

Age of Exploration	Time period during the 15th and 16th centuries when Europeans searched for new sources of wealth and for easier trade routes to China and India. Resulted in the discovery of North and South America by the Europeans.
Amerigo Vespucci	The Italian sailor who corrected Columbus's mistake, acknowledging the coasts of America as a new world. America is named after him.
Bartolomeu de Las Casas	Disagreed with the way Native Americans were being treated.
capitalism	an economic system based on private ownership of capital
Columbian Exchange	The exchange of plants, animals, diseases, and technologies between the Americas and the rest of the world following Columbus's voyages.
conquistador	A Spanish conqueror of the Americas.
encomienda	a grant of land made by Spain to a settler in the Americas, including the right to use Native Americans as laborers on it.
Francisco Pizarro	Spanish explorer who conquered the Incas in what is now Peru and founded the city of Lima (1475-1541)
joint-stock companies	Companies that financed the settlement of America.
Mercantilism	an economic system (Europe in 18th C) to increase a nation's wealth by government regulation of all of the nation's commercial interests
Middle Passage	the route in between the western ports of Africa to the Caribbean and southern U.S. that carried the slave trade
Montezuma II	the last Aztec emperor in Mexico who was overthrown and killed by Hernando Cortes (1466-1520)
Olaudah Equiano	sold into slavery at age 11; after gaining freedom, he spoke out against slavery and published his autobiography
Treaty of Tordesillas	Set the Line of Demarcation which was a boundary established in 1493 to define Spanish and Portuguese possessions in the Americas.
triangular trade	A three way system of trade during 1600-1800s Africa sent slaves to America, America sent Raw Materials to Europe, and Europe sent Guns and Rum to Africa