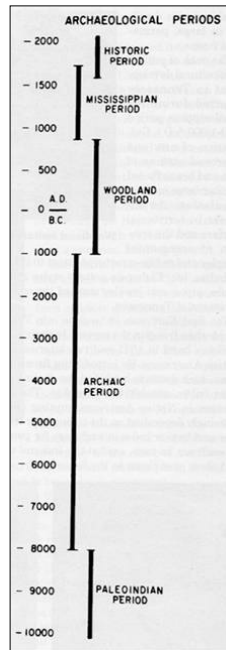


## **ERA 1: Beginnings to 1660**

### **Three Worlds Meet**

4<sup>th</sup> grade and 8<sup>th</sup> grade



## HISTORICAL TIMELINE:

Nomadic Paleo-Indians occupied Tennessee 12,000-15,000 years ago during the **Paleo-Indian Period**. They left behind arrowheads and spear points.

During the **Archaic Period**, Indians hunted and gathered, and eventually started cultivating plants—the beginnings of agriculture.

The **Woodland Period**, which lasted 2,000 years, saw the introduction of pottery and the beginnings of settled farming communities. Burial mounds were constructed.

The **Mississippian Period** (900-1600 AD) saw the erection of ceremonial temples and public structures. The society became increasingly complex, and new strains of corn and beans were cultivated. The population grew rapidly.

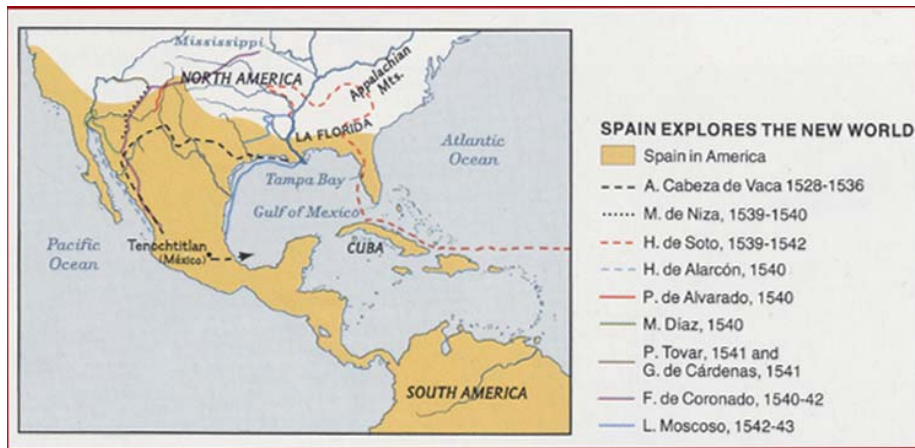
Timeline from the Blue Book Collection at TSLA, RG 238.

**Magellan  
was the  
first  
European  
to sail  
around  
the world**



Image from the Library of Congress. This first voyage around the world took place from 1519-1522, but Ferdinand Magellan himself never made it back to Spain alive. His single remaining ship returned to Spain loaded with pepper, nutmeg, and cloves – valuable spices that were the goal of much early exploration.

## Spanish exploration in the New World



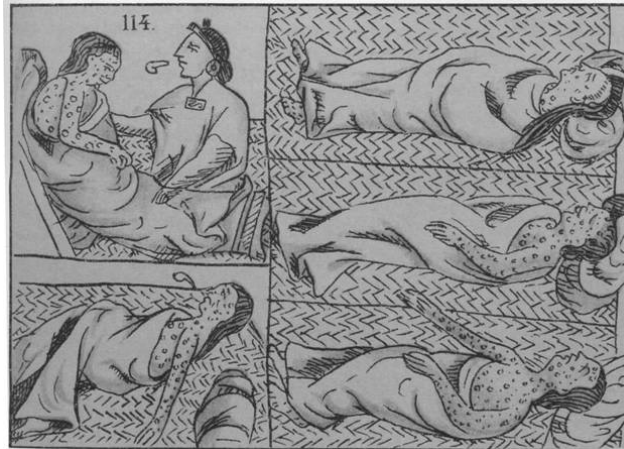
This map is from the National Geographic's Centennial Edition of the *Historical Atlas of the United States*, page 22-23, located at TSLA in oversize reference, G1201.S1N3 1988. The sixteenth century was a time of aggressive Spanish exploration of the New World. Exploration quickly turned to the conquest and massacre of Native peoples.

# Spanish Conquest of Mexico



Image from the Biblioteca Nacional, Madrid, Spain. Drawing by an unknown Aztec artist from *Historia de las Indias de Nueva España e Islas de Tierra Firme* (mid-1500s) by Diego Durán. The image shows the Spanish conquest and destruction of the Aztec empire in Mexico in 1521. Aztec warriors are fighting to recapture a palace from the Spaniards. One Aztec warrior wears an eagle costume, and another, a jaguar suit. Hernando Cortés was largely responsible for the fall of the Aztecs. Many Indians were killed in battles with the Spanish, whereas many more eventually died of disease, particularly smallpox. According to Bernal Díaz del Castillo, one of the conquerors fighting with Cortés, on one occasion, "...we fell on the Indians with such energy that with us attacking on one side and the horsemen on the other, they soon turned tail. The Indians thought that the horse and its rider was all one animal, for they had never seen horses up to this time....The savannas and fields were crowded with Indians running to take refuge in the thick woods near by." (59-63) Concerning their efforts to convert their victims, Castillo wrote, "One other thing Cortés asked of the chiefs and that was to give up their idols and sacrifices, and this they said they would do, and, through Aguilar, Cortés told them as well as he was able about matters concerning our holy faith, how we were Christians and worshipped one true and only God..." From *The Discovery and Conquest of Mexico 1517-1521*. This work first appeared in Spain in 1552. At TSLA, this book can be located at: F 1230 .D5442 1956. Cortés sought to overcome one of the greatest cities in the Americas, Tenochtitlan, which was under Moctezuma's rule. The Spanish managed to destroy the famous Aztec city, kill Moctezuma, and build a Catholic cathedral where an Aztec temple once stood. Of the 300,000 warriors who had defended the city, only 60,000 were left after the attack. The Spanish looted Tenochtitlan and took the valuable gold and silver. The site was re-named Mexico City.

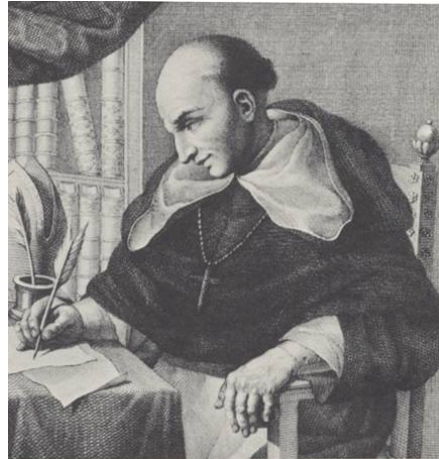
## When Two Worlds Meet: The consequences can sometimes be deadly



Victims of the smallpox pandemic of 1520 in Mexico. The speech symbol is shown on the bottom left, indicating, “they cried out in agony,” Florentine Codex, circa 1570. Biblioteca Medicea-Laurenziana, Florence/AKG. Scholars believe that in 1518, there were 25.2 million natives in Mexico; fifty years later, the population was around 2.65 million. Smallpox had been unknown to the people of the New World, and they had no immunity to the disease. It came across the Atlantic with the Spanish conquistadors, devastating the island of Hispaniola (modern-day Haiti and the Dominican Republic) in 1518, killing one-third of the population, and moved to Puerto Rico, Jamaica, and Cuba in 1519. In 1520, it reached the mainland Yucatan and moved its way into the interior of the country. According to a contemporary Aztec account, the disease, known as the “great rash,” or *huey zahuatl*, caused tremendous suffering: “Sores erupted on our faces, our breasts, our bellies, we were covered with agonizing sores from head to foot... The sick were so utterly helpless that they could only lie on their beds like corpses, unable to move their limbs or even their heads. They could not lie face down or roll from one side to the other. If they did move their bodies, they screamed with pain.” For more information, see page 81 of *Conquistadors* by Michael Wood. The disease reached the Incas several years later.

## A Dominican monk, Bartolomé de Las Casas, decries Spanish cruelty in the New World

- “The natives of the province of Santa Marta (located in modern-day Columbia) had a great deal of gold...the people who lived there (had) the will and the know-how to extract it. And this is the reason why, from 1498 right down to today, in 1542, this region has attracted an uninterrupted series of Spanish plunderers who have done nothing but sail there, attack, murder, and rob the people, steal their gold and sail back again.”



From *A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies* by Bartolomé de Las Casas, page 80, edited and translated by Nigel Griffin. On the right, portrait of Bartolomé de Las Casas, Rare Book Division, New York Public Library



**The Spanish, led by Pizarro, attack the Incas:**  
**“They killed the Indians like ants....So many Indians were killed it was impracticable to count them. As for the Spaniards, only five of them lost their lives...”**

On the left, a 16<sup>th</sup> century illustration of Francisco Pizarro encountering the Inca emperor Atahualpa. From Brown University, John Carter Brown Library, Providence, Rhode Island. On the right, a quote from Waman Poma, a sixteenth century Andean chronicler who described the Spanish massacre of the Incas. See page 134 of *Conquistadors* by Michael Wood. In 1582, Pizarro and his men defeated the powerful Inca empire, imprisoning and eventually killing their leader, Atahualpa, and stealing and melting down precious gold and silver. Most of the beautiful artwork of this civilization was destroyed. The Spanish attack was carried out by 180 men and 67 horses; the Incas were rapidly and brutally defeated by the Spanish. Poma writes, “At the sound of the explosions and the jingle of bells on the horses’ harness, the shock of arms and the whole amazing novelty of their attackers’ appearance, the Indians were terror stricken.”

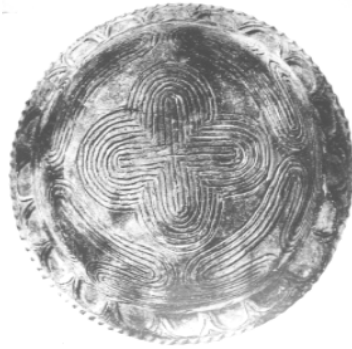
## Ruins of a Spanish mission church, San José de los Jemez (New Mexico)



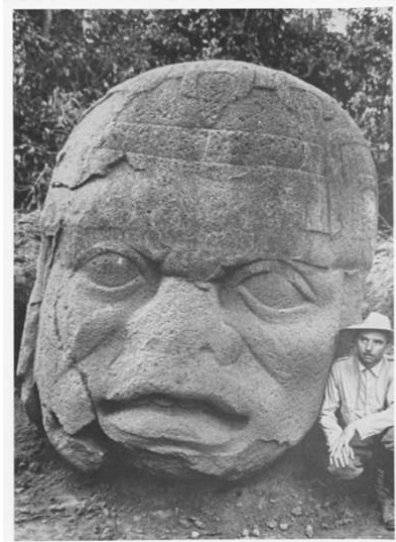
A contemporary Franciscan from Jemez stated, "We cannot preach the Gospel now, for it is despised by these people on account of our great offenses and the harm we have done them."

From page 83 of *A Sense of Mission: Historic Churches of the Southwest* (Foreword by N. Scott Momaday, photography by David Wakely, text by Thomas A. Drain). The church was built in 1626 and abandoned less than a decade later. The church has a fortress-like character, which speaks to the defensive, military purposes it probably served. Missionary efforts at this site were not successful. Spanish monks seeking to convert natives to Christianity almost always accompanied or followed behind the conquistadors.

## Native American artifacts



Photographs are all from the Tennessee Academy of Science Papers, Accession number 1542, XV-A-1,2, and were taken by Charles W. Davis, the one-time President of the Academy. He took the photographs to be used in his publication, *American Antiquities*, which is located at TSLA. Image on the upper left, Crude Arrow Points, Flint Ridge, Box 70, File 60. Vase on the lower left, from an unknown site, Box 8, File 93. Swirl pattern bowl on the upper right from Pecan Point, Arkansas, Box 7, File 25. Two decorated bowls on the lower right from Hale's Point, Mississippi River, Box 7, File 65.



A large head  
sculpted by  
the Olmec, an  
ancient Pre-  
Columbian  
people from  
Mexico and  
Central  
America

Head found in Mexico or Central America, from the Tennessee Academy of Science Papers, Accession number 1542, XV-A-1,2, Box 8, File 17. People of the Olmec culture, which preceded the Aztecs and other Meso (or middle) American cultures, carved these monumental sculptures before 600 A.D. The Olmecs were present in the area sometime between 1200 B.C. and 300 B.C.

## The Cahokia Mounds in Illinois



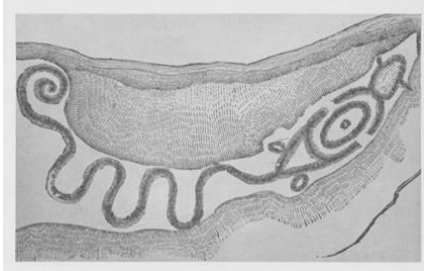
Truin Mound, Cahokia Mounds State Park, Collinsville, Illinois, Tennessee Academy of Science, Box 7, File 34. Cahokia was first settled around 700 A.D., reaching its peak during the thirteenth century, with a population of approximately 30,000 people. Cahokia was the center of government and religious life and an important trade center; it was also the largest city in North America before Philadelphia in 1800. This culture was known for its successful agricultural practices, especially the cultivation of corn and squash. The mounds and Cahokia were usually used as platforms for buildings, although some mounds were used for burials and boundary markers. Truin mound, seen above, is one of 68 extant mounds, out of the 120 that were originally located on the site.

## The Pinson Mounds in Tennessee



From the Department of Conservation Photograph Collection, Box 41, File 132, DB #19616, RG 82. The photograph was taken in 1967, and shows the Indian Mounds in Pinson, Tennessee. The Pinson Mounds are a large Woodland Period mound group, dating to about 1500 A.D. The mounds were used for ceremonial purposes.

## The Serpent Mound in Ohio



On the left, the Great Serpent Mound, Box 8, File 14 from the Tennessee Academy of Science Papers; on the right, the Great Serpent Mound in Adams County, Ohio, from the Tennessee Academy of Science Papers, Box 9, File 36. This effigy mound, thought to be created between 500 – 1000 A.D., is about 1,300 feet in length and averages about three feet high. Effigy mounds, which are earthworks in the shape of animals and birds, were not unusual in this area of the United States, but many were destroyed when farms were established in the nineteenth century. The image, located in Southern Ohio, represents an uncoiling serpent. The head of the snake is aligned to the summer solstice sunset, and the coils of the snake may point to the winter solstice sunrise and equinox sunrise.

## What bones can tell us about Native Americans



***Note the arrowhead  
lodged in the skull  
pictured above***



On the left, Skull with Arrow, from the Tennessee Academy of Science Papers, Box 9, File 52. On the right, from the Department of Conservation Photograph Collection, RG 82, Box 66, File 33, DB #30846. Shown are some skeletal remains in the Chucalissa Indian Village near Memphis, Tennessee. The photograph was taken in 1973.

## A Native American pipe



Effigy Pipe, from the Tennessee Academy of Science Papers, Box 7, File 81. Such carved stone pieces represent a high degree of skill and craftsmanship among early Native Americans.

## Chucalissa Indian Village in Memphis



On the left, from the Department of Conservation Photograph Collection, RG 82, Box 66, File 33, DB #30844. A native structure in the Chucalissa Indian Village near Memphis, Tennessee, is shown. The photograph was taken at the T.O. Fuller State Park in 1973. On the right, from the same collection, Box 66, File 35, DB #31067, another view of the Chucalissa Indian Village. Chucalissa, which means “abandoned house” in Choctaw, was first occupied around 1000 C.E., but the mound building practices did not begin until later, around 1200. The site has been reconstructed according to its appearance in 1500, during which time large mounds were built around the central plaza. The Native Americans living at Chucalissa farmed, but they also continued to hunt and fish. In 1541, the site had already been abandoned, but Hernando de Soto (see next slide) was the first non-Native American to “discover” this area around the Mississippi River. The site was rediscovered in the late 1930s when workers from the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) were preparing the area for a new park. The site eventually opened to the public in the 1950s.

## Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto reaches Tennessee in the early 16<sup>th</sup> century



## *De Soto battles Native Americans*

From the Photograph Collection, Drawer 22, Folder 145, DB #4343, an engraving entitled "Entrée des Espagnols dans la Province de Chicaca." The image shows Hernando de Soto (ca. 1500-1542) and the first naval engagement with Indians on his second approach to the riverfront at what is now the west end of Auction Street in North Memphis. De Soto was a veteran of Pizarro's conquest of the Incas, and had come to America seeking gold. For more information on de Soto as well as an early sketch of his expedition, please see the Era 2 presentation. The image is from the "Historia de la Conquete de la Floride" by Pierre Richelet, courtesy of the Cossitt Library, Memphis, Tennessee.