**Period 1: 1491-1607**

A. Explain the context for European encounters in the Americas from 1491 to 1607.

- Native American societies
- Crusades **1096-1291** and Spanish Reconquista **1400s** (Spain removes Muslims from power)
- European exploration of Africa **1400s** and competition for resources
- Technology

B. Explain how and why various native populations in the period before European contact interacted with the natural environment in North America.

- Southwest (dry): Pueblos (maize/corn cultivation, irrigation systems, permanent settlements)
- Great Basin (barren): Shoshone (few resources, nomadic, hunt/gather/fish)
- Great Plains (barren): Apache (limited resources, nomadic, hunt/gather/fish)
- Northeast (4 seasons): Iroquois (farm 3 sisters, hunt, permanent settlements, longhouses)
- Atlantic Seaboard (4 seasons/mild winter): Powhatan (farm, hunt, permanent settlements)
- Northwest (wet): Chinook (farm, fish, permanent settlements, longhouses)

C. Explain the causes of exploration and conquest of the New World by various European nations.

Causes: (mainly Portugal and Spain at first)
- Wealth: Crusades sparks desire for goods (metals, spices, drugs)
- Competition: Europeans sought to gain colonies or access to trade in Africa & Asia for economic, religious, and military power; they “bump” into the Americas
- Spread Christianity: Crusades and Spanish Reconquista spark an era of Europeans trying to spread religion

D. Explain causes of the Columbian Exchange and its effects on Europe and the Americas during the period after **1492**.

Causes:
- Technology: printing press (maps), sailing tech (caravel, astrolabe, mariner’s compass)
- Economics: mercantilist theory (colonies provide mother country with markets & materials); joint stock companies (investors provide capital to explorers in exchange for a share of the profits)
- Explorers: Christopher Columbus
- Nation States: countries finance trips to increase national power (Spain)

Effects:
- Columbian Exchange: permanent exchange of people, animals, and goods between Europe, America, and Africa
  - Impact on America: epidemics & social destruction (small pox, measles), new animals (horse, pigs, cows), new foods (sugar, wheat, coffee), guns
  - Impact of Europe: new food (corn, potatoes), economics power (gold, silver, tobacco, cotton), movement towards capitalism, population growth
  - Impact on Africa: slave trade (West African groups capture others to sell into slavery for goods and resources); new food (corn, potatoes, sugar), population growth
E. Explain how the growth of the Spanish Empire in North America shaped the development of social and economic structures over time.

- **Encomienda System**: Spanish can enslave Native Americans to work in mines and on farms in exchange for teaching them Catholicism (economic & religious goals)
- **African Slave Trade**: Europeans began trade for slaves in West Africa to work in mines and on plantations; supplement and replacement for dying Native American population
- **Casta System**: Spanish settlers intermixed and married with Native and African populations, but defined the status of each group in a Caste (white/European on top, American/European heritage in middle, Native/African on bottom with many permutations in between)

F. Explain how and why European and Native American perspectives of others developed and changed in the period.

- **Divergent Worldviews**:
  - Native populations generally shared land and goods, had less defined gender roles, and spiritual religions
  - European populations had private land ownership and a desire to build individual wealth, more defined gender roles, and Christian religion
- **Conflict**: Native Americans began to resist European encroachment (Pueblo Revolt 1680)
- **Adoption of Culture**:
  - Natives: guns and horse in Plains (Apache)
  - Europeans: farming of tobacco, corn, and potatoes
- **European debate on colonization**: Bartolome de Las Casas (treatment of Natives is immoral and un-Christian); Juan de Sepulveda (treatment of Natives is fine for economics and racial reasons)

G. Explain the effects of the development of transatlantic voyages from 1491 to 1607.

- **Demographic changes**: destruction of Native Americans, growth of European & African populations, created of new societal groups
- **Economic changes**: slave trade, mercantilism & capitalism, new markets & materials
- **Politics**: European conflict over territories/power, European power increases over Americas and Africa, Native American power realigns and weakens
- **Cultural changes**: new material goods, spreading of religion