

Summaries: Explorers of North America and Texas

EXPLORER	SUMMARY / IMPORTANT STUFF / USE THIS INFO FOR YOUR ROUGH DRAFT...
Columbus	1492: Reached Bahamas; explored Cuba, Haiti 1493: Established Santo Domingo Made four (4) voyages to the Americas Credited with discovering the New World Led to further exploration of the Americas & world Columbian Exchange of goods and ideas (brought first horse/cow/pig to Americas) Brought diseases to the Americas which killed many Enslaved many Native Americans
Cortés	Conquered the Aztec Empire in Mexico for Spain Brought Spanish crops, animals, language, laws, customs and religion to the Americas Killed many to complete his conquest
Pizarro	Conquered the Incan Empire in Peru for Spain Spread Spanish influence in South America Killed many to complete his conquest
<u>Pineda</u>	First to create maps and charts of the Gulf of Mexico & Texas coastlines May have been first to set foot in Texas (at Corpus Christi?) Killed by Indians in 1520 (in Texas by Karankawa? Or further south in Mexico?)
<u>Narváez</u>	Goal: Explore lands north of Mexico, but bad luck, Indian attacks and storms doomed expedition Explored Cuba, Florida, Southeast region of current U.S. Last of his ships shipwrecked off Galveston in storm—Narváez dies Only four survivors—were first Europeans to set foot on Texas soil in 1528 (including Cabeza de Vaca)
<u>Cabeza de Vaca</u>	Goal: Survive shipwreck and return to Mexico Lived among Indians as a slave, shaman and trader until 1536 Returned to Spain and published book in 1542, describing the land, people, and animals he encountered Book told of gold at the Seven Cities of Cibola
<u>Coronado</u>	Traveled through modern-day Arizona, New Mexico, Texas into modern-day Kansas looking for Cibola (City of Gold) Opened up Southwest region of modern-day U.S. to Spanish settlement Found no treasures Discovered the Grand Canyon, claimed lands in Southwest and Midwest for Spain, and gathered information on the native cultures he encountered
<u>De Soto/ Moscoso</u>	De Soto explored lands between Mississippi River and Florida De Soto discovered Mississippi River Goal was to seek gold, silver and jewels De Soto died soon after crossing Mississippi River and Moscoso took command Moscoso came to East Texas, met Caddoes, and found petroleum (oil) Eventually led expedition to Tampico, Mexico but did not find riches
<u>Oñate</u>	Goal: Find riches and establish Catholic missions Founded El Paso & Santa Fe (NM) Claimed New Mexico for Spain and celebrated the first Thanksgiving in North America in 1598 (at El Paso) Killed many Native Americans during his conquest (see Acoma Pueblo) First explorer born in New Spain
<u>La Salle</u>	Goal: Find Northwest Passage—failed, but claimed all lands drained into Mississippi River for France and King Louis XIV (1682) Upon return from France (1684) mistakenly landed in Texas due to bad map Eventually killed by his men while looking for Mississippi River Established settlement in Texas at Fort St. Louis French trade with Native Texans turns Spanish focus to East Texas.