

# Unit 1: From New World to New Empires – the 16th Century to 1776 (Chapters 1-4)

## Overview

### What the Title Tells You about This Unit

We begin with the encounter in the 16<sup>th</sup> century (the 1500s) between:

- Native Americans in North and South America
  - New nation states (a concept you need to know) of Europe
- For these European nation states (Spain, Portugal, and later England, France, and the Netherlands), the Americas were a New World.

We end with the nation states having established empires with colonies (two concepts you need to know) and with the struggles between these nation states to maintain or enlarge their territories in the Americas. The last imperial war in a series of wars in the Americas was the French and Indian War, which left England as the most powerful nation in North America and perhaps the most powerful in Europe as well. The taxes to pay for that expensive war were among the issues leading to 1776, a complex revolution whose intellectual foundation was approximately 100 years of thought called the Enlightenment.

### Reading Assignments and Resources to Aid Reading and Analysis

#### Use of the Word *Chapter*

Unit 1 consists of Chapters 1-4. The word *Chapter* refers:

- a) to numbered parts of your textbook
- b) to the specific Blackboard learning module for that chapter.

#### Required Textbook (*America: The Essentials Learning Edition*), Chapters 1-4

It can be helpful to examine each chapter just to notice the headings, pictures, and maps to have a feel for the time period. Use the index at the back of the book to look up the individual items in the Study Guide.

#### Required Blackboard Learning Modules within Unit 1, Chapters 1-4

Blackboard learning modules have a Table of Contents on the left that let you see all of the resources available for the chapter. You can click directly on the one you want. All chapters have links from your instructor and a folder containing specific primaries. (Primaries are also available from the Course Menu on the left.) Some chapters also include resources such as maps.

### Graded Work in Unit 1

Available dates and due dates are in the Course Schedule.

1. Begin reading the required Primary reading in Chapter 1—the Requerimiento of 1510.
2. Begin your postings in Topic 1: Concept Collaboration for Unit 1. You may post either a definition of a concept (or a significant term) required to understand that reading or a question about those concepts.  
Basic definition of concepts are included in the Chapter 1 to help you get started.  
Continue to post throughout Unit 1 as you encounter additional concepts.
3. Begin taking Evidence Quizzes 1 to 4. Take at least 1 before you post in the 1<sup>st</sup> Primary Writing.
4. The 1<sup>st</sup> Primary Writing is done using the Discussion Tool so that:

- Students can see other students writing as well as their on
- Students can also face the challenge of giving feedback to other on their writing but doing it in a way that is accurate but supportive.

This process is called peer review and it is usually applied to professionals or experts in a field. *Merriam-Webster Online* defines it as:

“a process by which something proposed (as for research or publication) is evaluated by a group of experts in the appropriate field”

Learning to give valid peer review to others at your equivalent level of skill aids learning and helps you practice basics for the workplace today.

5. Complete the parts of the Unit 1 exam before the close of the Unit. There is a study guide for each unit to help you prepare. Notice the additional information available on that study guide for the concepts exam and the written exam. The 3 parts of the Unit 1 exam are:
  - Unit 1 Objective Exam
  - Unit 1 Concepts Exam
  - Unit 1 Written Exam