



## Terms and People

- ***encomienda*** – a land grant given by the Spanish government that included the right to demand labor or taxes from Native Americans
- **Bartolomé de Las Casas** – a Spanish priest who worked for reform of the *encomienda* system
- **mission** – a religious settlement
- ***peninsular*** – a Spanish colonist who was born in Spain



## Terms and People

- **conquistador** – Spanish soldier-adventurers
- **Hernando Cortés** – a conquistador who conquered the Aztecs in 1520
- **Moctezuma** – the Aztec leader who tried to turn Cortés away from Tenochtitlán
- **plantation** – a large farm worked by laborers who lived on the property

When finished get your tablet

# Spanish Empire





## Objectives

- Describe how the Spanish were able to defeat the empires of the Aztecs and Incas.
- Identify Spanish explorations in areas that later became parts of the United States.
- Explain how society was organized in Spain's empire in the Americas.



## How did Spain establish an empire in the Americas?

By the early 1500s, the Spanish had a firm foothold in the Americas.



From Spain's island colonies in the Caribbean, **conquistadors** set out to conquer new lands.

In 1519, conquistador **Hernando Cortés** sailed from Cuba to Mexico with more than 500 soldiers.



Later that year, Cortés marched into the Aztec capital city of Tenochtitlán, where the Aztec leader **Moctezuma** tried to convince him to leave.



Instead, Cortés took Moctezuma hostage and claimed Mexico for Spain.



At first, the Aztecs rebelled and drove the Spanish out.




Cortés returned with a larger force, destroyed Tenochtitlán, and built Mexico City, the capital of the Spanish colony of New Spain.

In 1533, the conquistador Francisco Pizarro used the same methods as Cortés to defeat the Incas in modern-day Peru.







How could a few hundred Spanish soldiers defeat Native American armies many times their size?

- The Spanish had more technologically advanced weapons, such as muskets, and in battle they rode horses, which the Native Americans had never seen before.
- Many Native American groups helped the Spanish because they hated the Aztecs.
- A recent civil war had weakened the Incas.

In 1513, Juan Ponce de León sailed north from Puerto Rico and landed in present-day Florida.

He became the first Spaniard to set foot in what is now the United States.



## Other explorers found new lands while searching for the rumored cities of gold.

- The conquistador Francisco Coronado explored present-day New Mexico, Arizona, Texas, and Kansas.
- Hernando de Soto explored the present-day southeastern United States and the Mississippi River.



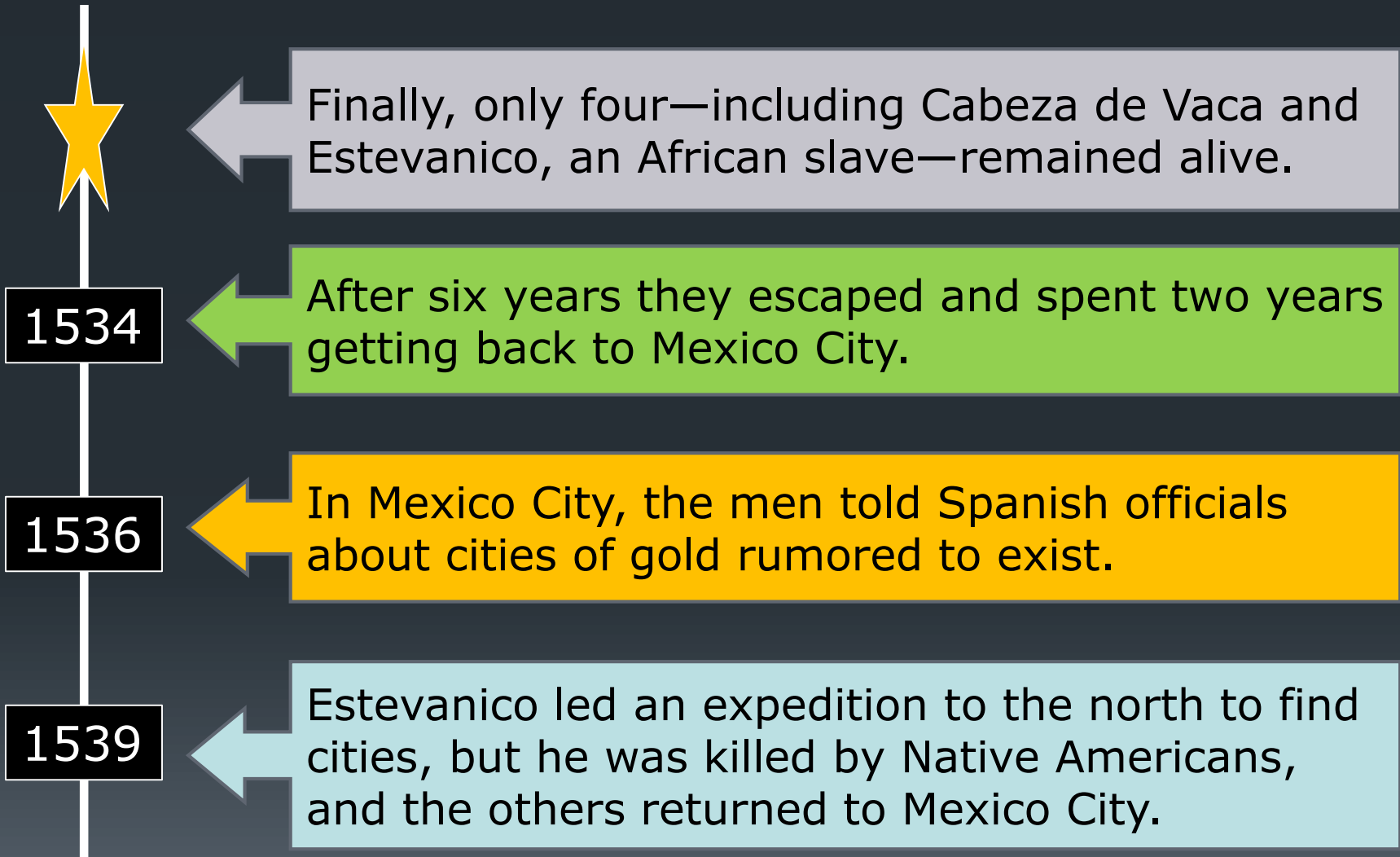
Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca also explored North America with his crew of 400 men.

1528

The Spaniards searched for gold in Florida and were attacked by Native Americans.


The 80 survivors built boats, fled by sea, and landed at present-day Galveston Island on the Texas coast.

Starvation and disease reduced their number to 15 before they were enslaved by local Native Americans.



# Tablets

- 2 facts about each Spanish conquistador
  1. Hernando Cortez
  2. Francisco Pizarro
  3. Juan Ponce de Leon
  4. Francisco Coronado
  5. Hernando de Soto



At first, Spain let the conquistadors govern the lands they had conquered, but that did not work well.



Spain then created a formal system of government to rule its colonies.

Government officials granted settlers huge tracts of land to start mines, ranches, and **plantations.**

## Society in the Spanish Colonies

### ***Peninsulares***

***Peninsulares***, who were at the top of the social structure and who held almost all government jobs, were Spanish colonists who had been born in Spain.

### **Creoles**

These people, who could be wealthy merchants or plantation owners, were colonists who were born in America of two Spanish parents.

### **Mestizos**

These people of mixed Spanish and Indian blood could be ranchers, farmers, or merchants, but they could not enter the upper levels of society.



## Society in the Spanish Colonies (continued)

### **Mulattoes**

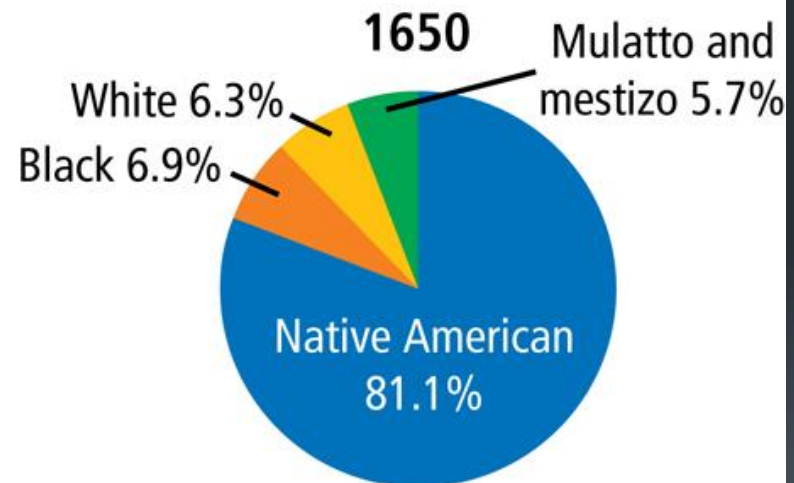
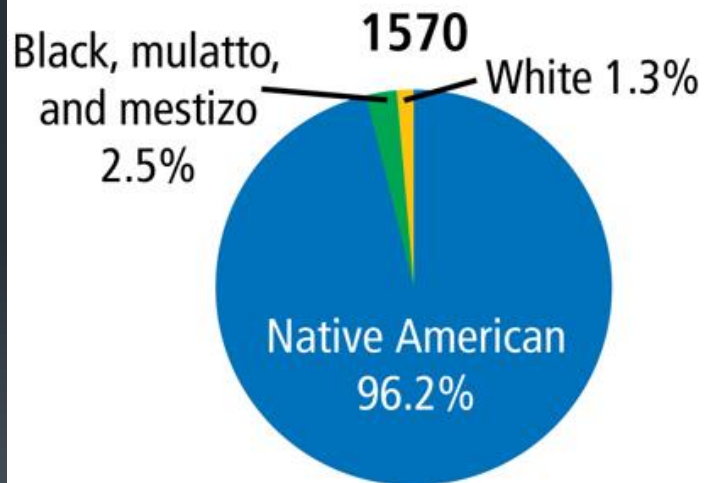
These people of Spanish and African heritage were near the bottom of the social structure.

### **Native Americans and African Americans**

They were held at the bottom of society.

This rigid social system, based on birthplace and blood, helped Spain keep control of its empire in the Americas for more than 300 years.

### Population of Spanish America



SOURCE: *Spain and Portugal in the New World*, Lyle N. McAlister

## Missions played a major role in the Spanish colonies.



The Spanish believed they had a duty to convert Native Americans to Christianity.



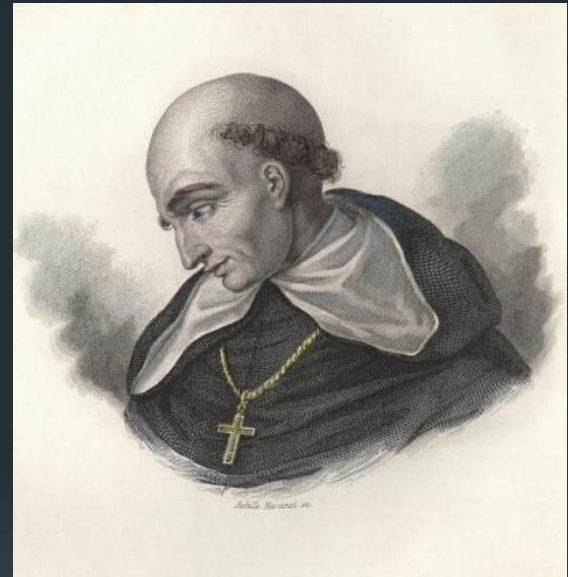
San Francisco, San Diego, and other American cities got their start as Spanish missions in the 1700s.


**Bartolomé de Las Casas** was a missionary who greatly influenced the policies of Spain.

The Spanish government granted ***encomiendas*** to help colonists find workers for their land.



**The Spanish forced Native Americans to work in gold and silver mines, where many died.**





Some Spaniards, including Las Casas, protested this cruel treatment.



Largely due to Las Casas's efforts, the government of Spain ordered reform of the *encomienda* system in the mid-1500s.



Nevertheless, so many Native Americans died under Spanish rule that the colonists started importing African slaves in 1517.

# Quiz

1. Spanish officials granted settlers tracts of land to establish mines, ranches, and \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Spanish priests and friars set up \_\_\_\_\_ as centers for converting Native Americans to Christianity.

3. \_\_\_\_\_ was a Spanish priest who helped bring reform of the way Spanish settlers treated Native Americans.

4. The Spanish government granted that \_\_\_\_\_ included the right to demand labor and taxes from Native Americans.

- a. Hernando Cortés
- b. Bartolomé de Las Casas
- c. Encomiendas
- d. Missions
- e. Peninsulare
- f. plantations

5. When Ponce de León went to Florida, he became the first Spaniard to set foot in what is now the United States.

6. When the Inca people paid Pizarro a ransom for their leader, Pizarro released him.

7. The Spanish paid Native Americans to work in the gold and silver mines.

8. Spanish colonists who had been born in Spain occupied the Mestizo level of society.

9. What are two reasons that a small number of Spanish soldiers were able to defeat large Native American armies?