

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

History: \_\_\_\_\_

## Early Explorers

### New Spain

- Christopher Columbus discovered America for Spain in 1492. Columbus thought that he could reach the Indies quicker if he sailed west. The islands that he first reached are still called the West Indies.
- Spanish soldiers, known as conquistadores, came to the Americas for riches, power, wealth, and glory for Spain.
- Friars came to the Americas to convert Native Americans to the Catholic faith since Spain was a Catholic nation. They created missions.

### Hernan Cortes

- He landed in present day Mexico with an army of 500. He met the Aztecs who welcomed him because they thought he was their legendary god who had sailed east many years earlier and promised to return.
- Cortes wanted the marvelous city of Tenochtitlan, so he took Montezuma hostage. (the Aztec leader) Cortes defeated the Aztec with the help of natives and renamed the city Mexico, after the Aztec name for themselves. Mexico City became the new capital for New Spain.

### Pineda

- Pineda became the first European to explore the Texas coast in 1519.
- He sailed along the uncharted coastline from Florida to Mexico, mapping the journey along the way.

### Cabeza de Vaca

- He was shipwrecked by a terrible storm near present day Galveston. These survivors were the first Europeans to enter present day Texas.
- The Karankawas helped the visitors. As a result, many of them died due to diseases along with half of the shipwrecked. From then on, Europeans were associated with diseases to the Indians.
- Cabeza de Vaca became known as a shaman or healer amongst the Natives. He mixed with the Natives for the next six years and learned much of the way of life and geography of Texas.

### Fray Marcos Leads a New Expedition

- Cabeza de Vaca returned to Mexico and reported he saw buffalo but no gold. He told stories which he had heard about cities of gold. New Spain sent Marcos, a priest, to check out the stories
- He received news of seven cities of gold known as Cibola. This was in present day Arizona and New Mexico. Fray Marcos continued the expedition until he saw Cibola from a distance and returned to Mexico. Cibola was actually a pueblo, but Marcos saw it at sunset and the reflection looked like gold.

