Chapter 4 Section 1
Spanish Conquests in the Americas

Columbus’s Voyage Paves the Way

An Italian sailor, Christopher Columbus, convinced the Spanish king and queen to fund a sailing expedition. The goal of the voyage was to find a quicker route to Asia and its luxury goods and spices by traveling ___________. His trip led him to the America’s, which Columbus mistakenly believed the islands to be the East Indies. There he encountered Native Americans, which he named Indians. Columbus made several more voyages, this time as a __________________________ builder.

Definition:

This voyage was the first of many made by Spain, as many more explorers followed.

Amerigo Vespucci explored the eastern coastline of ____________ ____________.

Balboa was the first to reach the ________________ Ocean.

Ferdinand Magellan was the first to __________________________ the world.

Spain – The Empire Builders

By the 1500s, Spanish explorers began to explore the interior lands of the Americas.

Hernando __________________, a Spanish conquistador, sought to discover the riches and vast resources of Mexico. Cortes and his men clashed with the powerful Aztecs of Mexico, defeating them in 1519. Montezuma II was the ruler of the Aztec people.

Another Spanish conqueror, Francisco ________________, led another expedition and defeated the mighty ________________ Empire of South America. By the mid-1500s, Spain created an empire that spanned the area that includes modern day Mexico down through Peru. They discovered vast amounts of gold and silver. They then moved north into what would become the United States.

The Spanish people lived among the natives that they conquered. Spanish men married Native American women. They had children of mixed decent, called _________________. The Spanish formed large __________________________ farms and used slave labor. This system was called __________________________.