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| Conquistador | Spanish explorers and conquerors who explored the Americas in search of wealth |
| Expedition | A journey or voyage undertaken with a specific purpose like exploration or research.  |
| Era | A period of time with a specific set of characteristics that sets it apart from other periods of time.  |
| Columbian Exchange | A system of trade across the Atlantic Ocean between Europe and the Americas that began with the arrival of Columbus in the Caribbean. |
| Colonization | The act or process of settling in a new land and claiming the land, the people, and the resources for your own country. |
| Viceroy | The Spanish governor of a province in the colonies of New Spain in the Americas. |
| Plantation | A large farm that typically grew one or two very profitable cash crops by using enslaved Indigenous labor. |
| Hernán Cortés  | A Spanish conquistador known for defeating and conquering the Aztecs of modern-day Mexico and establishing Mexico City in place of the Aztec capital. |
| Christopher Columbus | An Italian explorer who sailed in the name of Spain. He arrived in the Caribbean in 1492, and his expeditions encouraged other Europeans to return to the Americas. |
| The Reconquista | The nearly 800-year power struggle between the Spanish and the African Moors to control Spain. |
| God, Gold, and Glory | Spain’s goals for exploration included locating new sources of wealth, becoming powerful and famous, and spreading their religion. |
| Cabeza de Vaca | A Spanish conquistador who suffered a series of misfortunes including being stranded and held captive by American Indians in Texas. He wrote *La Relacion* about his experience, claiming to have seen cities of gold. |
| Francisco Vazquez de Coronado | A Spanish explorer who led an expedition through the American southwest in search of the cities of gold Cabeza de Vaca wrote about. He found no gold. |
| Juan de Oñate  | A Spanish explorer credited with establishing El Paso, Texas and Santa Fe, New Mexico. He is also credited with naming the Rio Grande River. |
| Luis Moscoso de Alvarado | A Spanish explorer who took over de Soto’s expedition when he died. He explored much of eastern Texas but found no gold. |
| Hernando de Soto | A Spanish explorer who led an expedition through the American southeast. He died near the Mississippi River. |
| La Salle | A French explorer who established the first French fort on the coast of Texas. The French presence in Texas and nearby Louisiana made the Spanish nervous about losing Texas to France.  |
| Cibola | The name of the legendary “Seven Cities of Gold” that Cabeza de Vaca claimed to have seen on his journeys through Texas. |
| Horses | The Spanish brought this item to the Americas, which changed the lives, culture, hunting, and transportation abilities of many American Indian tribes. |
| Disease | The Spanish unintentionally brought this with them to the Americas, which was the cause of millions of deaths among American Indians.  |
| Álvarez de Pineda | This Spanish explorer made the first known map of the Gulf of Mexico. |
| 1519 | Pineda made the first known map of the Gulf of Mexico and Cortés arrived in the Aztec capital of Tenochtitlan. |
| Fur trade | France’s primary goal for exploration of the Americas was to take part in this activity with American Indians. |
| Fort Saint Louis | The settlement that La Salle established for the French at Matagorda Bay, Texas in 1685. |