

Georgia Studies

**Unit 2: Exploration and
Georgia Colonization**

**Lesson 1: Exploration of
the New World**

Study Presentation



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Lesson 1: Exploration of the New World

- **ESSENTIAL QUESTION**

- What impact did European contact have on the Native Americans in the New World?
- Why did European countries (such as France, Spain, and Great Britain) explore and create colonies in North America?

Hernando DeSoto

- In 1540, Spanish explorer **Hernando DeSoto**, with approximately 600 men, marched north from Tampa, Florida into southwest Georgia (near today's Albany) in search of Gold.
- DeSoto's metal weapons, plated armor, war dogs, and horses overwhelmed the Native Americans; thousands of Georgia's Native Americans died, many from diseases (such as Small Pox) brought by the Spaniards. DeSoto also brought pigs to the New World. These pigs were not used for food but were used for protection from reptiles.
- The Spaniards marched across Georgia into South Carolina, but never found the gold they sought. Almost half of the expedition (including DeSoto himself) died on the trip.

Spanish Missions

- **Mission** – Definition: A religious church or station established in a foreign land to allow missionaries to spread their religion.
- In 1566, Spain established missions on Georgia's Cumberland Island and St. Catherine's Island, called Santa Catalina. During the same century, posts were established at Sapelo and St. Simon's Island.
- The Spanish missionaries called the region Guale (pronounced "Wallie") after the Guale Indians.
- The missions were used by the Spanish to convert the Native Americans to Catholicism but also served as a trading post; Native Americans used the missions to integrate themselves into the European world.

New World-Old World Exchanges

- Both the New World (North and South America) and the Old World (Europe) benefited from exploration.

Old World Benefits

- Agricultural Products – Rye, radishes, beets, sugar cane, rice, peaches, and wheat all came from Europe to the New World.
- Animals – Horses, chickens, pigs, oxen, sheep, goats, and cattle all came from Europe to the New World. Many of these animals had negative impacts as they destroyed the ground cover and led to the extinction of some native animals.

New World Benefits

- Agricultural Products – Corn, white potatoes, yams (sweet potatoes), peanuts, and pumpkins all came from the New World and were taken to Europe.
- Animals – Turkeys were brought from the New World and taken to Europe.

Reasons for European Exploration: French (France)

- **France** began sending explorers to North America in 1562 in search of gold.
- French explorers created a colony in South Carolina (Charlesfort in 1562) and Florida (Fort Caroline in 1564) but these were later taken over by the Spanish.

Reasons for European Exploration: Spanish (Spain)

- **Spain** began sending explorers to the New World for God, glory, and gold.
- Spain hoped to convert the Native Americans to Catholicism/Christianity (God), gain more power through the expansion of the Spanish Empire (glory), and discover new riches (gold).
- Juan Ponce de Leon came to Florida as early as 1513; Hernando DeSoto was the first Spanish explorer to lead an expedition through Georgia.

Reasons for European Exploration: British (Great Britain)

- **Great Britain (England)** began sending explorers to the New World in the 1580's in search of exotic foods, wealth (gold), and mercantilism.
- **Mercantilism** – Economic system based on the belief that a country could increase its wealth by exporting more than they import.
- The British wanted to create colonies that would help produce raw materials (cotton, tobacco, forest products, etc.) that could be imported into Great Britain. British companies would then refine these products and sell the finished product back to the colonies at a higher rate.