

Study Guide



Chapter 2, Section 3

For use with textbook pages 51–55

SPAIN IN AMERICA

KEY TERMS

conquistador	Spanish explorer (page 51)
tribute	Sign of respect or obedience (page 52)
pueblo	Village or town (page 54)
mission	Religious community (page 54)
presidio	A fort (page 54)
encomienda	The right to demand taxes or labor from Native Americans (page 55)
plantation	Large estate (page 55)

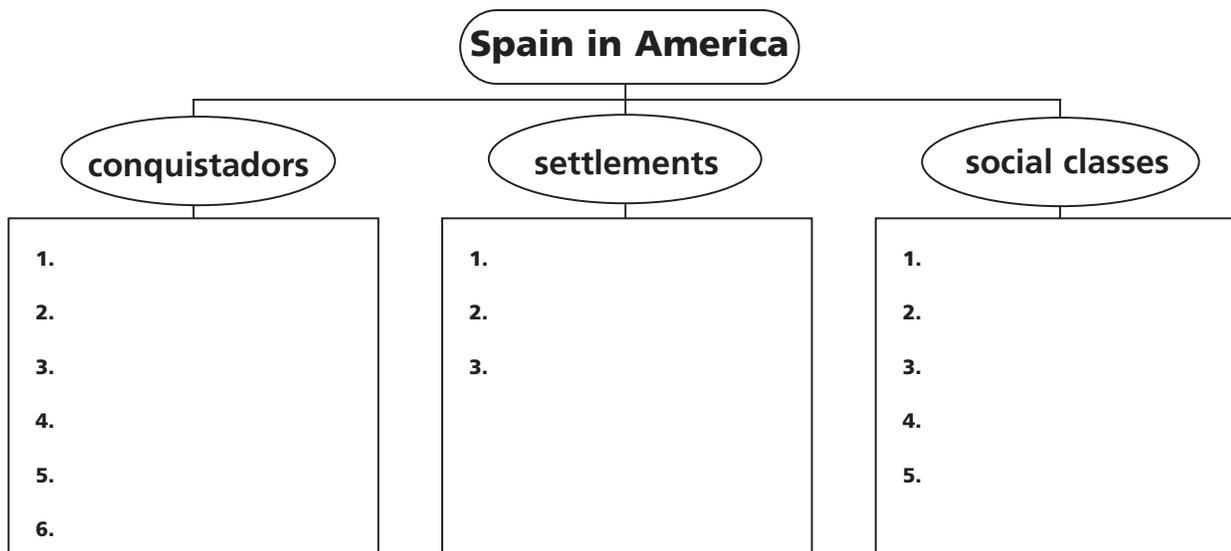
DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

Do you use any Spanish words in your everyday language? Did you know that the Spanish were the first Europeans to settle many parts of the Americas?

In the last section, you read about how explorers from Portugal and Spain learned more about the world and discovered a sea route to Asia. This section focuses on how the Spanish built an empire in the Americas.

ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the chart below to help you take notes as you read the summaries that follow. Think about how Spanish conquistadors, settlements, and social classes helped shape the Americas.



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READ TO LEARN

- **Spanish Conquistadors** (pages 51–53)

Spanish *conquistadors*, or explorers, searched for gold, silver, and wealth in the Americas. The Spanish rulers gave them permission to explore and establish settlements. In return, the conquistadors gave the rulers one-fifth of any wealth found. The king and queen of Spain had nothing to lose from this deal.

In 1519 Hernán Cortés landed on the east coast of present-day Mexico looking for gold and wealth with about 500 soldiers, some horses, and a few cannons. Cortés heard about the riches of the Aztec Empire. When cities were conquered by the Aztec, the cities had to pay *tribute* as a sign of respect and obedience by giving the Aztec crops, clothing, gold, and gems. Cortés and Native Americans who helped him took the Aztec emperor, Montezuma, prisoner. They later killed him and other Aztec nobles. The Aztec rebelled and forced the Spanish out of their capital city, Tenochtitlán. Cortés waited for more troops, attacked again, and took control of the region.

In 1532 Francisco Pizarro landed on the Pacific coast of what is now Peru in South America with about 180 soldiers. Pizarro wanted the Inca Empire’s great wealth. He took the Inca ruler, Atahualpa, prisoner and later killed him. The Spaniards destroyed the Inca army. Without a ruler or an army, the Inca lost control of their empire.

Cortés and Pizarro were able to defeat the great Aztec and Inca Empires for three main reasons:

- A.** The Spanish had weapons, horses, and dogs.
 - B.** Many Native Americans helped the conquistadors overthrow the Aztec.
 - C.** The diseases the Europeans brought with them killed many Native Americans.
1. How did Spain establish settlements in present-day Mexico and South America?

- **Spain in North America** (pages 53–54)

Conquistadors explored southeastern and southwestern parts of North America searching for gold, silver, and other wealth. In 1513 Juan Ponce de León was the first Spaniard to land on the mainland of North America. He landed on the east coast of present-day Florida and established the first Spanish settlement at St. Augustine. Ponce de León searched for, but never found, the fountain of youth he had heard stories about. It was believed that if a person drank from the fountain of youth, that person would remain young forever.

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The conquistadors faced great dangers and often lost their lives exploring unknown lands. In 1528 Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca was one of a few shipwrecked sailors who survived a storm off the coast of Texas. To survive, he and an enslaved African became medicine men. In 1533 they began a 3-year, 1,000-mile trip on foot across the Southwest motivated by stories of seven cities with walls made of emerald gems and streets made of gold. They ended their journey in Mexico.

Hernando de Soto was another explorer looking for riches. For three years, he and his troops explored Florida and the southeastern areas of the present-day United States. De Soto and his men often held a village chief hostage and demanded food and supplies. In 1541 he crossed the Mississippi River, traveled as far as present-day Oklahoma, and died of a fever.

Francisco Vásques de Coronado wanted to find the legendary “Seven Cities of Cibola.” After traveling through northern Mexico and present-day Arizona and New Mexico, he reached a town belonging to the Zuni people but found no gold. Coronado returned to Mexico.

2. What motivated Spanish explorations in North America? How did these explorations differ from earlier ones?

- **Spanish Rule** (pages 54–55)

There were three types of Spanish settlements permitted by Spanish law in the Americas. **Pueblos** were towns set up as trade centers. **Missions** were religious communities, usually small towns with a small church that was surrounded by farmland. **Presidios** were forts usually built near a mission.

Spain’s empire in the America’s had an organized system of social classes. A position in the class system determined the amount of wealth, power, and privilege the person enjoyed. The class system followed this order (from upper to lower): **Peninsulares**—born in Spain; **Creoles**—born in the Americas to Spanish parents; **Mestizos**—born to Spanish and Native American parents; **Native Americans**—descendants of the first Americans; **Africans**—enslaved and brought to America.

Native Americans were enslaved in the 1500s because the Spanish government granted each conquistador who settled in the Americas an **encomienda**. An encomienda was a right to demand taxes or labor from Native Americans living on the land. Bartolomé de la Casas, a Spanish priest, reported the abuses that resulted from this system and pushed for laws to protect Native Americans from slavery. In 1542 the New Laws were passed by the Spanish government.

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Spanish settlers made a lot of money selling crops overseas, such as sugarcane and tobacco. They created the *plantation* system to raise crops. A plantation was a large piece of land.

3. How were the lives of Native Americans forever changed by Spanish rule?
