**CHY 4U, Unit 1, Activity 4**

**Overview of the Spanish Impact on Three Regions of the Western Hemisphere**

1. **Caribbean** – Columbus ‘discovered’ it in 1492 on his way to Asia (why we call this area ‘West Indies’)

* He made landfall at Bahamas, then the Spanish visited Hispaniola (today’s Haiti and Dominican Republic), Puerto Rico, Jamaica, Cuba
* Indigenous peoples: Tainos, Caribs (enslaved, forced to mine gold)
* Their population went from approximately one million to 30 000 in a period of 20 years on Hispaniola

*From 1492*

*The Admiral [Columbus] went on shore in the armed boat, …. The Admiral took the royal standard, and the captains went with two banners of the green cross, which the Admiral took in all the ships as a sign, with an F and a Y and a crown over each letter, one on one side of the cross and the other on the other. … The Admiral called to the two captains, … and said that they should bear faithful testimony that he, in presence of all, had taken, as he now took, possession of the said island for the king and for the queen, his Lords, making the declarations that are required, as is more largely set forth in the testimonies which were then made in writing….*

*"I," he says, "that we might form great friendship, for I knew that they were a people who could be more easily freed and converted to our holy faith by love than by force, gave to some of them red caps, and glass beads to put round their necks, and many other things of little value, which gave them great pleasure, and made them so much our friends that it was a marvel to see. …*

*They neither carry nor know anything of arms, for I showed them swords, and they took them by the blade and cut themselves through ignorance. They have no iron, their darts being wands without iron, some of them having a fish's tooth at the end, and others being pointed in various ways. …*

*They should be good servants and intelligent, for I observed that they quickly took in what was said to them, and I believe that they would easily be made Christians, as it appeared to me that they had no religion. I, our Lord being pleased, will take hence, at the time of my departure six natives for your Highnesses, that they may learn to speak.*

**Source**: Fordham University, Medieval Sourcebook, Christopher Columbus, Extracts from Journal, October 11, 1492, <http://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/columbus1.asp> (Feb. 12, 2017)

1. **Mexico, parts of Central America** – Hernan Cortes went from Cuba to Mexico in 1519

* Indigenous peoples: Aztec, Tarascans, Zapotecs (no unity amongst them)
* Cortes went from Cuba to the Valley of Mexico, destroyed Aztec city of Tenochtitlan (led by Moctezuma); renamed the city Mexico and made it the capital of New Spain
* Silver and gold mines
* Missionaries were very active there
* Native population declined by over 3 million due to smallpox, out of a population out of 16 million
* People “adapted” to Spanish rule by mixing cultures

1. **Andes Mountains** (from modern-day Chile to Colombia) – Francisco Pizarro conquered the Inca in 1532

* Indigenous peoples: Inca had conquered many groups such as the Quechua, Ayarmaca, Chancas, Cajamarca, Chimu (their empire contained over 100 distinct ethnic groups)
* Incan civil war won by Atahualpa
* Pizarro defeated Atahaulpa at the Incan capital of Cuzco and established a new capital at Lima
* 20-25% of the population may have been killed by smallpox
* Silver mines (especially Potosi in modern-day Bolivia) were a huge source of wealth for the Spanish