

LESSON 2



1520

1521
Cortés defeats
the Aztecs

1533
Incan
Empire
falls to
Spain

1540

1535
New Spain is
established

Different Worlds Collide

PREVIEW

Focus on the Main Idea
Spanish conquistadors established new colonies in North America and South America.

PLACES

Tenochtitlan
New Spain
Mexico City
Cuzco
Lima

PEOPLE

Moctezuma
Hernando Cortés
Doña Marina
Francisco Pizarro
Atahualpa

VOCABULARY

conquistador
ally
conquest
convert
colonist

You Are There

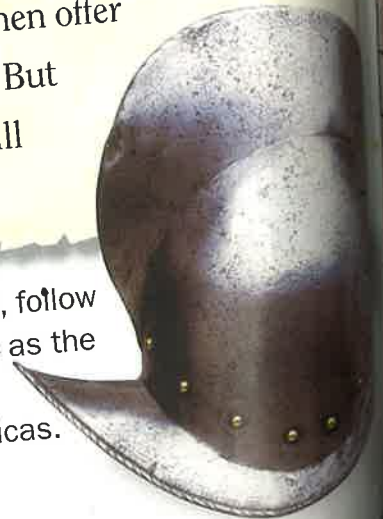
The scene is Tenochtitlan, grand capital city of the Aztec Empire. The time is November 1519. On a wide avenue leading to the center of the city, two powerful men approach each other. Each leader is surrounded by his soldiers.

One leader is Moctezuma (mahk teh ZOO mah), the ruler of the Aztecs. He sits in a splendid carriage decorated with gold, silver, jewels, and bright green feathers. The other man is Hernando Cortés (kor TEZ). He has come to conquer these lands for Spain. His iron helmet shows that he is a soldier ready to do battle for the Spanish king.

The mood is tense. The two men offer each other gifts and talk peace. But before long, the army of one will conquer the other.



Sequence As you read, follow the sequence of events as the Spanish established New Spain in the Americas.



The Aztecs Are Conquered

Even before the day they met in 1519, **Moctezuma** and **Hernando Cortés** knew of each other. Cortés had arrived in Mexico nine months earlier from Cuba. The Spanish had begun establishing colonies on the islands of the Caribbean Sea. Stories of great riches in Mexico encouraged Cortés and other Spaniards to gain some of the Aztecs' wealth.

Cortés was one of a group of Spanish soldiers who would later be called **conquistadors** (kon KEE stah dorz), or conquerors. But Cortés faced a major challenge in defeating the Aztecs. His force of about 500 men was greatly outnumbered.

However, Cortés did have a few advantages. Metal armor protected the Spanish from the Aztecs' stone weapons. Spanish soldiers had muskets, a kind of rifle. Spanish bullets could easily pierce the cloth suits the Aztecs wore. The conquistadors also had horses. The Aztecs had not seen horses before, and the animals frightened them. One native person said the horses "ran like deer and could catch anyone (the Spanish) told them to."

Biblioteca Nacional, Madrid

Cortés had allies too. An **ally** is a friend who will help in a fight. The people that Cortés met on his way to **Tenochtitlan** did not want to live under Aztec rule. Many of them decided to help Cortés defeat the Aztecs.

One ally of Cortés was an Aztec woman called **Doña Marina**, a name she took after becoming a Christian. Doña Marina spoke several Indian languages and spoke to the native peoples of Mexico for Cortés. Doña Marina helped Cortés persuade thousands to join him. One Spaniard described Doña Marina as "an excellent person, and a good interpreter."

An important ally that the Spanish did not know they had was the germ that causes smallpox. Some historians think thousands of Aztecs caught smallpox after Cortés arrived.

At their first meeting in 1519, Moctezuma agreed to let Cortés stay in Tenochtitlan. Almost a year later, the Aztecs rose up and threw the Spanish out of their city. Moctezuma was killed, perhaps by his own people. Cortés escaped. But he returned late in 1520 with many more native peoples as allies. In 1521, the mightiest empire of the Americas fell to the conquistadors.

REVIEW Describe the sequence of events that led to the fall of the Aztecs. 🌀 **Sequence**



▶ This drawing, made in the 1500s, shows the battle for Tenochtitlan. The Spanish, on the left, carried muskets and wore metal armor.



Mexico City

One of the oldest cities in the Western Hemisphere, Mexico City was built on the ruins of Tenochtitlan. Today, archaeologists find evidence of the ancient Aztec capital right in the center of the modern city. You can see artifacts like those on the right in museums in Mexico City.



Founding New Spain

After the conquest of the Aztecs, the Spanish destroyed Tenochtitlan. A **conquest** is the capture or taking of something by force. The conquistadors were helped once again by disease. Smallpox continued to take the lives of many throughout Mexico.

In 1535 Spain established the colony of **New Spain**. The capital of New Spain was **Mexico City**. Today, Mexico City is the capital of Mexico. Spanish officials came to set up a government, make laws, and build schools and universities. Roman Catholic priests

came to **convert**, or change, native peoples from their own religion to Christianity.

Spanish leaders such as Cortés discouraged native peoples from continuing to sacrifice people to their gods. Colonists also came from Spain. A **colonist** is a person who lives in a colony. Spanish colonists hoped to gain wealth by starting farms, businesses, and gold and silver mines in New Spain.

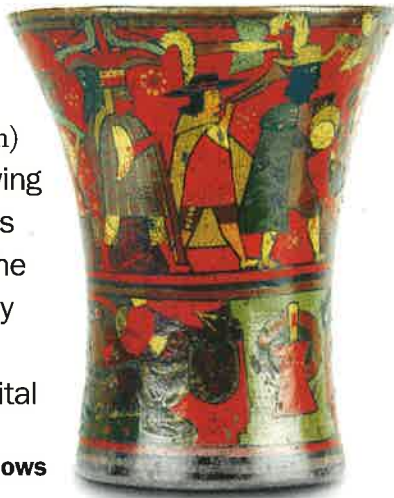
REVIEW Summarize the goals of the colonists who came to New Spain.
Summarize

The Conquests Continue

One more powerful and wealthy native peoples' empire lay to the south. This was the empire of the Incas, who controlled a huge area of land in western South America. Ten years after the conquest of Mexico began, Spain sent **Francisco Pizarro** (pee ZAH roh) to South America to conquer the Incan empire. Pizarro captured the Incan ruler

Atahualpa

(ah tah HWAHL pah) in 1532. The following year, Pizarro's forces captured **Cuzco**, the Incan capital city. By 1535 Pizarro had founded a new capital



► This wooden cup shows Francisco Pizarro.

called **Lima**, in a colony called Peru. Today, Lima is the capital of the country of Peru.

As you will read, conflict between the Spanish and native peoples continued. Like the Aztecs, some native peoples fought back. But most of them faced defeat. A new culture—part Indian, part Spanish—was born.

REVIEW Which came first, the conquest of the Aztecs or the Incas? 🎯 **Sequence**

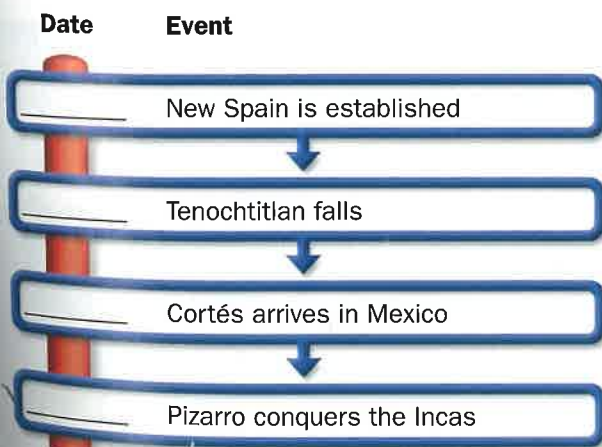
Summarize the Lesson

- 1521 Hernando Cortés defeated the Aztec empire of Mexico and built Mexico City on the ruins of Tenochtitlan.
- 1533 Francisco Pizarro defeated the Incan empire and later founded the colony of Peru.
- 1535 Spain established the colony of New Spain, with its capital at Mexico City.

LESSON 2 REVIEW

Check Facts and Main Ideas

1. 🎯 **Sequence** On a separate sheet of paper, place these events in the correct sequence and fill in the missing dates.



2. What were the key advantages of Hernando Cortés in defeating the Aztecs?

- 3. Why did Spain send priests to New Spain?
- 4. How long did it take Pizarro to conquer the Incan empire?
- 5. **Critical Thinking: Problem Solving** The Spanish set up a government to rule New Spain. Think about how you would rule this colony. Write a short description of one problem and a suggested solution. Use the problem-solving steps on page H5.

Link to Writing

Write a Dramatic Scene Suppose you are traveling with Hernando Cortés to meet Moctezuma. Describe the meeting between the conquistador and the Aztec ruler.

Lesson 2: Different Worlds Collide

Directions: Sequence the events in the order in which they took place by numbering them from 1-11. You may use your textbook.

- _____ Pizarro is sent to South America to conquer the Incan empire.
- _____ The Aztec empire falls to the conquistadors.
- _____ Pizarro captures Atahualpa.
- _____ Cortés gains allies on his way to Tenochtitlan.
- _____ The Aztecs rise up and throw the Spanish out of their city.
- _____ Moctezuma agrees to let Cortés stay in Tenochtitlan.
- _____ Moctezuma is killed, perhaps by his own people.
- _____ The Spanish destroy Tenochtitlan.
- _____ Cortés leaves Cuba for Mexico to gain some of the Aztecs' wealth.
- _____ Pizarro captures Cuzco.
- _____ The colony of New Spain is established.

Critical Thinking Why do you think Moctezuma allowed Cortés to stay in Tenochtitlan at first?



Notes for Home: Your child learned about how Spain conquered the Americas.
Home Activity: Discuss with your child Spain's advantages over the Aztecs and Incas and how the Spanish conquered great empires.