

Summer Assignment: Part II

An Introduction to the Exploration and Settlement of the Americas

In order to allow us a more in depth look at the beginnings of American History, you are asked to complete research and take notes on topics which delve into the exploration of the Americas by Europeans, the impact of the Columbian Exchange, and the settlement of the first British colonies. You will answer questions related to this research and create a newsletter to demonstrate your understanding of this period. Please be sure to complete both tasks within this assignment.

Task One: Answer the following questions using the online textbook at www.digitalhistory.uh.edu:

1. The First Americans

- What were Native American civilizations actually like prior to European exploration and settlement?
- How does the reality differ from the myths regarding this group?
- Why were Native Americans vulnerable to exploitation by Europeans?

2. Exploration and Discovery

“The Significance of 1492”

- Why were early European voyages important?
- What controversy surrounds the legacy of Christopher Columbus?

“European commercial and financial expansion”

- Describe developments in Europe during the 1400s?

“Slavery and Spanish colonization”

- Why did African slavery become “...an indispensable part of European settlement and development of the New World”?

“The Black Legend”

- In your opinion, has the discovery of America been harmful or beneficial to the human race?

3. Colonization

“European colonization north of Mexico”

- What motivated European colonization of North America?
- Identify the different demographic and economic patterns that emerged in the early colonies.

“Spanish colonization”

- Explain the system of mercantilism in the Spanish colonies.
- Describe the impact of the Spanish colonies on the Americas.

“English colonization begins”

- What was considered to be the economic potential of the English settlements?
- What problems emerged in the early years of the Jamestown settlement?
- What role did John Smith play in Jamestown’s development?

“Life in early Virginia”

- How did Jamestown eventually survive?

Task Two: The Newspaper

You are the editor of a newspaper documenting life in the “New World.” Your task is to record the trends and events taking place as a result of European exploration and settlement of the Americas. You will need to conduct research to supplement the reading from part one of this assignment.

Components:

- Name your newspaper
- Include attention-catching headlines and captions
- Use Times New Roman font, Size 12 for all text.

- One article comparing Spanish settlement patterns with English settlement. Your article should include discussion of motivations, process and organization of settlement, difficulties faced and relations with Natives. You may also discuss key trends in: demographics, cultural / religious trends, economic issues, social issues, slavery.

- One political cartoon or “letter to the editor” from the Native American perspective. It should address Native American concerns or viewpoints of European settlement.

- An advertisement drawing settlers to New Spain, New Amsterdam, New France or Jamestown.

- An interview with one of the following individuals about their experiences and accomplishments: Samuel de Champlain, Henry Hudson, John Smith, Francisco Coronado, Robert La Salle, Sir Walter Raleigh, Peter Stuyvesant, Father Junipero Serra. (Please write in question and answer form)

Please note: You must use reliable sources and provide a list of citations along with your completed newspaper. You may use printed resources (books and academic journals) and academic websites (see below).

Suggested web resources:

www.digitalhistory.uh.edu (online textbook has valuable guided readings)

www.bigchalk.com (user name and password is “shsdb” (case sensitive) and then click of My Products. You may use any of the listed resources, however we recommend the History Study Center)

www.vlib.us/amdocs (primary source documents broken up chronologically)

You will be graded based on the following criteria:

- All tasks completed fully
- Quality and accuracy of information (spelling and grammar count!)
- Presentation and organization
- Creativity