

TEACHER NOTES:

- Before First Read
 - Using the [teal slide](#), have students do the [Shades of Meaning Activity](#) using the “Good-Bad arrow”
 - Before learning about Spanish conquistadors, students should have learned about pioneers & settlers, which have a positive connotation, so I want to make sure we have a conversation about how *pioneer* and *immigrant* are the same, *settlers* and *conquistadors* are very similar...
 - You can use the map to ask students:
 - Which countries speak Spanish?
 - What languages were spoken before Spain, England and Portugal interfered?
 - Why does only Brazil speak Portuguese?
 - Pope Alexander VI with [Treaty of Tordesillas](#) The treaty, signed in 1494, established a line in the Atlantic Ocean, granting Spain control of lands west of the line and Portugal control of lands to the east, including what would become Brazil. That's literally the reason why only Brazil speaks Portuguese but the rest of South America speak Spanish. This shows the influence of Europe all over the world but also the power of the Catholic Church.
- First read
 - “Probable Text” routine (Who, what, when, where chart)
 - Use [slide](#) to introduce words for students to put into chart
- Read as a whole class
 - Modeled read by teacher
 - Echo Reading: Paragraph 2
 - Ask students how they can tell that this is a compare & contrast structure
 - Paragraph 3 & 4
 - These two paragraphs just compare. Have students re-read paragraph 3 & 4 to chart how the two are the same.
- Second Read
 - Students number the paragraphs sequentially
 - Partner reading: Odd & Even paragraphs
 - Main Idea Work
 - This format is compare and contrast so students should be learning how an author shows comparison: which words indicate comparison? Which sentence structures indicate comparison? You can also have the students complete the comparison chart.
- Third read
 - Editing and Parts of Speech
 - Fill in the blank with a partner
- Fourth read
 - Prepare for a reading response.. See the [slide](#)

Name: _____

Date: _____

Who	What	Where	When	Why or How?

I predict that this text will be about _____

Questions that I have:



Name: _____

Date: _____

Spaniards in America: Informative Text

America is a vast continent. In 1492, Christopher Colombus was the first European to notice this new continent. By the 1500s, Spain, France and England were all rushing to get their people to the new continent. Two Spaniards, Francisco Pizarro and Hernán Cortés, came to the Americans for just that purpose.

Francisco Pizarro and Hernán Cortés were two significant Spanish explorers. Mr. Cortés explored Central America, especially Mexico, where he encountered the powerful Aztec Empire. On the other hand, Mr. Pizarro explored South America, primarily Peru, discovering the vast Inca Empire. Both explorers represented Spain and attempted to make themselves, and Spain, richer and more powerful from what they found in the Americas.

Cortés and Pizarro had various interactions with indigenous peoples, which had severe and lasting impacts. Cortés encountered the Aztec Empire, specifically tribes like the Tlaxcalans, Cholulans, and the Mexica. He famously said, "I and my companions suffer from a disease of the heart which can be cured only with gold." Well, in the modern world we call that greedy and money-hungry. Basically, he cared more for gold than the people. Cortés built alliances with tribes unhappy with Aztec rule and used that to conquer the Aztec, all in an attempt to take their land and their riches.

On the other hand, Pizarro encountered the Inca Empire. He wrote about the indigenous people, saying they were "simple and easy to control." Like Cortes, Pizarro saw the people he encountered as a barrier to the riches America had to offer. Historian John Hemming emphasizes, "Pizarro's conquest reshaped the entire continent's future." Pizarro, just like Cortes, were harsh toward indigenous peoples, often using violence to conquer, control and take resources.

Both men left lasting legacies as in the Americas. For one, there are towns named after them. For two, most people in the Americas now speak Spanish. In fact, the language of Spain is the fourth most common language in the world today. Whether it's ethical or unethical, Pizarro and Cortes undoubtedly changed the Americas forever.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Spaniards in America: Opinion Text

America is a vast continent—but the story of how Europeans first came to it isn't one to celebrate. In 1492, Christopher Columbus “discovered” a land already filled with thriving civilizations. By the 1500s, Spain, France, and England were racing to claim pieces of this so-called “New World.” Two Spaniards, Francisco Pizarro and Hernán Cortés, were among the most famous—and, in my opinion, the most destructive—of them all.

Francisco Pizarro and Hernán Cortés were not just explorers; they were conquerors chasing power. Cortés marched into Central America, especially Mexico, where he met the mighty Aztec Empire. Pizarro traveled through South America, reaching the Inca Empire in Peru. Both claimed to represent Spain, but it's obvious they were driven more by greed than glory. Their goal was simple: take whatever they could to make Spain—and themselves—richer, no matter who got hurt along the way.

Cortés's own words expose his true motives. He said, “I and my companions suffer from a disease of the heart which can be cured only with gold.” That doesn't sound like courage—it sounds like greed. Instead of respecting the Indigenous peoples he met, he used rival tribes as tools to help him destroy the Aztec Empire. Pizarro wasn't any better. He described the Inca as “simple and easy to control.” That's not leadership—it's arrogance. Historian John Hemming even said, “Pizarro's conquest reshaped the entire continent's future.” Sadly, that future was one of loss for millions of Indigenous people whose cultures were attacked and whose lands were stolen.

Yes, Pizarro and Cortés changed the Americas forever—but for the worse. They left behind towns named after them and spread the Spanish language across two continents. Today, Spanish is one of the world's most spoken languages, erasing the rich linguistic history of the Americas. When I think about their legacy, I don't see heroes. I see conquerors who traded humanity for gold—and changed history through greed and violence.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Comparing Two Spaniards

Prompt	Francisco Pizarro	Hernan Cortes
What area did he explore?		
What peoples and tribes did he encounter?		
What motivated him to explore the Americas?		
How did he treat the indigenous peoples?		
Famous Quote		

Name: _____

Date: _____

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Francisco Pizarro and Hernán Cortés were two _____ Spanish explorers. Mr. Cortés _____ Central America, especially Mexico, where he encountered the powerful Aztec Empire. On the other hand, Mr. Pizarro _____ South America, primarily Peru, discovering the vast Inca Empire. Both _____ represented Spain and attempted to make themselves, and Spain, richer and more powerful from what they found in the Americas.

Cortés and Pizarro had various _____ with indigenous peoples, which had severe and lasting impacts. Cortés _____ the Aztec Empire, specifically tribes like the Tlaxcalans, Cholulans, and the Mexica. He famously said, "I and my companions suffer from a disease of the heart which can be cured only with gold." Well, in the modern world we call that greedy and money-hungry. Basically, he cared more for gold than the people. Cortés built alliances with _____ unhappy with Aztec rule and used that to conquer the Aztec, all in an _____ to take their land and their riches.

On the other hand, Pizarro _____ the Inca Empire. He wrote about the _____ people, saying they were "simple and easy to control." Like Cortes, Pizarro saw the people he _____ as a barrier to the riches America had to offer. Historian John Hemming emphasizes, "Pizarro's conquest reshaped the entire continent's future." Pizarro, just like Cortes, were _____ toward indigenous peoples, often using violence to _____, control and take _____.

Name: _____

Editing

Directions: There are at least eleven mistakes in the following paragraph. Please edit the following paragraph for those mistakes.

Like Cortez, Pizarro saw the people he encountering as a barrier to the riches America had to ofer. Historyan John Hemming emphazises, "Pizarro's conquest reshaped the entire continent's future." Pizarro, just like Cortes, were harsh toward indian peoples often using violence to conquer control and take resources.

Highlight the parts of speech

Name: _____

A noun is a person, place or thing. Underline all the common nouns but circle all the proper nouns. A verb is an action word, or what you are doing. There are at least ten verbs. List all ten verbs on the back of this paper. A conjunction connects two clauses. How many conjunctions do you see?

Like Cortes, Pizarro saw the people he encountered as a barrier to the riches America had to offer. Historian John Hemming emphasizes, "Pizarro's conquest reshaped the entire continent's future."

Pizarro, just like Cortes, were harsh toward indigenous peoples, often using violence to conquer, control and take resources.

Handwriting Practice

Name: _____

rt rt rt cortez cortez rte rte inter

interaction Iwh wh wh which which which

se se ease ease disease acts pacts impacts

f f f fam famous famous famous

Gg Go Gold Gold gold gold Gold rr rrr

cur cur cured cured with gold cured

Handwriting Practice

Name: _____

Cortés and Pizarro had various
interactions with indigenous peoples,
which had severe and lasting impacts. He
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