

Age of Exploration and Trade

Lesson 2 Spain's Conquests in the Americas

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

Why do civilizations rise and fall?

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. *How did Spain conquer Mexico?*
2. *How did Spanish conquistadors conquer the Inca?*

Terms to Know

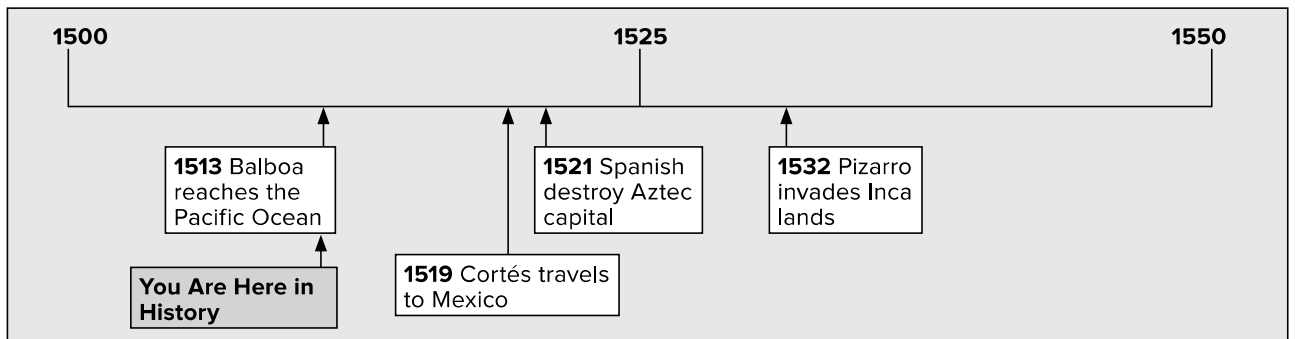
allies those who support each other as helpers for a common purpose

smallpox a disease that causes a high fever and often death

ambush a surprise attack

hostage someone held against his or her will in exchange for something

When did it happen?



What do you know?

Read each statement. Circle T if you think the statement is true. Circle F if you think the statement is false.

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- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | T | <input type="checkbox"/> | F | 1. Native Americans had small, disorganized civilizations. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | T | <input type="checkbox"/> | F | 2. The Spanish used armies to fight a war against the Aztec. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | T | <input type="checkbox"/> | F | 3. The Native Americans were nearly wiped out by diseases. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | T | <input type="checkbox"/> | F | 4. The Inca conquered the Spanish. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | T | <input type="checkbox"/> | F | 5. Spain eventually controlled most of South America. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | T | <input type="checkbox"/> | F | 6. The Aztec were able to overthrow the Spanish. |

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Lesson 2 Spain's Conquests in the Americas, *Continued*

The Spanish Conquer Mexico

Poor Spanish nobles such as 19-year-old Hernán Cortés were inspired by Christopher Columbus. They wanted to become conquistadors and travel to the Americas to search for riches. By 1519 Cortés was in Mexico and hoping to find gold.

He brought about 500 soldiers, 16 horses, 14 cannons, and a few dogs. How could such a small number of soldiers conquer the huge Aztec Empire that ruled most of Mexico? Cortés used his horses and guns to scare Native Americans. He forced thousands of them to surrender.

He also found another weapon. It was a Maya woman named Malintzin. She spoke to Cortés through a translator who knew the Mayan language and Spanish.


Malintzin told Cortés that many Native Americans were angry with their Aztec rulers. She believed they would fight with Cortés against the Aztec. Malintzin helped Cortés find **allies**, or helpers, among the Native Americans. Another factor that helped was invisible: germs and sicknesses. Measles, **smallpox**, and other diseases killed more Aztec people than Spanish swords.

The Spaniards traveled hundreds of miles to the Aztec capital of Tenochtitlán. Spies told the Aztec leader, Montezuma, about the Spaniards' every move. The Aztec believed in a god named Quetzalcoatl. According to legend, this god with light skin had sailed away long ago. He promised to come back someday to take back his land. Montezuma was afraid that Cortés was this god coming home. So Montezuma did not want to attack the Spanish right away.

As Cortés marched closer, Montezuma decided to attack the troops. Cortés heard about the planned **ambush**.


How Cortés Defeated the Aztec:

1. He had guns and horses.
2. He had other Native American allies.
3. He attacked first.
4. Disease weakened the Aztec.




Identifying

1. Who was the Maya who helped Cortés?




Making Connections

2. Why do you think the Native Americans were scared of horses and guns?



Marking the Text

3. Underline the cause of death for most of the Aztec people.



Drawing Conclusions

4. How was Cortés able to defeat the Aztec?

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 **Reading Check**

5. Why did the Aztec allow Cortés to remain in their lands?

 **Marking the Text**

6. Circle the names of the Spanish conquerors who tried to find gold in Peru.

 **Identifying**

7. What empire did Pizarro want to find?

 **Analyzing**

8. Why was Pizarro able to seize Atahualpa so easily?

In November 1519, the soldiers marched into the Aztec capital. They took control of the city. Cortés took Montezuma **hostage**, or prisoner. He then told the Aztec to stop sacrificing people.

Cortés made the Aztec people angry. They fought back. The Spanish killed thousands of Aztec. However, there were more Aztec than Spanish soldiers. The Spanish had to fight their way out of the city. They moved into the hills with their allies.

Cortés got ready for a second attack. Smallpox broke out in the city. Many Aztec died and the rest were weak. They were no match for Cortés. In June 1521, the Spanish destroyed the Aztec capital.

Spain Conquers Peru

In 1513 Vasco Núñez de Balboa led his soldiers across the mountains of present-day Panama. He was looking for a great empire filled with gold.

Balboa found a sea, known today as the Pacific Ocean, but he never found the golden empire. Francisco Pizarro was one of Balboa's soldiers.

The empire that Pizarro wanted to find was the Inca Empire. By the 1530s, the Inca Empire had become weak. Even so, the Inca were not afraid of Pizarro. Pizarro had only 168 soldiers, one cannon, and 27 horses compared to the Inca's 30,000 warriors. Pizarro, too, was unafraid.

Spanish Explorer	Land Explored	People Conquered
Cortés	Mexico	Aztec
Balboa	Panama	None
Pizarro	Peru	Inca

In late 1532, Pizarro made a bold plan. The Spanish invited the Inca ruler, Atahualpa, to a meeting. He agreed to come. However, he made the mistake of not bringing his army of 80,000 men. He thought his 4,000 guards would keep him safe. He also thought they would not need any weapons.

When they met, Pizarro demanded that the emperor give up his gods. When Atahualpa laughed at this, Pizarro ordered an attack. The Spanish fired into the unarmed Inca crowd. Pizarro then took Atahualpa captive.

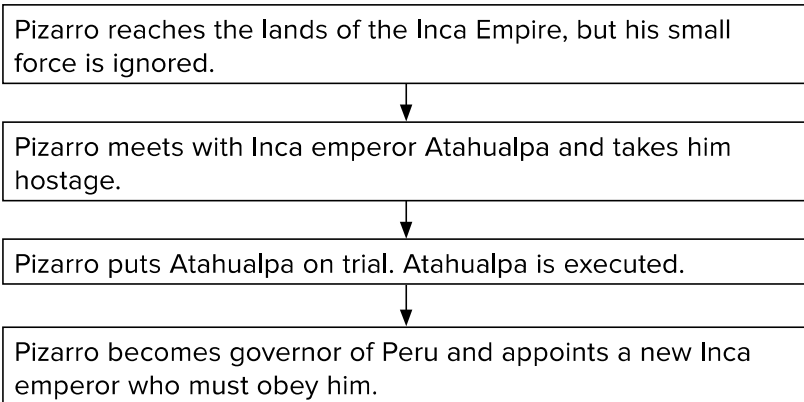
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Atahualpa tried to buy his freedom. He said he would give Pizarro an entire room full of gold and silver. Pizarro accepted the offer but refused to release Atahualpa. He charged the emperor with many crimes. These crimes included planning a rebellion and worshipping false gods.

In 1533 a military court found the emperor guilty. Atahualpa was sentenced to death. As a reward, the Spanish king made Pizarro the governor of Peru. Pizarro chose a new emperor of the Inca. The new emperor had to obey Pizarro. Still, the Spanish could not completely control the Inca Empire.

Pizarro Conquers the Inca



Even after Pizarro died, Inca rebels continued to fight the Spanish. However, the conquest of Peru allowed Spanish rule to move into much of South America.

Check for Understanding

List two actions of Cortés when he invaded Mexico.

1. _____
2. _____

List two ways Cortés and Pizarro were similar.

3. _____
4. _____



Listing

9. Name two events that caused the Inca to fall from power.



Reading Check

10. How successful were the efforts of Atahualpa to free himself from Pizarro?



11. Place a two-tab Foldable along the dotted line to cover the Check for Understanding. Title the anchor tab *Spanish Conquests*. Label the top tab *Aztec* and the bottom tab *Inca*.

Use both sides to record what you remember about how Spanish conquests affected the Aztec and Inca.

Glue Foldable here

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