Chapter 1: “New World Beginnings”

1. **Canadian Shield**—first part of the North American landmass to emerge above sea level
2. **Incas**—highly advanced South American civilization that occupied present-day Peru until it was conquered by Spanish forces under Francisco Pizarro in 1532; developed sophisticated agricultural techniques, such as terrace farming, in order to sustain large, complex societies in the unforgiving Andes Mountains
3. **Aztecs**—Native American empire that controlled present day Mexico until 1521, when they were conquered by Spanish Herman Cortes; maintained control over their vast empire through a system of trade and tribute; came to be known for their advances in mathematics and writing and their use of human sacrifices in religious ceremonies
4. **nation-states**—the term commonly describes those societies in which political legitimacy and authority overlay a large degree of cultural commonality
5. **Cahokia**—Mississippian settlement near present-day East St. Louis, home to as many as twenty-five thousand Native Americans
6. **three-sister farming**—Agricultural system employed by North American Indians as early as 1000 CE; maize, beans, and squash were grown together to maximize yields
7. **middlemen**—in trading systems, those dealers who operate between the original producers or goods and the retail merchants who sell to consumers; after the 11th century, European exploration was driven in large part by a desire to acquire alluring Asian goods without paying heavy tolls to Muslim middlemen
8. **caravel**—small vessel with a high decks and three triangular sails; could sail more closely into the wind, allowing European sailors to explore the western shores of Africa
9. **plantation**—large-scale agricultural enterprise growing commercial crops and usually employing coerced or slave labor
10. **Columbian exchange**—the transfer of goods, crops, and diseases between the New and Old World societies after 1492
11. **Treaty of Tordesillas (1494)**—signed by Spain and Portugal, it divided the territories of the New World; Spain received the bulk of territory in the Americas, compensating Portugal with titles to lands in Africa and Asia
12. **encomienda**—Spanish government’s policy to “commend: or give, Indians to certain colonists in return for the promise to Christianize them
13. **noche triste (June 30, 1520)**—“Sad night” when the Aztecs attacked Hernan Cortes and his forces in the Aztec capital, Tenochtitlan, killing hundreds; Cortes laid siege to the city the following year, precipitating the fall of the Aztec empire and inaugurating three centuries of Spanish rule
14. **capitalism**—economic system characterized by private property, generally free trade, and open and accessible markets
15. **mestizos**—people of mixed Indian and European heritage, notably in Mexico
16. **conquistadores**—16th century Spaniards who fanned out across the Americas, from Colorado to Argentina, eventually conquering the Aztec and Incan empires
17. **Battle of Acoma (1599)**—fought between Spaniards under Don Juan de Onate and the Pueblo Indians in present-day New Mexico; Spaniards brutally crushed the Pueblo peoples and established the territory as New Mexico in 1609
18. **Pope’s Rebellion (1680)**—Pueblo Indian rebellion that drove Spanish settlers from New Mexico
19. **Black Legend**—False notion that Spanish conquerors did little but butcher the Indians and steal their gold in the name of Christ
20. **Ferdinand of Aragon (1452-1516)**—Spanish monarch who, along with his wife Isabella of Castile, who funded Christopher Columbus’ voyage across the Atlantic in 1492, which led to his discovery of the West Indies
21. **Isabella of Castile (1451-1504)**—Spanish monarch who, along with her husband Ferdinand of Aragon, who funded Christopher Columbus’ voyage across the Atlantic in 1492, which led to his discovery of the West Indies
22. **Christopher Columbus (1451-1506)**—Genoese explorer who stumbled upon the West Indies in 1492 while in search of a new water route to Asia; Columbus made three subsequent voyages across the Atlantic and briefly served as a colonial administrator on the island of Hispaniola, present-day Haiti
23. **Francisco Coronado (1510-1554)**—Spanish explorer who ventured from western Mexico through present-day Arizona and up to Kansas in search of fabled golden cities

24. **Francisco Pizarro (ca. 1475-1541)**—Spanish *conquistador* who crushed the Incas in 1532 and founded the city of Lima, Peru

25. **Bartolome de Las Casas (1484-1566)**—reform-minded Spanish missionary who worked to abolish the *encomienda* system and documented the mistreatment of Indians in the Spanish colonies

26. **Hernan Cortes (1485-1547)**—Spanish *conquistador* who defeated the Aztec empire and claimed Mexico for Spain

27. **Malinche (Dona Maria) (ca. 1501-1550)**—Indian slave woman who served as an interpreter for Hernan Cortes on his conquest of the Aztecs; later married one of Cortes’ soldiers, who took her with him back to Spain

28. **Moctezuma (1466-1520)**—Last of the Aztec rulers, who saw his powerful empire crumble under the force of the Spanish invasion led by Hernan Cortes

29. **Giovanni Caboto (John Cabot) (ca. 1450-1498)**—Italian explorer sent by England’s King Henry VII to explore the northeastern coast of North America in 1497 and 1498

30. **Robert de La Salle (1643-1687)**—French explorer who led an expedition down the Mississippi River in the 1680s

31. **Father Junipero Serra (1713-1784)**—Franciscan priest who established a chain of missions along the California coast, beginning in San Diego in 1769, with the aim of Christianizing and civilizing peoples