

Date: _____

Terms (Define and explain relevance to this period of American history)

Christopher Columbus – <i>the most important European explorer, the first to reach the Americas. Had the same motivations as many who followed: God, Glory, and Gold.</i>
conquistadores –
Mound-builders – <i>a term that refers to a series of complex and far-ranging societies that existed in North America (mostly east of the Mississippi) for nearly 2,000 years before Columbus arrived. An example of a sophisticated society that rivaled any in Europe at the time.</i>
Adena-Hopewell –
Cahokia – <i>A large city, center of the last great mound-building society that existed for about 1,000 years before 1700. As many as 25,000 people lived there. An example of a large and sophisticated city that rivaled any in Europe at the time.</i>
Renaissance – <i>A rediscovery by Europeans of the ideas and works of the ancient Greeks and Romans, starting in the 1400s. An important factor that led to European exploration beginning in the 1400s, because it led many Europeans to become more curious about the outside world and seek to know and see more about it.</i>
Reformation –
spice trade –
Aztecs –
Tenochtitlán – <i>capitol of the Aztec empire, conquered by Spanish conquistadores led by Hernán Cortés, in the early 1500s. An example of a large and sophisticated city that rivaled any in Europe at the time.</i>
Hernán Cortés –
encomienda – <i>a Spanish system of forcibly demanding work as tribute from those native Americans under their control. Especially used in South America in mining, during the 1500s.</i>
free labor –
unfree labor – <i>workers or laborers that are/were somehow forced by law and/or military power to work (without any option of leaving or choosing the kind of work they do). Unfree labor included both slaves and indentured servants.</i>
Columbian Exchange – <i>the exchange of plant, animal and microbe life between two ecological regions that had never before come into contact—Europe and the Americas. Because the Americas had been isolated for thousands of years, life forms there were not as varied as in Europe and Native Americans had not built up immunities to many diseases. As a result, the introduction of fatal diseases like smallpox devastated native populations, killing up to 90% in some areas.</i>

Questions

1. In what ways were human civilizations in North and South America as old, complex, and diverse as in Europe (and other parts of the world) before 1492?
2. Why was it surprising that Europeans, rather than Chinese or Muslims, ended up exploring and colonizing distant continents?
 - the Chinese and Islamic peoples were richer, had far greater resources, possessed superior knowledge and technology (including naval technology).
 - In comparison, Europe was economically backward, poor, poorly educated.
3. List 3-4 factors that fueled or contributed to European exploration from the 1400s through the 1600s:
 1. *Competition between European nations*
 2. *Rivalry with Islam / desire to find new route to spice trade*
 3. *Renaissance—led to curiosity and experimentation*
 4. _____
4. When did Europeans begin to create a slave trading system in the Atlantic region? Did Europeans believe Christianity justified or opposed slavery?
5. In what ways were West African forms of slavery different from the slave system run by Europeans?
 1. *Less brutal – African slaves were usually included, at a meaningful level, in the social life of their captor's society.*
 2. *Not lifelong, not hereditary – African slaves often gained their freedom at some point. Their descendants were usually free when born.*
6. List and briefly explain 3-4 reasons why Europeans were able to conquer so many Native American groups and regions?