

***Understanding the American Promise Combined
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Use the following to answer questions 1-12:

- A) Acoma pueblo revolt
- B) Black Death
- C) Columbian exchange
- D) conquistadors
- E) *creoles*
- F) *encomienda*
- G) Incan empire
- H) New Spain
- I) Protestant Reformation
- J) Reconquest
- K) Tainos
- L) Treaty of Tordesillas

1. Indian uprising against the Spanish in 1599. It was violently suppressed by Juan de Oñate, but the Indians revolted again later that year, after which many Spanish settlers returned to Mexico.
2. The transatlantic exchange of goods, people, and ideas that began when the Spanish arrived in the Caribbean, ending the age-old separation of the hemispheres.
3. The reform movement that began in 1517 with Martin Luther's critiques of the Roman Catholic Church, which precipitated an enduring schism that divided Protestants from Catholics.
4. A system for governing used during the Reconquest and in New Spain. It allowed a town's Spanish "owner" to collect tribute from the town in return for providing law and order and encouraging "his" Indians to convert to Christianity.
5. A disease that in the mid-fourteenth century killed about one-third of the European population and left a legacy of increased food and financial resources for the survivors as well as a sense of a world in precarious balance.
6. Under the control of the emperor Atahualpa, this region stretched along the western coast of South America and contained more than nine million people and a wealth in gold and silver.

7. Children born in the New World to Spanish parents. With the *peninsulares*, they made up the tiny portion of the population at the top of the colonial social hierarchy.
8. Term referring to the Spanish explorers and soldiers who conquered lands in the New World.
9. The centuries-long drive to expel Muslims from the Iberian Peninsula undertaken by the Christian kingdoms of Spain and Portugal. The military victories of this effort helped the Portuguese gain greater access to sea routes.
10. Land in the New World held by the Spanish crown.
11. The Indians who inhabited San Salvador and many Caribbean islands and who were the first people Columbus encountered after making landfall in the New World.
12. Pact negotiated in 1494 to delineate land claims in the New World. It drew an imaginary line west of the Canary Islands; land discovered west of the line belonged to Spain, and land to the east belonged to Portugal.

Answer Key

1. A
2. C
3. I
4. F
5. B
6. G
7. E
8. D
9. J
10. H
11. K
12. L

1. Which event brought Queen Isabella to the throne in 1474?
 - A) Her marriage to Ferdinand, King of Aragon
 - B) The death of her brother Henry
 - C) The death of her brother King John II
 - D) The success of the Spanish Inquisition

2. Cities in what European nation dominated trade with the Far East until the fifteenth century?
 - A) Spain
 - B) Italy
 - C) Portugal
 - D) England

3. What was a long-term consequence of the catastrophic bubonic plague in Europe?
 - A) Most survivors faced starvation conditions.
 - B) The plague eliminated hope for social mobility.
 - C) The plague stimulated exploration for new marketplaces.
 - D) The plague diminished religious enthusiasm.

4. Exploration and territorial expansion became popular with Europeans in the fifteenth century because
 - A) monarchs hoped to enlarge their power.
 - B) Europeans abandoned supernatural worship.
 - C) Europe had achieved political stability.
 - D) Europeans lived longer than they had before.

5. Which technological advance aided European explorers by 1400?
 - A) The telescope
 - B) The steam engine
 - C) The compass
 - D) The printing press

6. Why was Portugal an unlikely nation to lead Europe into the Age of Exploration?
 - A) It lacked a strong leader who could initiate aggressive expansion.
 - B) It was a landlocked nation that had shown little interest in expanding its borders.
 - C) It had less than 2 percent of the population of Christian Europe.
 - D) The Catholic Church controlled the monarchy and resisted the idea of exploration.

7. Portugal's early interest in exploration and expansion stemmed from its desire to
- A) expel Muslims from the Iberian Peninsula.
 - B) control the gold and slave trade of Africa.
 - C) seize the balance of power in Europe from France.
 - D) defeat its religious rival, Spain.
8. How did the Portuguese adapt to the demands of lengthy ocean voyages in the fifteenth century?
- A) They stole maps from Italian merchants.
 - B) Portuguese explorers made fewer but longer trips.
 - C) They developed a vessel known as the caravel.
 - D) They used enslaved Africans to pilot their ships.
9. In the 1460s, the Portuguese inaugurated a new phase of plantation labor by staffing the Cape Verde islands with
- A) captured Indians.
 - B) Portuguese criminals.
 - C) African slaves.
 - D) captured Europeans.
10. Who sailed around the Cape of Good Hope in order to find a sea route from Europe to Asia?
- A) Vasco da Gama
 - B) Henry the Navigator
 - C) Christopher Columbus
 - D) Bartolomeu Dias
11. How did a sea route to Asia affect Europe?
- A) The sea route allowed Europeans to immigrate to the Far East.
 - B) The Catholic Church lost control over important Italian city-states.
 - C) The route allowed merchants to charge lower prices for imported Eastern goods.
 - D) The sea route lowered the prices of perishable products in Europe.
12. Christopher Columbus, like most educated Europeans, believed that
- A) the earth was spherical and could therefore be circumnavigated.
 - B) explorers would never reach the East Indies by sailing west.
 - C) the earth was flat, making circumnavigation impossible.
 - D) the earth was much larger than it actually was.

13. The government of which country sponsored Christopher Columbus's 1492 exploration?
- A) Italy
 - B) France
 - C) Spain
 - D) Portugal
14. According to Map 2.2: European Exploration in Sixteenth-Century America, which European explorers traveled to the Inca empire?



Map 2.2 European Exploration in Sixteenth-Century America
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- A) The Dutch
- B) The English
- C) The Spanish
- D) The French

15. Who were the “Indians” that Columbus met at San Salvador?
- A) Tainos
 - B) Mexica
 - C) Mayans
 - D) Incas
16. How did Ferdinand and Isabella react to Columbus's first voyage?
- A) They believed Spain could challenge Portuguese dominance of the seas.
 - B) They chastised Columbus for failing to find gold.
 - C) They reluctantly agreed to continue their exploration program.
 - D) They refused to sponsor Columbus's second voyage.
17. The Treaty of Tordesillas, a 1494 agreement between Spain and Portugal,
- A) divided the Atlantic territories between the two countries.
 - B) protected Spain's holdings in the New World and Portugal's holdings in Africa.
 - C) gave Portugal sole claim to the areas discovered by Columbus.
 - D) finally removed Muslims from Europe.
18. Which area did John Cabot claim for England in his search for a Northwest Passage?
- A) Ontario
 - B) Newfoundland
 - C) Brazil
 - D) Cuba

19. According to Map 2.2: European Exploration in Sixteenth-Century America, which European country was the last to send explorers to the New World?



Map 2.2 European Exploration in Sixteenth-Century America
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- A) The Netherlands
B) France
C) Spain
D) England
20. In the early 1500s, Martin Waldseemüller was among the very first to understand that
- A) an explorer could sail around the world in only a month.
B) a round globe rather than a flat map depicted Earth with greater accuracy.
C) the Treaty of Tordesillas shifted power from Italy to Spain and Portugal.
D) there was a continent that existed separate from Europe and Asia.

21. What was the significance of Ferdinand Magellan's circumnavigation of the globe?
- A) He established the first Portuguese colony in the New World.
 - B) Europeans learned that a westward passage to the East was possible but not feasible.
 - C) His voyage validated the findings of Columbus and Cabral.
 - D) His voyage solidified the control of Italian merchants over Asian trade.
22. The transatlantic exchange of goods, people, and ideas between the New World and Europe is referred to as the
- A) Pan-Atlantic exchange.
 - B) Columbian exchange.
 - C) Renaissance.
 - D) triangular Atlantic Trade.
23. What was a result of contact and trade between the peoples of the Old and New Worlds?
- A) Contact and trade allowed diffusion of American technology in Europe.
 - B) Clever European traders took advantage of gullible Indians.
 - C) Contact and trade exposed Indians to devastating Old World diseases.
 - D) Chaos and anxiety spread through European communities.
24. How did Malinali provide invaluable assistance to Hernán Cortés?
- A) She helped kidnap Montezuma.
 - B) She taught the Spanish to avoid smallpox.
 - C) She saved John Smith from execution.
 - D) She served as an interpreter for Cortés.
25. Who did Cortés enlist to help defeat the Mexicans in 1521?
- A) A Mayan chief and his followers
 - B) Militant Catholic priests
 - C) The Mexican people themselves
 - D) Indians who resented Mexican rule

26. “Your greed for gold is blind. Your pride, your lust, your anger, your envy, your sloth, all blind. . . . You are in mortal sin. And you are heading for damnation. . . . For you are destroying an innocent people. For they are God's people, these innocents, whom you destroyed. By what right do you make them die? Mining gold for you in your mines or working for you in your fields, by what right do you unleash enslaving wars upon them? They have lived in peace in this land before you came, in peace in their own homes. They did nothing to harm you to cause you to slaughter them wholesale. . . .”
What was Montecino's main criticism of Spanish treatment of Native Americans in his 1511 sermon?
- A) It was not profitable for the Spanish crown.
 - B) It was not in keeping with Christian values.
 - C) It was against Spanish law.
 - D) It was ignorant of native customs.
27. Who held the largest treasure found in the New World before 1540?
- A) Mexicans
 - B) Incas
 - C) Zuni
 - D) Tlaxcalans
28. “Wherefore, as best we can, we ask and require that you consider what we have said to you, and that you take the time that shall be necessary to understand and deliberate upon it, and that you acknowledge the Church as the ruler and superior of the whole world, and the high priest called Pope, and in his name the king and queen [of Spain] our lords, in his place, as superiors and lords and kings of these islands and this mainland . . . and that you consent and permit that these religious fathers declare and preach to you. . . . But if you do not do this or if you maliciously delay in doing it, I certify to you that with the help of God we shall forcefully enter into your country and shall make war against you in all ways and manners that we can, and shall subject you to the yoke and obedience of the Church and of their highnesses; we shall take you and your wives and your children and shall make slaves of them, and as such shall sell and dispose of them as their highnesses may command; and we shall take away your goods and shall do to you all the harm and damage that we can. . . .”
What did the requerimiento demand Native Americans do to avoid war and violence at the hands of the Spanish?
- A) Pledge their allegiance to the Spanish crown
 - B) Give the Spanish a large amount of their crops each season
 - C) Convert to Christianity and pledge their allegiance to the Pope
 - D) Agree to fight with the Spanish against other native peoples

29. What was Francisco Vázquez de Coronado searching for when he ventured into the Southwest and Great Plains of North America?
- A) The Seven Cities of Cíbola
 - B) The Gold City of Cahokia
 - C) The cliff dwellings of the Anasazi
 - D) The burial mounds of the Adena
30. How did Spain benefit from settling Florida in the mid-sixteenth century?
- A) Settlers found immense riches there.
 - B) Florida became the most populous Spanish colony.
 - C) The settlement protected Spanish ships from pirates.
 - D) The climate was ideal for growing tobacco.
31. What can we infer about the New World from the painting “Mixed Races”?



Mixed Races
Schalkwijk/Art Resource, NY
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- A) There was a complicated system of racial categorization.
- B) There were strict laws against people of different races marrying and having children.
- C) There were only two recognized races.
- D) Racial categories were irrelevant.

32. Which European power dominated the New World during the 1500s?
- A) Portugal, because it controlled the interior of the continent
 - B) Spain, because it had the most colonial possessions
 - C) England, because Portugal had diverted its attention to Asia
 - D) France, because of the Catholic Church's missionary work there
33. The distribution of conquered towns, the right to rule the Indians and the land around them, and the right to exact tribute and labor from the Indians was called
- A) *repartimiento*.
 - B) indenture.
 - C) *encomienda*.
 - D) *peninsulares*.
34. Why did Spain introduce *encomienda*?
- A) To reward conquistadors with the tribute and labor of the Indians
 - B) To provide housing for the Indians who labored in the silver mines
 - C) To allot a portion of New World wealth for the Catholic Church
 - D) To punish wrongdoers in both the colonies and Spain
35. The system of coerced labor in New Spain grew directly out of Spaniards' assumption that
- A) coercion was the only way Indians would work.
 - B) Indians would sabotage mines if not watched.
 - C) Spaniards were superior to Indians.
 - D) only harsh rule could control the Indians.
36. When Catholic priests complained to the Spanish government about the brutal treatment of Indians, royal officials
- A) ignored the problems because they thought priests were overreacting.
 - B) replaced the cavalier conquistadors with royal bureaucrats.
 - C) sent delegates to the colonies in order to investigate and punish the guilty.
 - D) encouraged the Catholic Church to suppress complaints from the priests.
37. In 1549, the Spanish government issued the *repartimiento*, which
- A) limited the amount of labor Indians had to perform.
 - B) established political equality for the Indians.
 - C) led to the immediate elimination of *encomienda*.
 - D) challenged the principle of forced labor.

38. During the 1500s, what was the most valuable export from New Spain?
- A) Precious metals
 - B) Leather hides
 - C) Indian laborers
 - D) Agricultural products
39. Which segment of the Spanish population made up the majority of the approximately 225,000 Spaniards who settled in the colonies between 1492 and 1592?
- A) The displaced younger sons of Spanish nobility
 - B) Women and families from northern Spain
 - C) Artisans, laborers, and sailors of Jewish faith
 - D) Poor young men of common lineage
40. The gender and number of Spanish settlers in New Spain created a society in which
- A) Spaniards married Spaniards and Indians married Indians.
 - B) a fluid family structure based on Indian norms emerged.
 - C) a fluid class structure based on Spanish norms emerged.
 - D) Spanish men frequently married Indian women.
41. Which social class was made up of children who were born in the Spanish New World to parents who had emigrated from Spain?
- A) *Mestizos*
 - B) *Creoles*
 - C) *Peninsulares*
 - D) Cajuns
42. Like many other European colonies in the New World, New Spain developed a pattern of social organization in which
- A) Europeans became a dominant minority.
 - B) Indians gradually obtained equality.
 - C) everyone participated in an egalitarian society.
 - D) people shared the same cultural characteristics.
43. After fifty years of contact with Europeans in New Spain,
- A) 90 percent of the native Indians had died.
 - B) about half of the native Indians had died.
 - C) most Indians had converted to Catholicism.
 - D) Indians were no longer subject to coerced labor.

44. How did the deaths of millions of Indians by the end of the sixteenth century affect Spain?
- A) The Spanish believed Indians to be inferior so their demise was no great loss.
 - B) The Spaniards realized the value of germ warfare and used it in the future.
 - C) The deaths created a labor shortage that led to the purchase of African slaves.
 - D) The Spanish exhausted all natural resources in the areas they had colonized.
45. How did King Charles I (later Holy Roman Emperor Charles V) and his successors use the wealth of New Spain?
- A) To challenge the Portuguese and Italian influences in Asia
 - B) To consolidate the largest empire in Europe
 - C) To support the exploration and colonization of interior Africa
 - D) To purchase luxury items and hire mercenaries for war
46. Martin Luther and the Catholic Church disagreed on
- A) how salvation could be gained.
 - B) the role of saints.
 - C) the divinity of Jesus.
 - D) who could become a priest.
47. What was the result of Charles V's and Philip II's extensive warfare?
- A) Spain reached unprecedented levels of wealth.
 - B) Most Spaniards were ashamed of their nation.
 - C) Spain became debt-free for the first time.
 - D) The majority of Spaniards became impoverished.
48. Who established an unsuccessful colony along the St. Lawrence River in 1541?
- A) Giovanni da Verrazano
 - B) Jacques Cartier
 - C) Albrecht Durer
 - D) John Cabot
49. What was the result of Martin Frobisher's expedition to northern Canada?
- A) He was killed by Indians.
 - B) He established a new fishing colony for England.
 - C) He discovered substantial amounts of gold.
 - D) He returned to England with worthless ore.

50. Which statement describes England's attempt to secure a North American settlement in the late sixteenth century?
- A) Religious wars in Europe undermined its plans for the New World.
 - B) It sent explorers but could not sustain thriving colonies.
 - C) It colonized territory only where the Spanish were not already present.
 - D) It abandoned colonization in favor of raiding Spanish treasure ships.

Answer Key

1. B
2. B
3. C
4. A
5. C
6. C
7. A
8. C
9. C
10. D
11. C
12. A
13. C
14. C
15. A
16. A
17. A
18. B
19. A
20. D
21. B
22. B
23. C
24. D
25. D
26. B
27. B
28. C
29. A
30. C
31. A
32. B
33. C
34. A
35. C
36. B
37. A
38. A
39. D
40. D
41. B
42. A
43. A
44. C

- 45. B
- 46. A
- 47. D
- 48. B
- 49. D
- 50. B

1. Describe trade patterns and routes in the Mediterranean from the twelfth century to the early sixteenth century. Be sure to mention which countries dominated trade at different times.
2. Briefly explain the Reconquest and its significance to the Portuguese exploration of Africa, led by Prince Henry the Navigator.
3. Identify and discuss how African slavery came to be associated with plantation labor on the Cape Verde Islands.
4. What impact did Columbus's journeys have on Europeans' understanding of the world's geography?
5. Identify three key factors that enabled Cortés to conquer the Mexica and gain control of the Mexica Empire's capital.
6. Why did the Spanish monarchy insist on having northern outposts in Florida and New Mexico?
7. Cite two reasons why Spain was able to conquer as much land and as many people as it did in order to become the dominant colonial power in the Americas during the sixteenth century.
8. Two Spanish groups became critical of the *encomienda* system and were influential in abolishing its early form in 1549. Identify both groups, cite their major criticisms, and explain the results of their criticism.
9. Briefly explain results of the gender imbalance among Spanish immigrants in the New World during the sixteenth century.
10. Explain the model of exploration that sixteenth-century Spain set for France and England and discuss those two countries' attempts at exploration in the New World.

11. A series of events and conditions existed in the Old World at the dawn of the fifteenth century that made New World exploration not only possible but also desirable. Identify these events and conditions and explain how each helped set the stage for exploration.
12. Discuss how the Portuguese became the leaders in exploration during the fifteenth century. Include in your discussion the significant accomplishments of the Portuguese relating to exploration.
13. Despite Columbus's lack of success in locating the Asian mainland by sailing west, his arrival in the Caribbean had a profound and lasting impact on both the Old and New Worlds. Discuss Columbus's voyages. Discuss Spanish claims to the new lands in the West. Explain how Europeans' understanding of world geography changed owing to Columbus's discoveries. Discuss the Columbian exchange.
14. During the sixteenth century, Spain became the most powerful country in both Europe and the Americas. Explain how Spain rose to this position of power, including both victories and failures.
15. In the decades after 1519, the Spaniards created the distinctive colonial society of New Spain. Discuss the features of this new society, how it benefitted the Spanish, and its toll on the native populations.

Answer Key

1. *Answer would ideally include:*

Trade Routes and Patterns: From the twelfth through the fifteenth centuries, merchants and bankers in the Italian cities of Venice, Genoa, and Pisa dominated trade between Europe and Asia and Africa. During this period, traders transported goods such as spices, silk, carpets, ivory, and gold on overland routes across the Asian continent and into the Mediterranean, from which they were then funneled through the rest of Europe.

Dominant Countries: In the middle of the fifteenth century, due to a variety of causes, Portugal began to devote more energy and wealth to geographic exploration of the Atlantic coast of Africa and initiated trade with African kingdoms. Portuguese merchants used sailing routes to trade iron, weapons, and textiles for gold, slaves, and ivory. By 1480, Portuguese explorers began a conscious search for a sea route to Asia, and after Vasco da Gama successfully sailed to India in 1498, the Portuguese controlled a large commercial empire in India, Indonesia, and China. This empire broke the monopoly of the old Mediterranean trade with the East.

2. *Answer would ideally include:*

The Reconquest: The Reconquest was a centuries-long drive to expel Muslims from the Iberian Peninsula, which was propelled by religious zeal among Christians. As a Christian kingdom, Portugal cooperated with Spain in the Reconquest. Religious zeal also justified expansion into what the Portuguese considered heathen lands.

Significance: Prince Henry the Navigator sponsored expeditions of the coast of Africa. He collected the latest information about sailing techniques and geography, supported new crusades against Muslims, sought fresh sources of trade to fatten Portuguese pocketbooks, and pushed explorers to go farther still. Portuguese navigation of the African coast taught sailors the techniques that would eventually allow them to sail around the Cape of Good Hope and led to the development of the caravel.

3. *Answer would ideally include:*

Portuguese Trade Posts: Portuguese merchants encountered fierce resistance from Africans whenever they tried to venture from the coast to the continent's interior. They consequently decided that it was more profitable to focus on developing peaceful coastal trading posts rather than attempt violent conquest and colonization farther inland. One of these efforts was Portugal's development of sugar plantations on Africa's Cape Verde Islands—an enterprise that depended on African slave labor.

4. *Answer would ideally include:*

Geography and Economy: Columbus's journeys demonstrated to Europeans that it was possible to sail from Europe to the western rim of the Atlantic and to return to Europe. They also made it clear that beyond the western shores of the Atlantic were lands that, up to that point, had been entirely unknown by Europeans. Columbus's journeys and belief in the existence of a passage to the East Indies also acted as a catalyst for other countries to invest in exploration and seafaring, which added to the discovery of more new cultures and natural resources, eventually paving the way for global trade routes.

5. *Answer would ideally include:*

Warfare: The Spanish fought with iron and steel weapons against the Mexicans' stone, wood, and copper. The Spaniards' concept of war was total victory, while the Mexicans sought surrender.

Infection: Smallpox arrived in Mexico with Cortés; thousands died and others were too sick to fight.

Politics: Cortés reinforced his army with thousands of Indian allies who were eager to seek revenge against the Mexica.

6. *Answer would ideally include:*

Expanding the Empire: The Spanish monarchy insisted on maintaining outposts in Florida and New Mexico so that there would be some tangible evidence of its claims on North America and so that Spanish ships might have some protection from the pirates and privateers waiting along the southeastern coast for an opportunity to steal Spanish treasure. In addition, the land in New Mexico was rumored to contain legendary treasures.

7. *Answer would ideally include:*

Focus on Colonization: Spain was able to conquer the amount of land and the number of people it did because the other strong European powers focused on either trade with the East Indies or conflicts within Europe. Although Portugal claimed Brazil under the Tordesillas Treaty, it was much more concerned with exploiting its hard-won trade with the East Indies than in colonizing the New World. England and France were absorbed by domestic and diplomatic concerns in Europe and did not develop much interest in America until the end of the century.

System of Encomienda: In theory, the Spanish system of *encomienda*, which distributed conquered towns to the conquistadors, was meant to create a reciprocal relationship. In reality, the system gave the *encomendero* total control over Indian labor, which became Spain's most important treasure.

8. *Answer would ideally include:*

Missionaries: The missionaries who traveled to the New World to convert Indians to Christianity were horrified by their brutal mistreatment by the Spanish. They argued to the Spanish crown that the cruelty made it difficult for priests to convert the Indians to Christianity. The missionaries softened few hearts among the *encomenderos*, but they did win some sympathy from the Spanish crown.

Spain's Royal Officials: The royal officials believed that the brutality of the *encomenderos* stemmed from their unchecked autonomy. They moved to abolish *encomienda* in an effort to replace old conquistadors with royal bureaucrats as the rules of New Spain. In 1549 the Spanish imposed a reform called the *repartimiento*. Although it did not challenge the principle of forced labor or prevent the Spanish from mistreating Indians, it limited the labor an *encomendero* could command from his Indians to forty-five days per year from each adult male.

9. *Answer would ideally include:*

Gender Imbalance: For most of the sixteenth century, Spanish men vastly outnumbered Spanish women in the New World. As a result of this imbalance, Europeans never made up more than 1 or 2 percent of the total population of New Spain, and that small elite minority ruled an almost totally Indian population. The imbalance also led to frequent intermarriage between Spanish men and Indian women, which created a steep social hierarchy defined by perceptions of national origin and race. *Peninsulares*, or Spanish natives, occupied the highest position in the social hierarchy; *creoles*, the children of *peninsulares*, sat below them but were also part of the white elite; *mestizos*, the offspring of Spanish men and Indian women, comprised 4 percent to 5 percent of the

population, worked as artisans or overseers, and lived fairly well; and Indians occupied the enormous bottom segment of the social pyramid.

10. *Answer would ideally include:*

Model: Based on the Spanish example of conquest and colonization in the New World, England and France both desired to explore the Americas to find a hidden passageway to the East Indies, expand their influence in Europe, or find amazing treasures and wealth.

France: France initiated several unsuccessful voyages to find a Northwest Passage to the East. Although Jacques Cartier was able to voyage up the St. Lawrence River and establish a French colony there in 1541, the effort to form a French settlement was ultimately unsuccessful.

England: In the 1570s England also sponsored unsuccessful efforts to locate a Northwest Passage to China. English efforts to establish settlements in Newfoundland and Roanoke Island (off present-day North Carolina) also failed.

11. *Answer would ideally include:*

Bubonic Plague: The Black Death killed one-third of the European population, which made Europe's food supply more plentiful for survivors. Survivors inherited property, sought opportunities elsewhere, and had greater chances for advancement. Most fifteenth-century Europeans perceived the world as a place of alarming risks where the delicate balance of health, harvests, and peace could quickly be tipped toward disaster by epidemics, famine, and violence, as exemplified by the Black Death. This insecurity and uncertainty of the fifteenth century encouraged some people to take greater risks, such as embarking on dangerous sea voyages.

Scientific and Technological Advances: The invention of movable type made printing easier and cheaper and stimulated the diffusion of information, including news of discoveries. The invention of new seafaring technology—including compasses, hourglasses, the astrolabe, and the quadrant—aided navigation in new journeys of exploration.

Monarchs' Ambitions: European monarchs, who hoped to enlarge their realms, enrich their dynasties through trade and commerce involving Eastern goods, and divert unruly noblemen to distant lands, set on exploration as a possible way to achieve all of these things.

Religious Zeal: Christianity propelled the Reconquest on the Iberian Peninsula and justified expansion into what the Spanish and Portuguese considered heathen lands, which gave explorers some of the theory and practice that would be useful in the process of New World exploration.

12. *Answer would ideally include:*

Prince Henry the Navigator: Henry, son of the Portuguese king, collected the latest information about sailing techniques and geography, supported crusades against Muslims, and encouraged new sources of trade to fatten the Portuguese treasury. These efforts pushed Portuguese explorers to go farther than others had before.

Extension of the Reconquest to Africa: Henry extended the Reconquest down the African coast for both religious and economic reasons. These incursions into Africa taught Portuguese sailors much about navigation, riding currents and winds, and surviving long sea journeys.

The caravel: In the course of their African exploration and conquest, Portuguese sailors

developed a new ship called the caravel that could stow the supplies necessary for long sea journeys and withstand the battering of waves in the open ocean. This ship became the mainstay of Portuguese exploration.

13. *Answer would ideally include:*

Columbus's Voyages: Columbus won financing from Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand, who viewed the initial voyage as an inexpensive gamble. Columbus, with his three ships, landed in the Caribbean and assumed he was in the East Indies. Although he found little gold, he did take back to Spain seven native Tainos.

Spanish Claims: Spain moved quickly to establish its claims to the new lands. The Portuguese and Spanish monarchs negotiated the Treaty of Tordesillas, and in 1493 Spain dispatched Columbus to the West once again. Despite Columbus's failure to find riches in two subsequent visits, Spain understood that entirely new lands and peoples lie across the Atlantic.

European Understanding: European monarchs hurried to stake their claims to the newly discovered lands. For example, England sent John Cabot across the North Atlantic to find the Northwest Passage; a Spanish expedition accompanied by Amerigo Vespucci landed on the northern coast of South America; and Ferdinand Magellan led an expedition to circumnavigate the globe. Although some of these voyages ended in disaster, Europeans ultimately understood that a New World had been discovered.

Columbian Exchange: Europe introduced Christianity, iron technology, sailing ships, firearms, wheeled vehicles, horses, and much else to the Americas. Most significantly, the Spanish brought with them European diseases, which devastated native populations. American foods such as corn and potatoes were introduced to Europe and became important staples in European diets.

14. *Answer would ideally include:*

Spanish Exploration: The success of Columbus's journey brought prestige and large land claims to Spain, but although Spain's initial efforts to settle and colonize the New World exploited many Native Americans, it did not bring much new wealth into the country.

Conquest of Mexico and Peru: Hernán Cortés's conquest of the Mexica Empire in 1521 was successful for several reasons, including his exploitation of the Mexica concept of war, the Spanish advantage in terms of weapons, the use of Indian allies, and smallpox epidemics. The Incan Empire fell to Pizarro in 1532 after his army took the Incan emperor hostage. These conquests brought vast wealth for Spain in the form of gold, silver, and other treasures.

Other Regions: Other Spanish explorers traveled farther north. For example, Juan Ponce de León sailed along the Florida coast but was killed in battle. Panfilo de Narvaez surveyed the Gulf coast but was shipwrecked near Galveston. Hernando de Soto slashed his way through much of southeastern North America, and Francisco Vasquez de Coronado searched the Southwest and the Great Plains. No other Mexican or Incan empires were found, although small Spanish outposts were established in Florida and New Mexico.

15. *Answer would ideally include:*

Benefits for Spain: The distribution of conquered towns institutionalized the system of *encomienda*, which empowered conquistadors to rule the Indians and lands in and around their towns. *Encomenderos* subjected Indians in their jurisdictions to chronic

overwork, mistreatment, and abuse.

Missionaries: While Catholic missionaries labored earnestly to convert Indians to Christianity, baptizing thousands, many Indians continued to worship their own gods. Missionaries believed that the cruelties of the *encomienda* system made true conversion impossible. Spain imposed a reform called the *repartimiento*, but real conditions for the natives changed little.

Society in New Spain: The shortage of Spanish women, and the small numbers of Spanish settlers in general, shaped the fundamental social features of New Spain. Spanish/Indian colonial society was sharply stratified by social origin and race. New categories in society included *peninsulares*, *creoles*, and *mestizos*.

Destruction of Indian people: The major centers of Indian civilization had been conquered and demoralized by 1560. Owing to Spanish exploitation, mistreatment, and disease, the Indian population of New Spain had by 1570 fallen about 90 percent from what it was when Columbus arrived.