Writing Through the Ages

The Pre-Columbian World

The Columbian Exchange was a case of cultural worlds colliding. BUT, what was the world like before Columbus's historic miscalculation?

- *PARAGRAPH 1* –Introduce Pre-Columbian America. What groups lived in the Americas, what was their culture like? Be sure to discuss religious beliefs, societal structure, government, values, etc. Groups to discuss – Aztecs, Incas, Olmecs, Cahokia.
- *PARAGRAPH 2* – The Black Death shook Europe to her very core. Discuss how the religious beliefs of the Europeans were impacted. Population was also greatly impacted. How did this drastic population decline impact land distribution? Why is land SO significant? Explain how this impacted the serfs that had been tied to the Lord's Land for generations.
- *PARAGRAPH 3* - The Crusades opened up parts of the world that common people would never have had access or exposure to, if they had never happened. Consider the religious implications. Remember, this started with Pope Urban II rallying his soldiers – professional and militia alike – to save the Holy Land from the Infidels. Think of all the goods, services and ideas that Crusaders were exposed to during their travels. Don't forget the Silk Road. What were they? Discuss how this impacted the soldiers who made it back and how that further impacted society in general.
- *PARAGRAPH 4* - The Renaissance was a literal REBIRTH of knowledge give examples of the movers and shakers of this movement. How was science impacted? How were the arts impacted? How did this movement create a competition among the monarchs of Europe? Don't forget that the Church was still a major political player at this point in history! How did this period of discovery and questioning rattle the cages of the leaders in the Church?
- *PARAGRAPH 5*- Time to put it all together. What will this lead to? Will the Europeans work together or not? What monarch do you think will lead the way? Are there any kingdoms that will be left behind? Be sure to support your theory.