

CONTENT

Fill in the circle before the correct answer.

1. Who were the first peoples of the Americas encountered by Columbus?
 - (a) Aztec
 - (b) Taino
 - (c) Maya
 - (d) Inca
2. What was Columbus seeking on his first voyage across the Atlantic Ocean?
 - (a) Inca gold
 - (b) Taino canoes and hammocks
 - (c) Asian spices and silks
 - (d) plants from the Americas
3. Doña Marina helped Cortés conquer the Aztec by _____.
 - (a) persuading many of the Aztec enemies to join Cortés's army
 - (b) carrying disks of silver and gold to the Aztec
 - (c) opening the entrances to Tenochtitlán for Cortés
 - (d) reporting on the movements of the Aztec to Cortés
4. Why were the Spaniards able to conquer the Aztec empire?
 - (a) The Aztec refused to fight.
 - (b) The Aztec were greedy.
 - (c) The Aztec were betrayed by their priests.
 - (d) The Spaniards had better weapons.
5. What was an *encomienda*?
 - (a) a large piece of land given to a colonist by the government of Spain
 - (b) a Maya book destroyed by the Spaniards
 - (c) a Spanish soldier looking for gold and riches
 - (d) a person who taught his or her religious beliefs to others

Write the name from the box that best fits each description.

Coronado	Bartolomé de las Casas	Yanga
Ferdinand Magellan	Cortés	

6. a Spanish priest who defended the rights of the Indians 6. _____
7. the Portuguese sea captain in charge of the first known circumnavigation of the world 7. _____
8. the explorer who reached the Grand Canyon on his search for the Seven Cities of Gold 8. _____
9. an escaped African captive who kept his followers safe from Spanish soldiers trying to capture them 9. _____
10. a Spanish conquistador who defeated the Aztecs in 1521 and founded Mexico City 10. _____

SKILLS

Use the map to answer each question.



1. Which explorer traveled the farthest north in the Americas?
2. Name one person who explored what is now Florida.
3. In what years did Balboa explore Central America?
4. Did Christopher Columbus ever journey to the interior of Central America?
5. In what years did Coronado explore what is now the American Southwest?

Name: _____

Date: _____

WRITING

Write a short paragraph to answer each question. If you need more room, continue writing on the back of this page.

1. What was the Columbian exchange? Explain what it was and name at least two specific changes that occurred in each hemisphere.

2. The following is a description of Tenochtitlán written by a Spanish soldier in Cortés's army:

Everything was shining and decorated with different kinds of stonework and paintings that were a marvel to gaze on. . . . I thought that no land like it would ever be discovered in the whole world. But today all that I then saw is overthrown and destroyed; nothing is left standing.

Source: *Aztecs: Reign of Blood & Splendor*, Time-Life Books, Alexandria, VA, 1992

How was everything "overthrown and destroyed"? Tell how the Spanish conquered Tenochtitlán, what they did to the city after conquering it, and what happened next on this site.
