

Module 9: Empires of Africa and the Americas
Topic 3 Content: European Expansion in the Americas

Introduction



Click NEXT to explore the European expansion into the Americas.

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Map



Click on each country's marker to learn about its discovery by Europeans. Exit the interactivity when you have visited each marker.


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Hispaniola

Click on each country
Exit the interactivity

Hispaniola



For seven years, the Italian sailor, Christopher Columbus traveled around Europe seeking someone to finance his voyage west in hopes to circle the globe and arrive in Asia. King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain were anxious to prove their power after having been caught up in civil war, and in 1492, agreed to supply Columbus with supplies, men, and the ships Nina, Pinta, and Santa Maria. On his expedition, Columbus and his men discovered an island in the Caribbean that they named Hispaniola, which is modern-day Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Columbus returned to the Americas three more times, each time believing he was in India. The explorer never realized what he had discovered.

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Image: Columbus landing in Hispaniola

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Canada and New England

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Canada and New England

In 1497, King Henry VI of England sent captain John Cabot to find the New World that Columbus had recently discovered. Cabot explored much of the modern-day Canada Maritime Provinces and the New England portion of the United States. Cabot claimed these lands for Great Britain, but it would be nearly one hundred years before England established permanent colonies.

Image: Painting of John Cabot by Giustino Menescardi, 1762

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Mexico

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Mexico

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The native civilizations were impressed with the advanced nature of the European culture. They quickly adopted and adapted the wheel, metal farming tools, guns, and horses. Likewise, the Europeans marveled at the achievements of the Aztecs, who lived in a city that rivaled the size of Paris and London. Moreover, the Europeans were impressed by the clean streets of Tenochtitlán due to a methodical waste management system that they had not yet developed.



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Image: Cortes and La Malinche meeting Moctezuma in Tenochtitlán, 1550

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Peru

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Peru

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Image: Pizarro and his followers in Lima, Peru



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Image: Pizarro and his followers in Lima, Peru