**Chapter 1**

**Founding the New Nation, 33,000BCE- 1769 AD**

chapter 1Themes

When the Europeans arrived, about 7 million Native Americans resided in what is now the United States and Canada. These northern peoples mostly lived in hunter-gatherer or agricultural communities governed by kin ties. However, most native people—about 40 million, scholars estimate—lived in Mesoamerica (present-day Mexico and Guatemala) and along the western coast of South America (present-day Peru). The Mayas and Aztecs in Mesoamerica and the Incas in Peru fashioned societies ruled by warrior-kings and priests, and created civilizations whose art, religion, and economy were as complex as those of Europe and the Mediterranean world.

In North America, the Hopewell, Pueblo, and Mississippian peoples created complex societies and cultures; but by 1500, most Indians north of the Rio Grande lived in small self-governing communities of foragers, hunters, and horticulturalists. At this time, maritime expansion brought Europeans to the Americas. The Spanish crown, eager to share in Portugal’s mercantile success in Africa and India, financed expeditions to find new trade routes to Asia. When Christopher Columbus revealed the “new world” of the Western Hemisphere to Europeans in 1492, Spanish conquistadors undertook to conquer it. By 1535, conquistadors had destroyed the civilizations of Mesoamerica and Peru and inadvertently introduced diseases that would kill millions of Native Americans. Through the Columbian Exchange in crops, animals, plants, and diseases, there was a significant alteration in the ecology of much of the world.

Population growth, religious warfare, and American gold and silver transformed European society in the sixteenth century. As religious warfare sapped Spain’s strength, the rise of strong governments in Holland, France, and England, along with a class of increasingly powerful merchants, enhanced the economies of those countries and whetted their peoples’ appetites for overseas expansion.

chapter 1 Vocabulary: (Please define and add to your notebooks)

1. Cahokia ruins
2. Hopewell ruins
3. Mayans
4. Aztecs
5. Incans
6. Pueblo Civilization
7. Reconquista (Spain)
8. Conquistadores
9. Hernando Cortes
10. Francisco Pizarro
11. “The Black Legend”
12. Encomiendas
13. Mestizos
14. Columbian Exchange
15. Maize and “3 Sisters agriculture”
16. St. Augustine, Fl (1565)
17. Santa Fe, NM (1610)
18. Pope Rebellion (1680)
19. Treaty of Torsedillas

**Chapter 1 Study Questions**  
1) What made Native American peoples vulnerable to conquest by European adventurers? (Name as many reasons as possible)

2) Why was Mesoamerica (Central America) and South America quickly colonized while North America was not? (Please take the time to learn where each region is located)

3) What two European nations were the first to explore and colonize the New World? What were the reasons each began exploring into the Atlantic?