

Global Interactions

*The Emergence of the First
Global Age (1450–1750)*



Eastern exploration

Europeans in the Americas

Global trade

Thematic Icons



Economics and business



Geography and environment



Historical concepts and questions



Politics, government and citizenship



Religion and thought



Society and culture



War, diplomacy and foreign policy

Icons: For more detailed instructions, see the *User Guide*



Flash activity (these activities are not editable)



Teacher notes included in the Notes page



By the end of this section, you will have learned about the European conquest of the Americas, and be able to answer the following key questions:

- How did Europeans discover and explore the Americas?
- What was the nature of European settlement?
- How did European conflicts affect the Americas?
- How did native peoples respond to European conquest?



Christopher Columbus was an Italian explorer with a daring idea. He believed that, by traveling West across the Atlantic, he could reach Asia without having to sail around Africa.

Columbus convinced the king and queen of Spain to fund his voyage. On August 3, 1492, the *Niña*, the *Pinta* and the *Santa Maria* set sail from Spain.



On October 12, they sighted land. Columbus thought he had reached the East Indies, so he called the natives Indians. In reality, he had landed in the Bahamas. Columbus quickly claimed the islands for Spain.

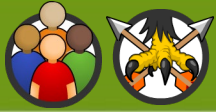
Why is Columbus often remembered as the first European to reach the Americas?



Columbus returned to Spain convinced he had reached Asia. Impressed, King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella agreed to send him on three more expeditions. Spain's new goal was to expand their empire by establishing **colonies**. They soon funded other explorers in expeditions to claim territory in the Americas. Press on the names to see the route of each explorer. Press **start** to begin.

start





Spanish conquests



Spain's quest for a global empire soon brought its explorers into conflict with the people and cultures of the Americas. Interactions between Europeans and native peoples had an enormous impact on the development and livelihood of both groups.

Press **start** to begin.

start



How might the Spanish justify these violent conquests?



Many Europeans were involved in Spain's exploration and conquest of the Americas.
Can you match each key figure to his description?

Press **start** to begin.

start





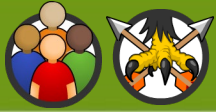
As Spain's Atlantic empire grew, other European nations were eager to stake their claims in the Americas.

Press **start** to learn more.

start



How were native interactions different in each colony?



Europeans clash in the Americas



As European nations expanded their American empires, they came into frequent conflict with one another.

In 1565, Spanish forces attacked a French settlement in modern-day Florida, massacring around 200 people.

In 1573, the English Sir Francis Drake landed in Panama and captured 20 tons of gold and silver meant for Spain. Four years later, Drake struck again, taking gold and silver worth millions of dollars in today's money.

In 1664, the Duke of York attacked the Dutch settlement of New Amsterdam. The Dutch quickly surrendered, and the Duke claimed the land for England. He renamed it New York.



How did these events intersect with European history?



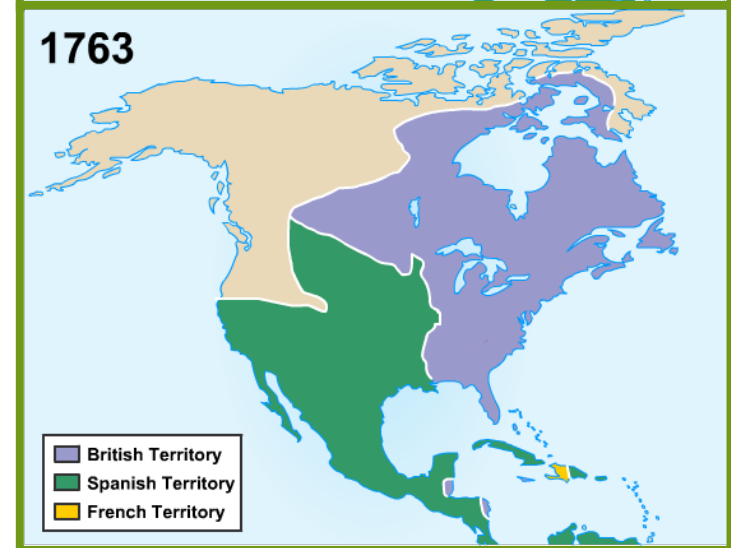
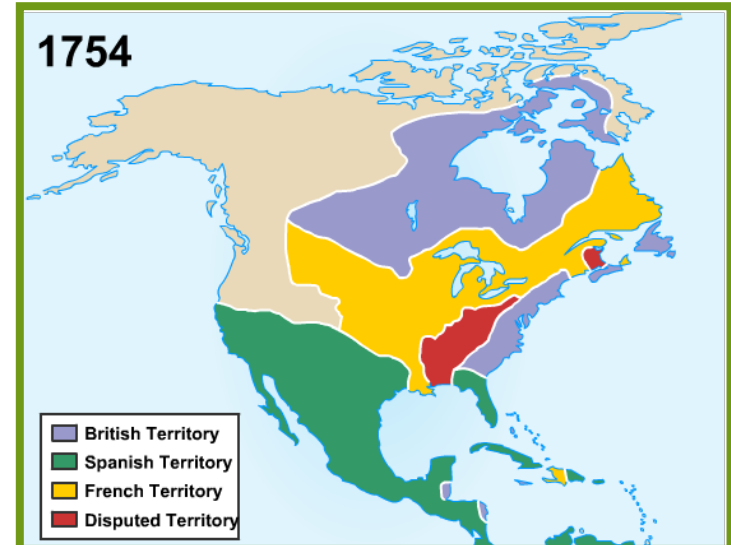


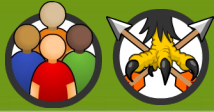
The French and Indian War

By 1750, over one million English colonists lived in North America. As they began to push west, they came into conflict with the French.

This conflict escalated into the **French and Indian War** in 1754.

The French and Indian War was part of the Seven Years' War occurring in Europe and Asia. When the wars ended in 1763, France lost all of its North American territory.





As Europeans pushed further into the Americas, they disrupted native communities and culture. While French and Dutch colonists often cooperated with local tribes to promote trade, the Spanish and English came to the Americas to expand their colonies.

Press the dates in the timeline to learn about native resistance to European conquest.

Press **start** to begin.

start





Can you sort these key events in the European colonization of the Americas into chronological order?

Press **start** to begin.

start

