

Colonization and Settlement

*Colonization and Settlement
(1585–1763)*



The New World

The thirteen colonies

Religion and commerce

Ruling America

Thematic Icons



Economics and business



Geography and environment



Historical concepts and questions



Politics, government and citizenship



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 learn about the discovery and settlement of America and be able to answer these key questions:

- Why did the Europeans explore and want to settle the New World?
- Which European peoples settled in America?
- Who were the indigenous American people?
- How did three worlds meet in America?



Looking back timeline



board
works

The settlement of the Americas and the development of pre-Columbian civilizations occurred over a period of hundreds of years. Either press on a date or drag the pointer along the timeline to find out information about what happened in each year.

Press **start** to begin.

start





The 15th century was the start of a period of European exploration, expansion and exploitation. England, France, Spain and Portugal were major powers at this time.

America was discovered by the Italian sailor Christopher Columbus in 1492, having been financed by the Queen of Spain. Exploration became possible due to improved:

- knowledge of the world's geography
- shipbuilding technology
- navigational skill.



Where was Columbus actually trying to get to?



The motivating factors for European exploration of new lands were numerous:

- geographical: as Europe expanded and countries grew in power, they started to look to other lands
- economic: the search for resources, such as precious metals and spices, and new markets to trade with
- religious: to spread Christianity or escape persecution following the **Reformation**
- social: an opportunity for personal gain or advancement, inspired by a new belief in human capabilities that grew in the **Renaissance**.





In the age of European exploration and expansion, the four main powers of Western Europe discovered and began to settle in the New World.

Press on each highlighted country to find out about their exploration of the Americas.

Press **start** to begin.

start





Before the arrival of Europeans, **indigenous** peoples had been living in America for thousands of years. Population estimates for pre-Columbian North America vary a lot, but usually range between 1 million and 18 million.

There were hundreds of diverse cultures among many different tribes, depending on the environment in which they lived. They developed agriculture, hunting and trade.



Why do you think population estimates vary so much?





In the pre-Columbian era, North America had several different cultural areas. Can you identify these areas and some of the prominent Native American tribes within each region?
Drag the labels to the correct places.
Press **start** to begin.

start





The European settlers colonized the New World, using the **plantation** system of agriculture, forced labor and domination.



The natives tried to resist but were no match for the superior weapons of the Europeans. The settlers also brought deadly diseases that the natives had never encountered before, such as smallpox, measles and typhus.

The natives had no natural resistance to these diseases, which destroyed their population, wiping out up to 80% of it.





As European traders found new lands, they began to interact with the societies of West Africa. They also introduced them to new ideas, beliefs and goods.

The Europeans turned to Africa for slaves due to the problem of disease ravaging the Native American workforce. The slave trade devastated West African societies as over 12 million people were taken before it ended.



Through Native Americans, European settlers and African slaves, three worlds met in the Americas.





The Columbian exchange



The **Columbian exchange** was a widespread exchange of animals, plants, cultures and people between the **Old World** and the **New World**. After the exchange, many different plants and animals could be found in a much wider area.

In teams, can you decide whether each item originated in the Old or the New World?

Press **start** to begin.

start

