Chapter 3 Section 1 : Learning Targets

- Analyze the results of the first encounters between the Spanish and Native Americans.
- Explain how Cortés and Pizarro gained control of the Aztec and Inca empires.
- Understand the short-term and long-term effects of the Spanish on the peoples of the Americas.
Christopher Columbus landed in the Caribbean islands in 1492 and sparked a wave of exploration that would forever change the world.

His voyage set off a cycle of conquest and death as Europeans arrived in the New World.
Christopher Columbus arrived in the West Indies and met the Taíno people in 1492.

They grew corn, yams, and cotton and were very friendly to the Spanish.

Despite this, Columbus and his men were hostile. They killed Taínos who resisted them and claimed the land for Spain.
Conquistadors who arrived in the new world in Columbus’s wake behaved the same way.

A cycle began in which Spanish conquerors seized Native American gold and killed vast numbers of people.

The deaths were a result of both force and disease. Native Americans lacked immunity to European illnesses.
A tiny force of hundreds of Spaniards conquered millions of Native American.

- The Spanish had guns, cannons, metal armor, and horses.
- But the biggest factor were the diseases they brought. Smallpox, flu, and measles killed 90% of the native population.
Hernán Cortés landed on the coast of Mexico in 1519 with 600 men.

- He planned to conquer the Aztecs and headed inland to Tenochtitlán.

- Cortés was aided by a young Indian woman named Malinche, who served as translator and advisor.
Malinche helped Cortés form alliances with groups of people who’d been previously conquered by the Aztecs.

The Aztec emperor Moctezuma heard about the Spanish before they arrived. He sent gifts of religious importance and hoped they’d turn back.
Montezuma welcomed the Spanish, but hostilities quickly grew.

The Spanish tried to convert the Aztecs to Christianity and imprisoned Moctezuma to gain control.

Cortés continued on to Tenochtitlán.
A new force of conquistadors arrived and challenged Cortés.

In the resulting struggle, the Aztecs drove the Spanish out of the city.

Cortés retreated to plan an assault and returned to Tenochtitlán in 1591.

This time, the city was captured and completely destroyed.

Francisco Pizarro was inspired by Cortés to conquer the Inca empire in Peru.

He began this quest in 1532, directly after an Inca civil war.

Atahualpa, the Inca ruler, refused to convert to Christianity. The Spanish captured and eventually killed him.
Pizarro and his men overran the Inca empire and conquered much of the rest of the South America for Spain.

- As with Cortes, Pizarro benefited from superior weapons and diseases that killed millions of natives.
- Pizarro was killed by a rival Spanish group, but his actions forever changed the continent.
## Effects of the Spanish Conquest

| For the Spanish: | • Spain became Europe’s greatest power.  
|                 | • They seized huge quantities of valuable goods and established silver mines. |
| For the Native Americans: | • Many lost faith in their gods, stopped resisting, and converted to Christianity.  
|                         | • Some continued to fight the Spanish.  
|                         | • Some resisted by preserving parts of their own culture. |
Terms and People

- **Conquistador** - a Spanish explorer who claimed lands in the Americas for Spain in the 1500s and 1600s
- **Immunity** - resistance to disease
- **Hernán Cortés** - one of the earliest conquistadors, who landed in Mexico in 1519 and took over the Aztec empire
- **Tenochtitlán** - the capital of the Aztec empire
- **Malinche** - a young Indian woman who served as translator and advisor to Cortés
• **Alliance** - formal agreement between two or more nations or powers to cooperate and come to one another’s defense

• **Moctezuma** - the Aztec emperor who faced the Spanish invasion led by Cortés

• **Francisco Pizarro** - Spanish conquistador, who arrived in Peru in 1532, overran the Incas, and conquered much of the continent of South America for Spain

• **Civil war** - a war fought between groups of people in the same nation
• Atahualpa
  – Inca leader who the Spanish captured in their effort to gain control of the Incas

• Taino People
  – Columbus killed these first contact peoples and claimed their land for the Spanish king.