

Vocabulary Activity



The Age of Exploration

Content Vocabulary

Directions: Answer each of the following questions. Include in your answers the vocabulary words in parentheses.

1. How did the invention of the caravel make European expansion possible? (**caravel**)

2. How were the conquistadors able to establish their overseas empire? (**conquistador**)

3. Why did European countries establish colonies in the Americas and in the East? (**colony**) _____

4. What part did trading posts and colonies play in the economic theory of mercantilism? (**mercantilism**) _____

5. What was the role of plantations in the Columbian Exchange? (**plantations**)

6. How did the Middle Passage affect enslaved Africans? (**Middle Passage**)

Vocabulary Activity *Cont.*



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7. Describe similarities and differences between the *encomienda* and *mita* labor systems. (*encomienda, mita*) _____

8. **Directions:** In the graphic organizer below, write the name of each colonial Latin American social class in order of social standing, from highest at the top to lowest at the bottom: mestizos, creole, mulatto, *peninsulare*. (**mestizo, creole, mulatto, peninsulare**)

Academic Vocabulary

Directions: Include in your answers to the questions below the vocabulary words in parentheses.

9. A new word can be added to the English language through a combination of existing words to form a compound word. Usually, a compound word is coined, or created, when there is not already a word to describe an object or action. The term *overseas*—*over* plus *seas*—was first used in the 1500s. Why do you think this compound word was created then? (**overseas**)

Vocabulary Activity *Cont.*



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10. Explain the difference between a *culture* and a *regime*. How did European expansion affect both? **(culture, regime)** _____

11. Explain how Europeans drafted and pressed Africans and Native Americans into forced labor. **(draft, labor)** _____

Directions: The prefix *ex-* in *export* means "away" or "outside." The prefix *im-* in *import* means "in" or "into." Thus, the words *export* and *import* are opposite in meaning. Correctly complete each sentence below with the appropriate word, *export* or *import*. Note: Each word can be used as a noun or a verb. **(export)**

12. Horses and cattle were an _____ to the Americas from Europe.

13. A deadly _____ from Europe to the Americas was smallpox.

14. The colonies were considered important for their raw materials they _____ to Europe as well as for the finished European goods that could be sold there as _____

15. The balance of trade was determined by the difference in value between what Europe _____ from the colonies and what it _____ to the colonies over time.