

# The Search for Gold: Voices of Texas History Extension *Advanced*

## Unit 2: Age of Contact

Name:

Date:

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### Primary Source Set I: Cabeza de Vaca

On his travels, Cabeza de Vaca encountered many different tribes of American Indians across Texas. Read the following excerpts from his book and answer the questions that accompany them.

**Excerpt 1 Context:** While living with an American Indian tribe in the southern part of the Coastal Plains, Cabeza de Vaca wrote about the hardship of life in that region of Texas.

*"I bartered with these Indians in combs that I made for them and in bows, arrows, and nets. We made mats, which are their houses, that they have great necessity for; and although they know how to make them, they wish to give their full time to getting food, since when otherwise employed they are pinched for hunger."*

**According to the passage, what role did Cabeza de Vaca play within the tribe he was living with at the time?**

**Excerpt 2 Context:** Cabeza de Vaca was headed toward the west Texas region we know as the Mountains and Basins, traveling with Estevanico and hundreds of American Indian companions. He wanted to send some American Indian scouts ahead to examine the area.

*"We told [the American Indians] that we desired to go where the sun sets; and they said the inhabitants in that direction were remote ... they strove to excuse themselves the best they could, the people being their enemies, and they did not wish to go to them. Not daring to disobey, however, they sent two women, one of their own, the other a captive from that people; for the women can negotiate even though there be war."*

**According to this passage, what role were American Indian women often able to play in the interactions between the various tribes?**

**Excerpt 3 Context:** As Cabeza de Vaca and his men were traveling along the Gulf of California, they encountered many tribes with many types of valuable resources.

*"Throughout this region, wheresoever the mountains extend, we saw clear traces of gold and lead, iron, copper, and other metals ... The people of the fixed residences and those beyond regard silver and gold with indifference, nor can they conceive of any use of them."*

**What resources can be found in the region? According to Cabeza de Vaca, how do the Indigenous people view these items?**

## Primary Source Set II: Francisco Vázquez de Coronado

Coronado was determined to locate the cities of gold that Cabeza de Vaca wrote about in his book. During his two years exploring the American Southwest, he was the first European to lay eyes on the region, and he encountered numerous American Indian tribes along the way.

**Excerpt 1 Context:** Estevanico, the African survivor of Cabeza de Vaca's expedition, accompanied Coronado on his journey because of his knowledge of the land and its people.

*"It seems that, after the friars I have mentioned and [Estevanico] had started, [Estevanico] did not get on well with the friars, because ... he collected turquoise, and got together a stock of everything. Besides, the Indians in those places through which they went got along with [Estevanico] better, because they had seen him before. This was the reason he was sent on ahead to open up the way and pacify the Indians."*

**According to the passage, what was Estevanico's role in Coronado's expedition?**

**Excerpt 2 Context:** On his quest for gold, Coronado met an American Indian man who would go on to lead him across the southwestern portion of America in search of gold.

*"The Spaniards ... talked with an Indian slave, a native of the country toward Florida... The fellow said that there were large settlements in the farther part of the country ... He told [Alvarado] about the wealth of gold and silver in his country ... They called the Indian "Turk" because he looked like one."*

**According to the passage, who was "Turk?" Why don't we know his real name? What was his role in Coronado's expedition?**

**Excerpt 3 Context:** As Coronado's expedition passed into the northern portion of the Texas Great Plains, he encountered a band of Apache people known as the Querechos.

*"After ten days more, [the Spanish] came to some settlements of people who ... are called Querechos in that region. They had seen the [bison] for two days. These folks live in tents made of the tanned skins of the [bison.] They travel around near the [bison], killing them for food. They did nothing unusual when they saw our army, except to come out of their tents to look at us ... they had already talked with the Turk ... they agreed with what he said."*

**What can the reader learn or infer about this band of Apache people from this excerpt?**

### Primary Source Set III: “The Turk”

The only information we have about the Indigenous man known as “the Turk,” comes from Spanish texts about Coronado’s expedition. The excerpt on the previous page states that he was originally from somewhere in or near Florida, though he was living in the west Texas area as a captive of a group of Puebloan people. Read the following excerpts to learn more about “the Turk,” from different points of view.

**Excerpt 1 Context:** A conquistador called Hernando de Alvarado reported that the Turk told him many things about where he was originally from. Alvarado said he believed the Turk’s story “on account of the ease with which he told it.”

*“The Turk said that in his country there was a river ... in which there were fishes as big as horses ... He said also that the lord of that country took his afternoon nap under a great tree on which were hung a great number of little gold bells ... He said also that everyone had their ordinary dishes made of a wrought plate, and the jugs and bowls were of gold.”*

**How does “the Turk” describe where he’s from? How do you predict this description will influence Coronado’s plans?**

**Excerpt 2 Context:** The Puebloan people who had held “the Turk” captive, had also captured a Wichita man named Ysopete. The Puebloan people gave Ysopete along with “the Turk” to Coronado as guides. Ysopete had his own opinions about “the Turk.”

*“There was another native of Quivira with the army, a painted Indian named Ysopete. This Indian had always declared that the Turk was lying, and on account of this, the army paid no attention to [Ysopete].”*

**What is Ysopete’s opinion of the Turk? Why do you think the Spanish don’t listen to him?**

**Excerpt 3 Context:** After traveling for months at “the Turk’s” direction, Coronado found no gold at all. Coronado and his men ultimately confronted “the Turk” about this failure.

*“[The Spanish] asked the Turk why he had lied and had guided them so far out of the way. He said that his country was in that direction and that, besides this, the people at Cicuye had asked him to lead them off on to the plains and lose them, so that ...they would be so weak if they ever returned that they could be killed without any trouble and thus [the American Indians at Cicuye] could take revenge for what had been done to them.”*

**According to the excerpt, what reasons did “the Turk” give for lying about helping the Spanish locate gold?**