

AP US HISTORY Reading Guide—America’s History—Chapter 1: Colliding Worlds-1450-1600

The following are the items from the AP Curriculum Framework that apply to this chapter. I suggest you read these, make sure you understand them, and be able to explain and give examples to support each one. Your textbook will cover some of these; we will cover others in class. Quite often there will be overlap between chapters.

Period 1 Overview: On a North American continent controlled by American Indians, contact among the peoples of Europe, the Americas, and West Africa created a new world

**Several of these concepts will be addressed in Chapter Two, so don’t stress if you can’t find examples yet

<p><u>Key Concept 1.1</u> As native populations migrated and settled across the vast expanse of North America over time, they developed distinct and increasingly complex societies by adapting to and transforming their diverse environments.</p>	
<p><i>I. Different native societies adapted to and transformed their environments through innovations in agriculture, resource use, and social structure.</i></p>	
A) The spread of maize cultivation from present- day Mexico northward into the present-day American Southwest and beyond supported economic development, settlement, advanced irrigation, and social diversification among societies.	Put an example(s) here:
B) Societies responded to the aridity of the Great Basin and the grasslands of the western Great Plains by developing largely mobile lifestyles.	
C) In the Northeast, the Mississippi River Valley, and along the Atlantic seaboard some societies developed mixed agricultural and hunter-gatherer economies that favored the development of permanent villages.	
D) Societies in the Northwest and present-day California supported themselves by hunting and gathering, and in some areas developed settled communities supported by the vast resources of the ocean.	
<p><u>Key Concept 1.2:</u> Contact among Europeans, Native Americans, and Africans resulted in the Columbian Exchange and significant social, cultural, and political changes on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean.</p>	
<p><i>I. European expansion into the Western Hemisphere generated intense social, religious, political, and economic competition and changes within European societies.</i></p>	
A) European nations’ efforts to explore and conquer the New World stemmed from a search for new sources of wealth, economic and military competition, and a desire to spread Christianity.	
B) The Columbian Exchange brought new crops to Europe from the Americas, stimulating European population growth, and new sources of mineral wealth, which facilitated the European shift from feudalism to capitalism.	
C) Improvements in maritime technology and more organized methods for conducting international trade, such as joint-stock companies, helped drive changes to economies in Europe and the Americas.	
<p><i>II. The Columbian Exchange and development of the Spanish Empire in the Western Hemisphere resulted in extensive demographic, economic, and social changes.</i></p>	
A) Spanish exploration and conquest of the Americas were accompanied and furthered by widespread deadly epidemics that devastated native populations and by the introduction of crops and animals not found in the Americas.	

B) In the <i>encomienda</i> system, Spanish colonial economies marshaled Native American labor to support plantation- based agriculture and extract precious metals and other resources.	
C) European traders partnered with some West African groups who practiced slavery to forcibly extract slave labor for the Americas. The Spanish imported enslaved Africans to labor in plantation agriculture and mining.	
D) The Spanish developed a caste system that incorporated, and carefully defined the status of, the diverse population of Europeans, Africans, and Native Americans in their empire.	
III. In their interactions, Europeans and Native Americans asserted divergent worldviews regarding issues such as religion, gender roles, family, land use, and power.	
A) Mutual misunderstandings between Europeans and Native Americans often defined the early years of interaction and trade as each group sought to make sense of the other. Over time, Europeans and Native Americans adopted some useful aspects of each other's culture.	
B) As European encroachments on Native Americans' lands and demands on their labor increased, native peoples sought to defend and maintain their political sovereignty, economic prosperity, religious beliefs, and concepts of gender relations through diplomatic negotiations and military resistance.	
C) Extended contact with Native Americans and Africans fostered a debate among European religious and political leaders about how non-Europeans should be treated, as well as evolving religious, cultural, and racial justifications for the subjugation of Africans and Native Americans.	

VOCAB TERMS—You are responsible for these. Some are in your book, some we will discuss in class, and some you may need to look up. You need to not only know what these terms are, but why they are SIGNIFICANT.

Cahokia	Columbus
Iroquois	Cortes
Matriarchal Societies	Aztecs
Primogeniture	Agricultural Revolution
Civic Humanism	Nomadic lifestyle
Renaissance	
Protestant Reformation	

THE BIG IDEA: *How did the political, economic, and religious systems of Native Americans, Europeans, and Africans compare and how did things change as a result of contacts among them?*

Guided Reading Questions—

- What was the importance and impact of the Agricultural Revolution? Consider the newfound ability to grow a staple crop such as maize.
- In what ways were Native American societies advanced, even prior to European contact? Try to give an example from both Central and North America.
- How did geography impact Native American societies? Give several specific examples.
- Compare and contrast gender roles in the three main groups discussed in this chapter.
- What factors led Europeans to explore and colonize the New World? Be sure to include the influence of Christianity.
- What were African societies like on the eve of European contact?
- Understand the origins of the slave trade
- What was the role of disease as these three worlds collided?

Review Questions (located at the end of the chapter)

- How did the rulers of Native Americans, Europeans, and African empires and kingdoms secure and sustain their power? How did ordinary people benefit from, or suffer under, their rule?
- What role did religious and spiritual ideas play in shaping the experience of ordinary people on the three continents?
- Why was long-distance trade in exotic goods such an important phenomenon in North America, Europe, and Africa?
- Compare the societies of the eastern woodlands of North America with the kingdom of Western Europe. What similarities do you see? Differences? How do you weigh their relative importance?

Turning Point—choose one of the following events as the most significant turning point and explain **WHY**

- The Agricultural Revolution, the defeat of the Aztec Empire, the start of the African slave trade

Links to things that might help you understand, review, pretend to study, etc.:

- [Crash Course #1](#)
- [Jocz Productions Chapter 1 Review \(not our textbook but close enough\)](#)
- [Jocz Productions--Quick Review of Native Americans](#)
- [Gilder Lehrman Period 1 Review](#)
- [Free Learnerator Practice Questions](#)