Chapter #1: New World Beginnings – Big Picture Themes

1. The New World, before Columbus, there were many different Native American tribes. These people were very diverse. In what’s today the U.S., there were an estimated 400 tribes, often speaking different languages. It’s inaccurate to think of “Indians” as a homogeneous group.

2. Columbus came to America looking for a trade route to the East Indies (Spice Islands). Other explorers quickly realized this was an entirely New World and came to lay claim to the new lands for their host countries. Spain and Portugal had the head start on France and then England.

3. The coming together of the two world had world changing effects. The biological exchange cannot be underestimated. Food was swapped back and forth and truly revolutionized what people ate. On the bad side, European diseases wiped out an estimated 90% of Native Americans.

IDENTIFICATIONS: Chapter #1: New World Beginnings (pages 4 – 24)

1. Marco Polo
Italian explorer; spent many years in China or near it; his return to Europe in 1295 sparked a European interest in finding a quicker route to Asia.

2. Montezuma
Aztec chieftan; encountered Cortes and the Spanish and saw that they rode horses; Montezuma assumed that the Soanush were gods. He welcomed them hospitably, but the explorers soon turned on the natives and ruled them for three centuries.

3. Christopher Columbus
An Italian navigator who was funded by the Spanish Government to find a passage to the Far East. He is given credit for discovering the "New World," even though at his death he believed he had made it to India. He made four voyages to the "New World." The first sighting of land was on October 12, 1492, and three other journeys until the time of his death in 1503.

4. Treaty of Tordesillas (1494)
In 1494 Spain and Portugal were disputing the lands of the new world, so the Spanish went to the Pope, and he divided the land of South America for them. Spain got the vast majority, the west, and Portugal got the east.

5. Mestizos
The Mestizos were the race of people created when the Spanish intermarried with the surviving Indians in Mexico.
6. **Spanish Armada**
"Invincible" group of ships sent by King Philip II of Spain to invade England in 1588; Armada was defeated by smaller, more maneuverable English "sea dogs" in the Channel; marked the beginning of English naval dominance and fall of Spanish dominance.

7. **"Black legend"**
The idea developed during North American colonial times that the Spanish utterly destroyed the Indians through slavery and disease while the English did not. It is a false assertion that the Spanish were more evil towards the Native Americans than the English were.

8. **Conquistadores**
Spanish explorers that invaded Central and South America for its riches during the 1500's. In doing so they conquered the Incas, Aztecs, and other Native Americans of the area. Eventually they intermarried these tribes.

9. **Joint stock company**
These were developed to gather the savings from the middle class to support finance colonies. Ex. London Company and Plymouth Company.

10. **Encomienda system**
The Spanish labor system in which persons were help to unpaid service under the permanent control of their masters, though not legally owned by them.

**GUIDED READING QUESTIONS:** Chapter #1: New World Beginnings (pages 4 – 24)

**Introduction**

Know: Old World, New World

1. What conditions existed in what is today the United States that made it "fertile ground" for a great nation?

**The Shaping of North America**

Know: Appalachian Mountains, Tidewater Region, Rocky Mountains, Great Basin, Great Lakes, Missouri-Mississippi-Ohio River System

2. Speculate how at least one geographic feature affected the development of the United States.

**Peopling the Americas**

Know: Land Bridge
3. "Before the arrival of Europeans, the settlement of the Americas was insignificant." Assess this statement.

**The Earliest Americans**
Know: Maize, Aztecs, Incas, Pueblo, Mound Builders, Three-sister Farming, Cherokee, Iroquois

4. Describe some of the common features North American Indian culture.

**Indirect Discoverers of the New World**
Know: Finland, Crusaders, Venice, Genoa

5. What caused Europeans to begin exploring?

**Europeans Enter Africa**
Know: Marco Polo, Caravel, Bartholomeu Dias, Vasco da Gama, Ferdinand and Isabella, Moors

6. What were the results of the Portuguese explorations of Africa?

**Columbus Comes upon a New World**
Know: Columbus

7. What developments set the stage for “a cataclysmic shift in the course of history?”

**When Worlds Collide**
Know: Corn, Potatoes, Sugar, Horses, Smallpox

8. Explain the positive and negative effects of the Atlantic Exchange.

**The Spanish Conquistadors**
Know: Treaty of Tordesillas, Vasco Nunez Balboa, Ferdinand Magellan, Juan Ponce de Leon, Francisco Coronado, Hernando de Soto, Francisco Pizarro, *Encomienda*


**The Conquest of Mexico**
Know: Hernan Cortes, Tenochtitlan, Montezuma, *Mestizos*

10. Why was Cortes able to defeat the powerful Aztecs?
The Spread of Spanish America
Know: John Cabot, Giovanni da Verazano, Jacques Cartier, St. Augustine, New Mexico, Pope's Rebellion, Mission Indians, Black Legend

11. What is the “Black Legend,” and to what extent does our text agree with it?