

Europe

European Expansion



Introduction to the Middle Ages

Feudal Society in the Middle Ages

Renaissance and Reformation

European Expansion

Thematic Icons



Economics



Geography



Historical concepts



Government

Icons



Flash activity (these activities are not editable)



Teacher notes included in the Notes page

For more instructions, see the *User Guide*.





Timeline





During the 1400s, Europeans began to sponsor voyages to explore the world.

- Europeans had developed a taste for Asian luxury items, such as silk and spices. However, trade was controlled by the Muslim empires and Italians, making goods expensive. Discovering new **trade routes** could cut out the middleman and lead to better deals.
- European powers used exploration and conquest to gain power, land and wealth, and build up their **empires**.
- New resources could be found in the lands discovered.
- Having contact with new peoples gave **missionaries** the opportunity to spread Christianity by converting natives.







Prince Henry was an important influence on the development of Portuguese exploration.



Although Henry was not a sailor, from 1418 he sponsored many expeditions along the African coast and founded the first navigation school. He has become known as **Henry the Navigator**.

Although it took 60 years to pay off the debts from these voyages, Portugal took the lead in European exploration.

How do you think other European powers responded to Portugal's success?





Exploration in the East





Exploration in the Americas





Conquest and Colonization



How might the Spanish justify the conquests?





Europeans in the Americas



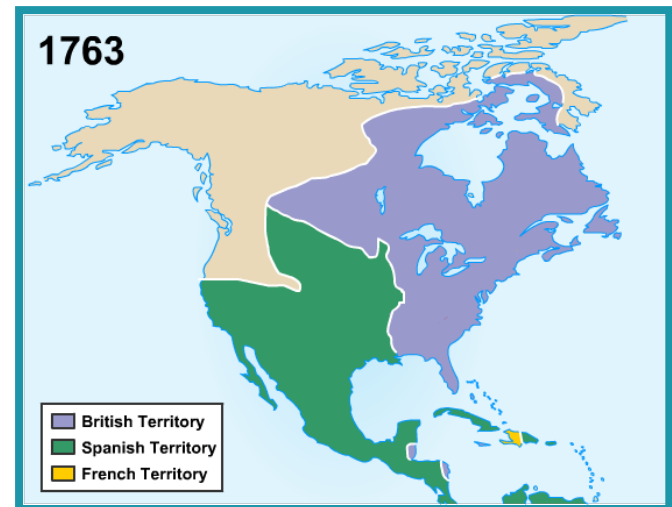
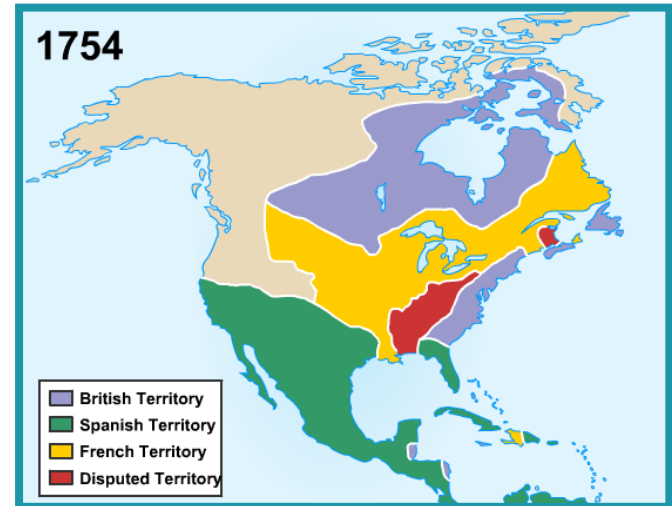


As European powers extended their empires, they began to fight amongst themselves for territory and money.

The French and English fought in the **French and Indian War** between 1754 and 1763 over the frontier between their territories.

By 1763, France had lost all of its North American territories.

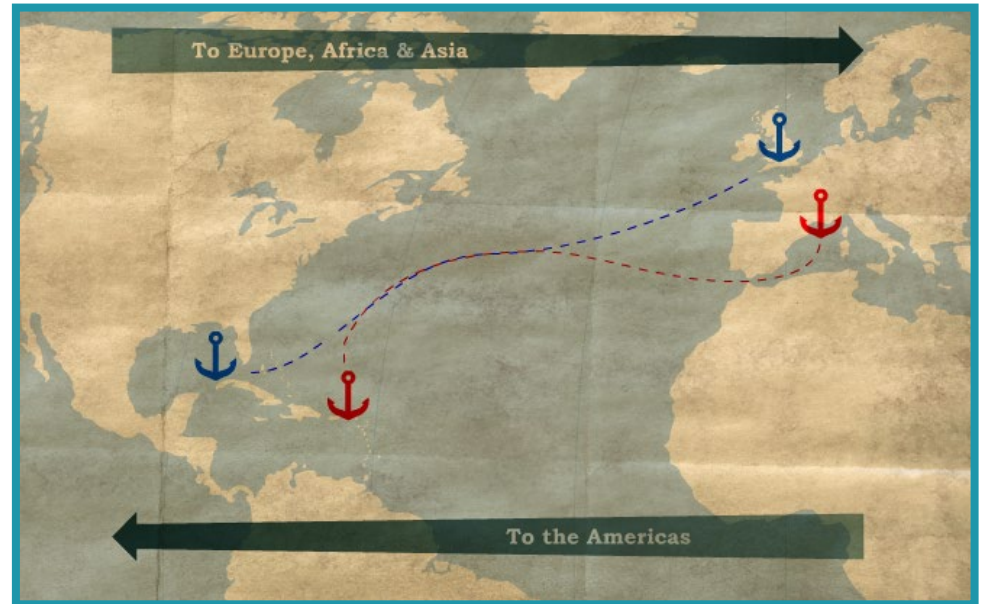
European powers also faced resistance from Native Americans.



Can you name any other conflicts?

Exploration and expansion created new trading opportunities for European nations. These included:

- the establishment of quicker and less restricted trade routes
- the introduction of new resources to the European market
- a new market for goods produced in Europe.



Can you name any goods that might have been exchanged?



The Columbian Exchange





The Columbian Exchange



Plants, animals and ideas were exchanged between the Old World and the New World. This is called the **Columbian Exchange**.

Which of these were found in the New World?



cattle



bananas



turkey



cocoa beans



wheat



tomatoes



potatoes



citrus fruits



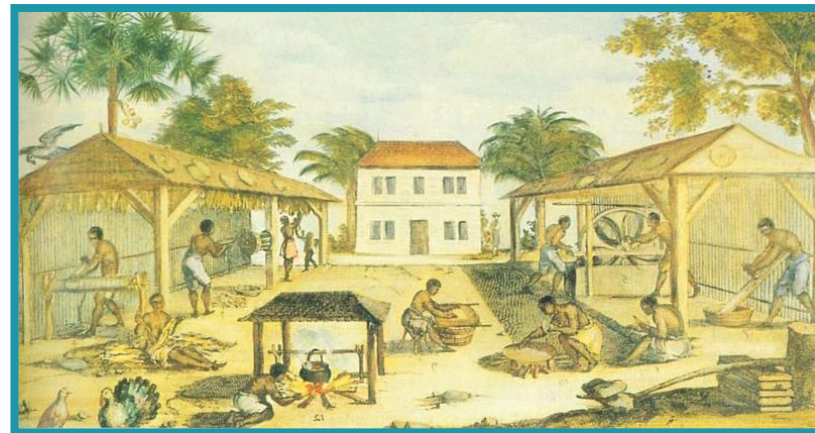
pigs

What impact did the Columbian Exchange have?



The Americas were rich in raw materials, such as gold, sugar and cotton. **Plantation** and mine owners looked for sources of cheap labor.

At first, Native Americans were enslaved. However, many died from European diseases or were able to run away because they knew the area.



The first African slaves arrived in Jamestown, Virginia in 1619. They had already been exposed to some European illnesses and did not know the land, or speak the language. By the time the **Atlantic Slave Trade** ended in the nineteenth century, millions of Africans had crossed the Atlantic.



Why was slavery so important to the economy?



Impact of slavery





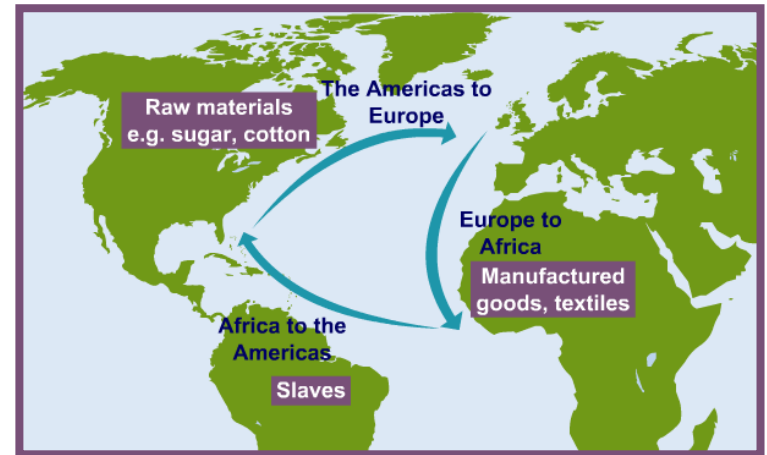
The Triangular Trade



The Atlantic Slave Trade was part of a larger trading system between Europe, Africa and America called the **triangular trade**. The system gains its name from the triangle shape of the trading route.

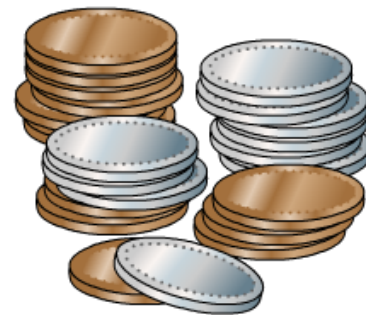
What do you think was traded by each point of the triangle?

- Europe sent manufactured goods, such as guns and textiles, to Africa.
- Goods were exchanged for gold and slaves, who were then shipped to the Americas.
- Raw materials from the Americas, such as sugar, cotton, tobacco and coffee, were transported back to Europe.



The growth of empires and the development of a global trade system led to economic changes within Europe.

- Trading companies, such as the **Dutch East India Company**, were set up to deal with foreign trade.
- There was a move away from the bartering system (exchange of goods) to paying for services and goods with money.
- New banks were established to deal with the money in circulation.
- **Capitalism** was developed. This is an economic system based on private ownership and investment for profit.





Many of the European powers chose to follow an economic policy of **mercantilism** between the sixteenth and eighteenth centuries. This was the belief that the richer a country was, the stronger and more stable it was.

- Colonies were seen as sources of gold, silver, and raw materials, and a market for manufactured goods.
- Countries aimed to sell (export) more goods than they bought (import). This is called creating a **positive balance of trade**.
- Domestic industry was developed to try and become **self-sufficient**.



European expansion opened up and improved contact between Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas.

Developments in transport, communication and technology led to the introduction of new goods and the growth of markets, and helped spread world religions and cultures.



However, the European presence in the Americas devastated the Native American population and millions of slaves were forced to leave their homes as part of the Atlantic Slave Trade.

How has European expansion impacted upon the modern world?

