

Name _____

Quest for New Lands

In the late 1400s and early 1500s, European countries like Spain, Portugal, France, and England were eager to explore new parts of the world. Their main goals, often remembered as the "Three G's," were Gold, Glory, and God. They wanted to find wealth in gold and spices, gain fame and power for their countries, and spread Christianity to new lands.



The voyages of explorers like Christopher Columbus, John Cabot, and Ferdinand Magellan were funded by kings and queens who hoped to benefit from these discoveries. These journeys opened up new trade routes and brought new goods to Europe, like corn, potatoes, and tobacco. However, these explorations also led to significant changes for the Native American societies already living in the Americas.

European explorers saw the Native Americans' land as an opportunity for riches and settlement. Unfortunately, many Native Americans were forced to give up their land and resources. Europeans brought animals like horses and cattle that changed Native American ways of life, but they also brought diseases like smallpox, which caused great suffering. Despite these challenges, Native Americans shared their knowledge of farming and survival, helping the settlers adapt to their new environment.

Exploration and colonization changed both Europe and the Americas forever. While Europeans gained wealth and new lands, Native American cultures were deeply affected by the loss of land, lives, and traditions. Understanding these changes helps us learn about the complex history of early exploration.