Chapter 10: A Deadly Meeting

Name:

muskets epidemic intermediary Mayan Nahuatl

Read the Opening Story: pg. 215

Q: Based on what you have learned about Spanish and Aztec society, what aspects of technology, religion, and culture do you think might affect the meeting between them? List a few things below:

Cortes, the Conquistador

What does the word “conquistador” mean?

The man who was leading Spanish troops toward Montezuma and the Aztecs was Hernan Cortes.

List 5 details about Cortes’ life from pg. 216:

In many ways, Cortes embodied the Spanish worldview of his time. It was this worldview that drew Cortes to confront and eventually conquer the Aztec people.

Figure 10-3: The Caribbean Region in the Early 1500s

* Locate Tenochtitlan on the map. Why do you think it would be such an important site for the Spanish to conquer?

🡪 History in film: Cortes’s desire for gold inspired the story behind the movie Pirates of the Caribbean: Curse of the Black Pearl. A group of pirates are cursed after stealing Aztec gold from Cortes.

🡪 🡪 Video clip in class.

A Not-So-Secret Formula

Cortes believed that the Caribbean would be a good place to make his fortune. When he arrived on the island of Hispaniola (present day Dominican Republic and Haiti) in 1504, the governor immediately gave him a large farm.

* How did Cortes respond?
* What does this say about his worldview?

Later, Cortes was asked to join an expedition to conquer Cuba, an island just west of Hispaniola. He eagerly accepted. With just 300 men, the Spanish conquered Cuba using their usual formula.

What is this formula?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

DRAW out this formula as a mathematical equation below using small pictures or images to represent each step in the formula:

Romeo Dallaire: Hero (pg. 218)

* Fill out a Historical Identification Card on Romeo Dallaire.

Voices: Two Images of Cortes (pg. 219)

* Compare the two images using the Venn Diagram below:

Fig 10-5 Fig 10-6

Cortes remained in Cuba, second in command to Governor Velazquez. After eight years, he grew restless again. He wanted to learn more about the Yucatan Peninsula, a large landmass to the west of . Velazquez sent out two expeditions to learn about this unknown area. The expeditions brought back reports that caused great excitement. It seemed that there was a civilization in this new land that was stronger, more , and than any group of people the Spanish had yet encountered.

This was the opportunity Cortes had been waiting for. He got Velazquez to help finance an expedition to the . Cortes scoured Cuba for experienced soldiers and used loans to buy ships.

**WRITE** a newspaper article/clipping that would have announced the findings from the Yucatan. Include important details in your article. (HAND THIS IN)

Cortes Arrives in Mexico

Before striking inland to the Aztec Empire, Cortes established a town, La Villa Rica de la Veracruz, on the coast of Mexico and declared an independent government. This meant that he was now responsible to King Carlos I rather than Velazquez. He sent back one ship with treasures he had found to Spain, and then sunk the other ten ships.

* **WHY** did he sink his other ships?

An Unequal Fight

* Read the chart on page 223 comparing Aztec and Spanish weapons.
* Which side do you think had the technological advantage? Write a paragraph explaining your answer below:

**Describe** how Cortes used muskets and cannons against the Aztecs and how this gave them an advantage:

**Describe** how Cortes used horses in fight against the Aztecs and how this gave them an advantage in battles:

Role of Disease

Define “epidemic” below:

In conflict with the Aztecs, disease gave the Spanish an advantage yet again over their enemies. At a critical point, a smallpox broke out it Tenochtitlan, killing vast numbers of Aztecs and weakening their ability to resist the Spanish assault.

European explorers, traders and settlers also brought smallpox, measles, and other diseases to the Americas. In North America, smallpox killed millions of Haudenosaunee (Iroquois).

Invasion

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Spanish Strategy (pg. 229-230) | Aztec Strategy (pg. 231) |
|  |  |

The Battle for Tenochtitlan

Series of events: List in order what happened during the Battle for Tenochtitlan

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

13.

14.

15.

Over to You: pg. 234 Q# 4.

4. Write and deliver a newscast from the Aztec point of view during the Spanish conquest. Be sure to include details of weaponry and small pox in your report. This can be typed, audio, or filmed. You will deliver it to the class and may work in partners if you want (groups of 2 people max.).