

GED Social Studies

Day 2



COMUNIDADES LATINAS
UNIDAS EN SERVICIO

A photograph of the steps and columns of a classical building, likely the U.S. Supreme Court, with the text "United States History" overlaid.

United States History

American history is dynamic, ever changing with the times. The importance of understanding U.S. history extends to the GED Social Studies Test, where it makes up 20 percent of all questions. As with other areas of the GED Tests, U.S. History questions will test your ability to interpret text and visuals, such as tables, graphs, and timelines.



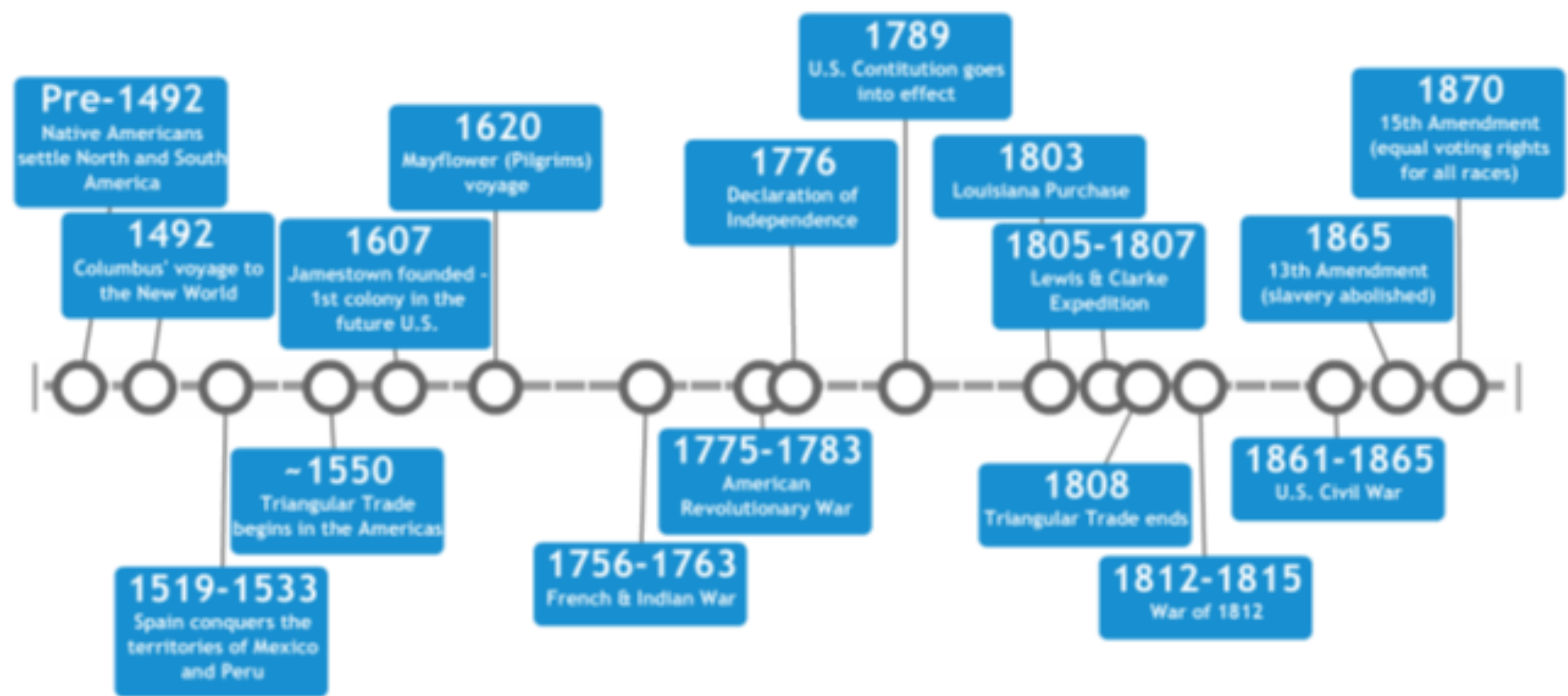
American history is dynamic, ever changing with the times. So, too, are your career opportunities when you successfully complete your GED® certification.

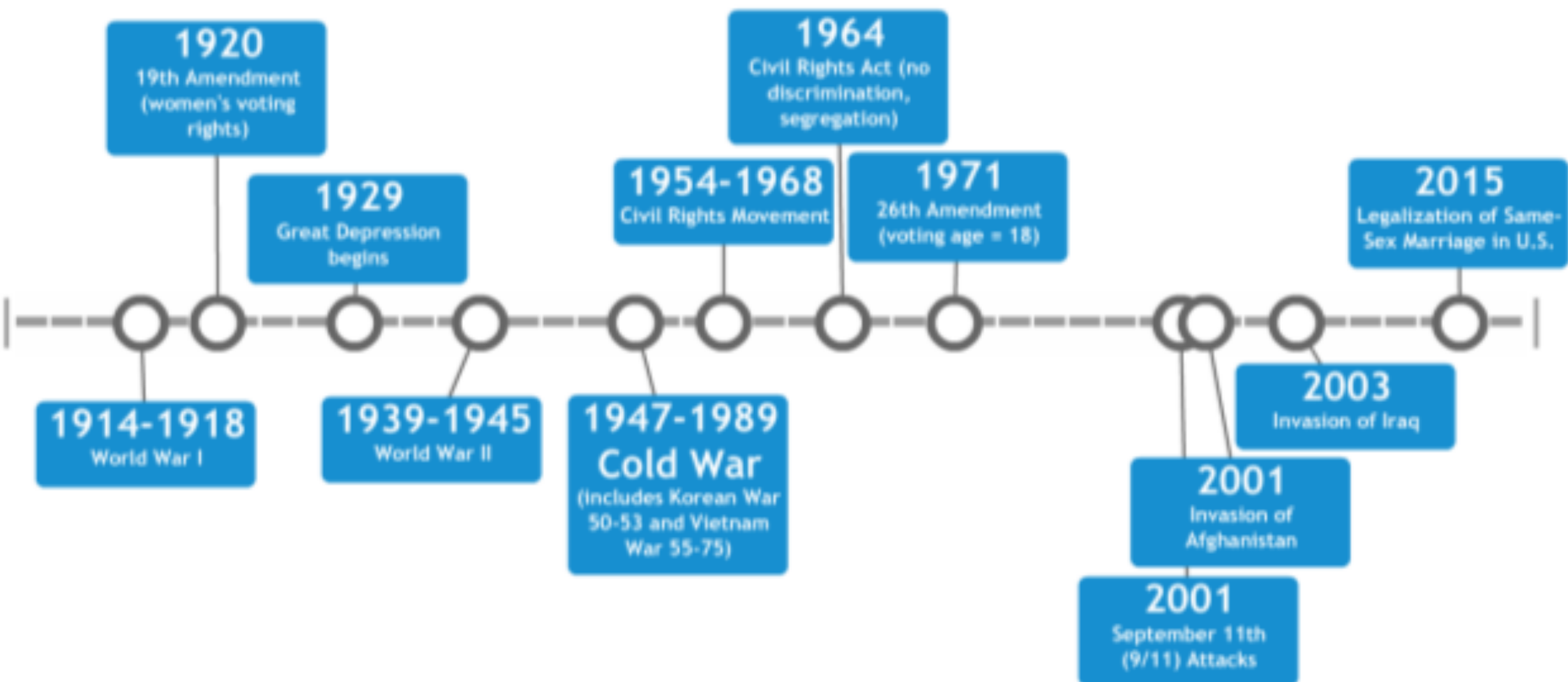
US History



Which events
do you know?

Which events
are you
curious about?



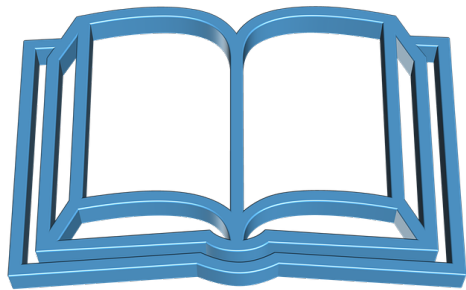


1492 – what do you think of?



1. What do you know or have you learned about Christopher Columbus?
2. If you were born here, did you learn about him in school? What did your teachers tell you?

Next you will find two excerpts from books about Christopher Columbus. Notice how he is portrayed in each account as you read.



Excerpt #1 taken from

***LIES MY TEACHER TOLD ME
EVERYTHING YOUR AMERICAN
HISTORY TEXTBOOK GOT WRONG***
BY JAMES W. LOEWEN TOUCHSTONE
BOOKS, 1995, PAPER.

Christopher Columbus
introduced two phenomena that
revolutionized race relations and
transformed the modern world:

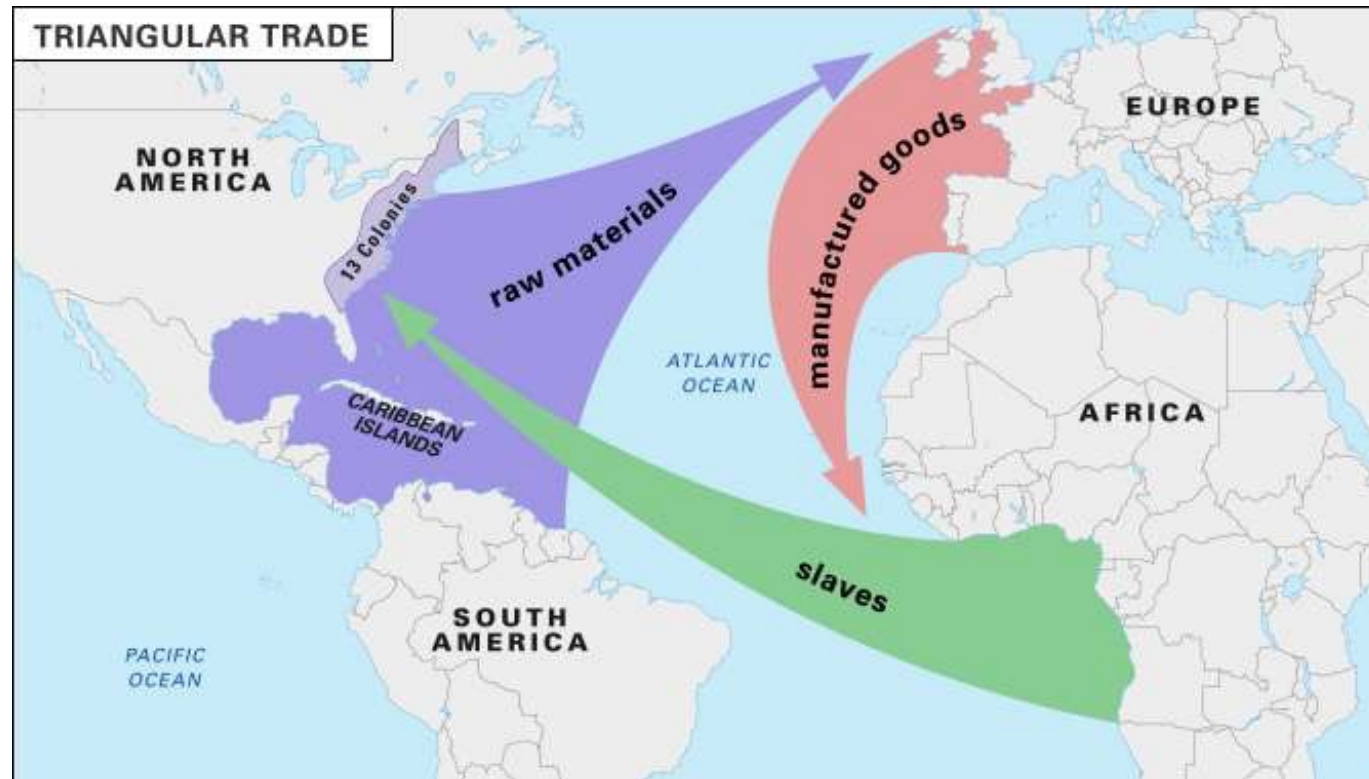
#1

the taking of land, wealth, and labor
from indigenous peoples, leading to
their near extermination



#2

and the transatlantic slave trade, which created a racial underclass.



On his first voyage,
Columbus kidnapped
some ten to twenty-five
Indians and took them
back with him to Spain.
Only seven or eight of
the Indians arrived alive,
but along with the
parrots, gold trinkets,
and other exotica, they
caused quite a stir in
Seville.



Ferdinand and Isabella provided Columbus with seventeen ships, 1,200 to 1,500 men, cannons, crossbows, guns, cavalry, and attack dogs for a second voyage.



Excerpt #2 taken from
www.kidsfront.com

Christopher Columbus was born in Genoa, Italy. He was the oldest of five children in his family. His father was a wool weaver. He helped his father with the weaving, but he always wanted to sail the seas. Columbus wanted to find a short way to get to the Indies by ship.



He tried for eight years to get King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella to supply him with ships and money. Finally, they agreed, but he made more demands.

He wanted to be made a knight, admiral of the Ocean Sea. He wanted to be the viceroy and governor general of all lands he would discover. Also, he wanted one-tenth of everything he found of value in the new lands. He even boldly told them he wanted all of this in writing. This was rather brave of him because they could have had him killed because of his demands

They finally agreed and he got three ships ready to sail. The Santa Maria and two smaller ships, the Pinta and the Nina. He took enough food for a year. In four months he was ready to sail. They left Spain on August 3, 1492. They made one stop, and then sailed on towards the west. After many days, the sailors were ready to turn around and start back home.



"Just three more days," he said. "Then if we don't see land, we'll turn around and go back home."

Two days later they saw land; an island Columbus named San Salvador. He thought he had found the Indies and called the people he saw there "Indians". When they got to Cuba, he thought he was in China. The world was a lot larger than he thought.

Columbus did not become rich as he had hoped. At the end of his life he only had a pension the king and queen had given him because he was the first to reach the New World. He spent the last few months of his life in bed because of the pain of arthritis.

Columbus not only discovered a New World, but he led the way for other explorers.



Optional Video: Colonialism & Exploration



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eBGblnY677U>

1. What was Christopher Columbus looking for when he set sail across the ocean?

- A. ☐ Native Americans
- B. ☐ a shorter route from Europe to Asia
- C. ☐ a shorter route from Europe to America
- D. ☐ gold

2. Columbus sighted land in the Americas in:

- A. ☐ 1892
- B. ☐ 1092
- C. ☐ 1792
- D. ☐ 1492

Use the T-Chart to make a list of the different information that you learn about Christopher Columbus from each entry

Except 1	Except 2

- In what ways did the information in the entries contrast and contradict with each other? Why do you think they contained different information?
- If you were going to include information from each side for a history textbook for students, which information would you include? Which would you leave out? Is there anything that you would like to know more about?

Old World vs. New World

- North and South America are often called the "New World" because the great discoverers of Europe were the first to explore it. The fact is, however, that indigenous people of the Americas had been here long before the so-called New World was "discovered." They had developed rich cultures that were often devastated by the newcomer Europeans. The use of the term "New World," therefore, is a very Euro-centric view of the exploration of the Americas.

What do you think about the term “New World” for North and South America?

Homework!

Active Assignments



Week 2

To begin, select an activity from All Activities

[Select New Activity](#) 



All Activities

Completion: 0/5 (0%)



No Due Date