

Effects on Indigenous Peoples

Name: _____ Date: _____

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

Students will practice historical perspective-taking by writing journal entries from two different viewpoints on early contact.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- notebook paper
- pen or pencil

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

1. Choose one specific early contact event (e.g., Columbus's arrival in the Caribbean, Cortes's conquest of the Aztec Empire, or Pizarro and the Inca).
2. Write a first-person journal entry (5-8 sentences) from the perspective of a European explorer or soldier describing the encounter, including their goals and feelings.
3. Write a second first-person journal entry (5-8 sentences) from the perspective of an Indigenous person witnessing the same event, imagining their goals, fears, and reactions based on what you've learned.
4. Underline at least 2 details in each entry that are historically accurate (based on real facts you researched or learned), and put a star next to at least one place where the two perspectives directly conflict or see the same event differently.

QUESTIONS

1. What event did you choose, and which two perspectives did you write from?
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2. Describe one place where your two journal entries saw the same event very differently.
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3. What were 2 major negative effects of European contact on Indigenous populations?
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4. Why is it valuable for historians to study events like this from multiple perspectives instead of just one?
