**Early Exploration**

* Exploration of the Americas boomed during the 15th to 17th centuries
* The following are just a few of the North American explorers. They were usually sent by a European country to explore and conquer:

**Christopher Columbus:**

* An Italian mapmaker
* Convinced Spain that a westward water route to Asia existed since the world was round
* Landed in the New World, the Bahamas, on October 12, 1492 (now Columbus Day)
* Took 4 voyages to the New World
* Main result of voyages was he initiated trade and colonization of the New World

**Jacques Marquette:**

* French missionary who explored the Midwest
* Missionaries were sent to the New World to convert Natives to Christianity

**Henry Hudson:**

* English explorer who was searching for a Northwest Passage to the Pacific Ocean to get to the Orient
* Found the Hudson River and the Hudson Strait

**Reciprocal Impact:**

* *the exchange of goods, ideas, agricultural products and even disease between Europeans and the indigenous populations of the Americas*

**Europeans changed lives of the First Americans:**

* At first, Indians were not hostile
* Indians desired peaceful trade
* Cooperative encounters became less frequent over time

**Transfer of Food as Reciprocal Impact:**

* Plants and animals from the Old to the New World
* American crops to Europe and Africa

**From Europe to the Americas:**

* Sugar and bananas transformed economies of Latin America
* Pigs, sheep, and cattle multiplied more rapidly than they had in Europe
* The horse was reintroduce and was adapted for hunting

**From the Americas to Europe and Africa:**

* Maize, beans, squash, sweet potatoes, peppers, tomatoes, potato
* Tobacco
* Rich new sources of nutrition helped increase the European population

**Transfer of Disease:**

* From the Americas to Europe
  + Syphilis
  + Appeared in Europe within a year of Columbus’s return
  + spread to China by 1505
* From Europe to Americas
  + Natives had little natural immunity to common African and European diseases
  + Influenza, typhus, measles, small pox
  + Millions died

**The “Great Dying”:**

* “Historical demographers now estimate that some tribes suffered a 90% to 95% loss within the first century of European contact.”
  + Divine, et al. *America, Past and Present*. 1991, New York City.

**Ideas also Exchanged:**

* Reciprocal impact also referred to the exchange of ideas and cultural concepts, not just physical items like food or animals
* Indian way of life altered
* Europeans influenced by Indian culture

**Spanish Exploration:**

* The Spanish came to North America for three reasons
  + God, gold & glory
* Spanish built missions and were sent by the Roman Catholic church
  + in the missions, natives were taught Christianity and European farming, herding, and crafts
* Spaniards brought horses which allowed the Native American empire to expand

**Exploration:**

* Europeans used North America’s land to extract gold, tobacco, food, and spices to send back to Europe

**French:**

* The French were friendly with the native people because they profited from them in the fur trade
* Arrived in Eastern Canada and the Great Lakes in the 1500s

**Iroquois Confederacy/League of Five Nations:**

* Iroquois Confederacy/League of Five Nations-consisted of 5 tribes prior to European contact
* An Indian Confederation that had a Constitution
* We actually borrowed some of their ideas about a democratic government when we created the Articles of Confederation
* Europeans were surprised by some Native cultural differences
* Many native populations used matriarchal leadership (women ruled the society as elders, the husband joins the wife’s family, women and mothers are highly respected)
* New European settlements continued to spring up and push the natives out of their sacred homelands
* The Pilgrims celebrated Thanksgiving with the Natives after the first harvest
* Their Thanksgiving meal consisted of food such as: fish, clams, mussels, turkey, duck, deer, corn, fruits, peas, nuts, etc.
* Pilgrims lived in Plymouth, Massachusetts
* The Wampanoag people and Squanto taught the Pilgrims how to farm, fish, and hunt

**Iroquois Confederacy:**

* 5 Iroquois Nations
  + Mohawk
  + Oneida
  + Onondaga
  + Cayuga
  + Seneca
* lasted for hundreds of years
* united to stand together against invasion
  + common council composed of clan and village chiefs
  + decision must be unanimous
* served as model for founders of US government
* In many tribes, leadership is passed through women
* Stories and names are also handed down through women
* Directly contrasted to male-dominated European cultures

**Reciprocal Impact:**

* All of the following were a result of the reciprocal impact of European contact with the indigenous (native) people:
  + Europeans attempted to convert Natives to Christianity
  + Death of Natives by disease due to lack of immunity
  + Addition of new foods into the European diet
* After the French and Indian War (1754-1763), the natives were pushed west of the Appalachian mountains
* But then *we* decided to move West and we forced them on to reservations

**Dependency**

* Influence of Europeans caused Indians to become dependent
* European system of land use reduced supply of animals Indians hunted
* Forests were cleared and land fenced
* Trade with Europeans caused Indians to go into debt and encouraged overhunting