

DISCOVERY OF AMERICA AND COLONIZATION:

Pre-Columbian Era:

- Indigenous peoples inhabited the Americas for thousands of years before European arrival
- Advanced civilizations like the Aztecs, Mayans, and Incas flourished in Mesoamerica

Christopher Columbus's Voyages (1492-1504)

1. Sponsored by Spain, Columbus sought a new route to Asia
2. Landed on Guanahani (Bahamas) in 1492, encountering the Lucayan people
3. Subsequent voyages explored the Caribbean, Central America, and South America

European Exploration and Colonization:

1. Spain: Established colonies in the Caribbean, Mexico, and South America
2. Portugal: Colonized Brazil and established trading posts in Africa and Asia
3. Italy: Explorers like Amerigo Vespucci and John Cabot mapped the Eastern Seaboard
4. France: Established colonies in North America (Quebec, Louisiana)
5. England: Established colonies on the Eastern Seaboard (Roanoke, Jamestown)
6. Netherlands: Established colonies in New York (New Amsterdam)

Colonization's Impact on Indigenous Peoples:

1. Devastating diseases (smallpox, influenza) decimated native populations
2. Violence, displacement, and enslavement
3. Cultural destruction and forced assimilation
4. Loss of land and resources

Major Colonies and Their Founding Dates:

1. Spain:

- Santo Domingo (1496)
- Mexico City (1521)
- Lima (1535)

2. Portugal:

- Salvador (1549)
- Rio de Janeiro (1565)

3. France:

- Quebec (1608)
- New Orleans (1718)

4. England:

- Jamestown (1607)
- Plymouth Colony (1620)
- New York (1624)

5. Netherlands:

- New Amsterdam (1624)

Colonial Era's Key Features:

1. Mercantilism: Colonies existed to enrich European powers
2. Triangular Trade: Africa, Europe, and the Americas exchanged goods and people
3. Slavery: Millions of Africans forcibly brought to the Americas
4. Missionaries and Conversion: European Christians spread their faith
5. Conflict and Resistance: Indigenous peoples and colonizers clashed

Decolonization and Independence:

1. American Revolution (1775-1783): United States declared independence
2. Latin American Wars of Independence (1810s-1820s): Spain and Portugal lost colonies
3. Haitian Revolution (1791-1804): First successful slave revolt

Legacy of Colonization:

1. Cultural exchange and diversity
2. Economic inequality and exploitation
3. Lasting social and environmental impacts
4. Ongoing struggles for indigenous rights and reconciliation