sooner had we arrived than Monsieur [Louis] Jolliet and I assembled the elders together and he told them that he was sent by Monsieur the governor to discover new

countries, while I was sent by God to illuminate them with the light of the holy gospel. He told them that the sovereign master of our lives wished to be known by all the nations; and that in obeying His will, I fearlessly exposed myself to death in perilous voyages. He informed them that we needed two guides to show us the way, and we gave them a present as we asked them to grant us the guides. To this they very civilly consented; and they also spoke to us by means of a present, consisting of a mat to serve us as a bed on our voyage.” (193)

“Drifting with the current, we perceived some Indians armed with guns and waiting for us on the shore¹². . . they were as frightened as we were, and what we had taken for a signal for battle was actually an invitation to approach nearer so that they might give us food. We therefore landed, and upon our entering their cabins, they offered us wild cattle meat and bear’s grease with white plums, which are very good. They have guns, hatchets, hoes, knives, beads, and flasks of double glass, in which they put their powder. . . . They assured us that we were no more than ten days’ journey from the sea, that they bought cloth and all other goods from the Europeans who lived to the east, that these Europeans had rosaries and pictures, that they played upon instruments, that some of them looked like me, and that they had been well received by these Europeans. Nevertheless, I saw none who seemed to have received any instruction in the faith, and so I gave them as much as I could, together with some medals.

This news (that we were close to the sea) raised our spirits, and we took up our paddles with renewed energy. And so we advanced, no longer passing through prairies but past tall trees which lined the river. The cottonwood, elm, and basswood grow wondrously high and thick there. Yet we could hear great numbers of wild cattle bellowing, which led us to conclude that the prairies were nearby. We also saw quail at the water’s edge.” (207-208)

“We informed them, by our presents, that we were going to the sea. They understood us very well, but I know not whether they comprehended what I told them about God and about matters pertaining to their salvation. This is a seed cast onto the ground which will bear fruit in its time. We obtained no other answer than that we would learn all that we desired at another large village, called Akamsea, which was only eight to ten leagues farther down. They offered us *sagamité* and fish, and we passed the night among them in some anxiety.” (208-209)

“Monsieur Jolliet and I held our own council to deliberate upon what we should do – whether we should push on or remain content with the discovery which we had made. After careful consideration, we decided that we were not far from the Gulf of Mexico, the basin of which is at the latitude of 31 degrees, 60 minutes, while we were at 33 degrees, 40 minutes. We judged that we could not be more than two or three days’ journey from it and that, beyond a doubt, the Mississippi River discharges in Florida or the Gulf of

Mexico, and not to the east in Virginia, where the seacoast is at 34 degrees latitude, which we had passed without reaching the sea, nor does it discharge to the west in California, because in that case our route would have been to the west or the west-southwest, whereas we had always continued southward. We further considered that we risked losing the results of this voyage, of which we could give no information if we proceeded to fling ourselves into the hands of the Spaniards, who without a doubt, would at the least have detained us as captives. Moreover, we saw very plainly that we were not in a condition to resist Indians allied to the Europeans, who were numerous and expert in firing guns, and who continually infested the lower part of the river. Finally, we had obtained all the information that could be desired in regard to this discovery. All these reasons induced us to decide upon returning; this we announced to the Indians, and after a day's rest, we made our preparations for the voyage." (210-211)

Jacques Marquette, "On the first voyage by Father Marquette toward New Mexico and how the idea was conceived, 1674," in *The Jesuit Relations*, 193, 206-211.

"At last, after a navigation of about forty leagues, we arrived, on the sixth of April [1682], at a point where the [Mississippi] river divides into three channels. [René-Robert Cavelier,] The Sieur de la Salle divided his party the next day into three bands to go explore them. He took the western, the Sieur Dautray the southern, the Sieur Tonty, whom I accompanied, the middle one. These three channels are beautiful and deep. The water is brackish; after advancing two leagues it became perfectly salt, and, advancing on, we discovered the open sea, so that on the ninth of April, with all possible solemnity, we performed the ceremony of planting the cross and raising the arms of France. After we had chanted the hymn of the church, "Vexilla Regis," and the "Te Deum," the Sieur de la Salle, in the name of his majesty, took possession of that river, of all rivers that enter it and all the country watered by them. An authentic act was drawn up, signed by all of us there, and, amid a volley from all our muskets, a leaden plate subscribed with the arms of France and the names of those who had just made the discovery was deposited in the earth."

Isaac Joslin Cox, ed., *The Journeys of René Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle* (New York: A.S. Barnes & Co., 1905), 145.

English

Identity of
Explorers

Goals

Religious
Affiliation

Primary Area(s) of
Exploration

General Impressions of
Newly Discovered
Lands

Interaction with
Native Groups

Spanish

Identity of
Explorers

Goals

Religious
Affiliation

Primary Area(s) of
Exploration

General Impressions of
Newly Discovered
Lands

Interaction with
Native Groups

French

Identity of
Explorers

Goals

Religious
Affiliation

Primary Area(s) of
Exploration

General Impressions of
Newly Discovered
Lands

Interaction with
Native Groups

