

Chapter **2** Section 1 (pages 51–54)

Spain Claims an Empire

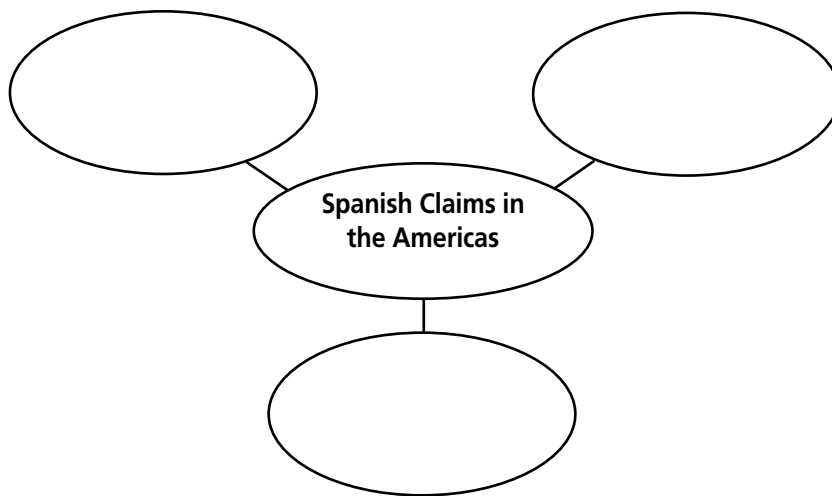
BEFORE YOU READ

In the last chapter, you read about the European explorers’ search for an all-water route to Asia.

In this section, you will read how Spanish explorers claimed land in the Americas.

AS YOU READ

Use this diagram to take notes on the empire claimed by the Spanish.



TERMS & NAMES

Treaty of Tordesillas Treaty that set the final placement for the Line of Demarcation

mercantilism An economic system that explained how to enrich treasuries

conquistador Conqueror

Hernando Cortés A Spanish conquistador who defeated the Aztecs

Montezuma The Aztec emperor

Francisco Pizarro A Spanish conquistador who defeated the Inca

Spain and Portugal Compete

(pages 51–52)

Why were colonies important to European countries?

In 1493, Pope Alexander VI drew the Line of Demarcation. This line divided the world into two parts. One would be controlled by Portugal. The other would be controlled by Spain. Portugal’s king thought the pope’s placement of the line favored Spain. In 1494, the rulers of Spain and Portugal met and agreed to the **Treaty of Tordesillas**. This treaty moved the Line of Demarcation more than 800 miles to the west. After this treaty, Spain and Portugal increased their exploration.

European countries had three main goals during this age of exploration. First, they wanted to spread Christianity beyond Europe. Second, they wanted to expand their empires. Third, they wanted to become rich.

By becoming richer, European countries could gain power and security. An economic system called **mercantilism** explained how Europeans could enrich their treasuries. *Colonies* helped nations do this by providing gold and silver mines, producing goods that could be traded for gold and silver. They also served as markets for the home country.

1. How did colonies help European countries enrich their treasuries?

Europeans Explore Foreign Lands

(pages 52)

Where did Vespucci, Balboa, and Magellan explore?

Amerigo Vespucci was an Italian sailor who, in 1501, set out to find a sea route to Asia. He realized

that the land he saw on his voyage was not Asia. The continent “America” was named after him.

In 1513, the Spanish explorer Vasco Núñez de Balboa led an *expedition* that reached the Pacific Ocean. He claimed the ocean and all the land around it for Spain.

In 1519, Portuguese sailor, Ferdinand Magellan, set out to reach Asia by sailing around South America. He died on the trip. But his crew became the first people to sail around the world.

2. What did the explorations of Vespucci, Balboa, and Magellan accomplish?

The Invasion of the Americas

(pages 53–54)

Why did the Spanish invade Mexico?

Soldiers called *conquistadors*, or conquerors, explored parts of the Americas and claimed them for Spain. **Hernando Cortés** was one of these *conquistadors*. He and his men landed on the Central American coast in 1519. The Aztec emperor, **Montezuma**, warmly greeted Cortés. The friendliness ended quickly.

The Spaniards formed alliances with native peoples who hated the Aztecs. When Cortés reached the Aztec capital, Tenochtitlán, he tried to take control of the empire. The Aztecs fought back and drove the Spanish out. The Spaniards regrouped and returned to Tenochtitlán about a year later. By then, many Aztecs had died from smallpox, a disease that the Europeans had carried to Central America. Cortés and his forces defeated the Aztecs.

In 1531, an expedition led by **Francisco Pizarro** landed on the coast of what is now Peru. The Inca ruled a large territory there. With an army of only 180 men, the Spanish conquered the Inca.

There were three main reasons for the Spanish success in conquering Native American empires. First, the spread of European diseases killed millions of Native Americans. Second, the Spanish were skilled soldiers and sailors and had superior weapons. Third, Spain made alliances with Native Americans who were enemies of the Aztecs and the Inca.

3. What happened during the Spanish invasion of Mexico?

Other Spanish Explorers (page 54)

What influenced the Spanish to send expeditions to North America?

Rumors of golden cities gave the Spaniards hope to collect treasures from North America. Between 1539 and 1542, three expeditions set out to find these cities. Francisco Vázquez de Coronado traveled through present-day Arizona and New Mexico. Hernando de Soto set out from Florida to explore the southeast. Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo sailed up the California coast. They all failed to find the fabled cities.

5. What were Coronado, De Soto, and Cabrillo searching for?
