EPISODE 7: NEW WORLD

EPISODE SUMMARY FROM THE HISTORY CHANNEL: The Americas develop rapidly as the Aztecs build the biggest city on the planet. On the other side of the world, a Turkish sultan uses cannons to conquer Constantinople. The East feeds Europe with spices; explorers are driven to find new commodities and new lands. Columbus, Cortez and others reach the Americas, starting a battle for that continent. The consequences are dire for indigenous peoples.

Keys Include: Cannons, Maize, Pepper, Compasses, Ocean Gyres

Terms to define: abundance, artillery, compulsory, conquistadores, ecosystem, empire, gyre, immunity, obsidian, sovereignty
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VIKINGS EXPLORE THE AMERICAS

63. What allowed the Vikings to navigate the most treacherous waters on earth?

64. From Scandinavia, warriors storm through ________________, raiding, settling, founding new cities, ________________ the northern world.

65. Who were the first Europeans known to land in the Americas?

66. Thorvald Eriksson. Legendary ________________. A hero whose exploits are remembered in ________________ legend.

67. This land belongs to the Innu, descendants of the first ________________ who came into America ________________ years before.

68. How many Native Americans live in the Americas?

69. The Innu are expert ________________, armed with stone-tipped arrows. Swift. Silent. ________________.

70. What is the Viking weapon of choice? _________________

71. Thorvald Eriksson. The first European to ________________ on American soil. It will be ________________ years before another European sets foot in the New World.

AZTEC CIVILIZATION

72. In the Americas, no ________________ tools or horses. No wheeled vehicles. Yet America’s people engineered great ________________ thousands of years before the Egyptians. They mapped the ________________ with as much accuracy as any astronomer in Europe.

73. True or False. Tenochtitlan, the capital of the Aztec Empire, was larger than London, Paris, or Rome.

74. What was the Aztec civilization dedicated to? _________________

75. At its heart, a stone ________________ 100 feet high, where sky, ________________, and underworld meet.
76. To keep the ____________________ in balance, the Aztecs believe they owe a debt of ____________________ to their gods.
77. Aztec men are trained to ____________________ from puberty. The fiercest become Jaguar ____________________. Their weapons, not metal, but obsidian, volcanic ____________________. So sharp, some surgeons today ____________________ it over steel.
78. What was Tlahuicole’s weapon? _______________________________________
79. True or False. Tlahuicole was a captive warrior in Tenochtitlan fighting for his life.
80. The Aztecs have created one of the most sophisticated ____________________ on the planet. A great city with laws against drunkenness, ____________________, and adultery. Compulsory ____________________ three and a half centuries before the United States. A city of philosophers, ____________________, mathematicians.
81. What do the Aztecs believe their gods need? _______________________________
82. The warrior who cuts (Tlahuicole) down will get to wear his flayed ____________________ for twenty days. His family will eat his ____________________, giving them the status of gods.
83. True or False. Aztec priests only sacrifice a small number of adults per year during one of their most important ceremonies.
84. Tlahuicole’s beating ____________________ offered to the god of sun and war, Huitzilopochtli, guardian of the ____________________. In return, the Aztecs believe, his blood will guarantee a bountiful ____________________.
85. What crop do the Aztecs grow that will become key to mankind’s future? ______________
86. True or False. Constantinople, eastern capital of the Christian world, was founded by Rome’s first Muslim emperor, Constantine.
87. Hagia Sophia was the largest what of its day? ________________________________
88. True or False. In 1453, Constantinople is under siege by an army of 70,000 Ottoman Turks, led by Sultan Mehmet the second.
89. If Mehmet can take Constantinople, he will control the key ____________________ routes between east and west, and the city’s vast trade in ____________________.
90. What dried berry makes up two-thirds of the spice trade into Europe? ______________
91. What major obstacle does the Sultan face as he tries to capture Constantinople as the jewel of a new Islamic Empire? ______________________________________________
92. What is the key to the future of war? ____________________ ____________________
93. If the ____________________ of Constantinople fall under bombardment by the Turks, the world will ____________________ be the same again. ____________________ cannons. Dedicated ____________________ working in shifts. Cool. Clean. Reload. ______________. Each cannon packed with up to ____________________ stone balls…Pounding the city, round the clock for ____________________ days.
94. True or False. Mehmet captures Constantinople, renames Istanbul, and because he is hostile to the west, forces Europeans to search for a new route to the riches of the east.
DIAZ TRAVELS AROUND THE TIP OF AFRICA

95. True or False. Diaz was a wealthy nobleman searching for a new route to Africa around the southern tip of India.
96. What has Diaz been using to navigate?

97. Caught in a ____________________ off the coast of Africa, searching for a new ____________________, to the east, Diaz has two options: risk death on the ____________________, or head out into the ____________________ Ocean and the unknown.
98. What becomes key to a new of exploration?

99. Out of sight of land for ____________________ days. No idea what lies ahead. His ____________________ are useless. Lost at sea. His fate now turns on a powerful force of nature ____________________, the waves. An ocean gyre, a vast circular ____________________, caused by prevailing winds working against the rotation of the ____________________, creating a conveyor belt of water ____________________ times more powerful than the Mississippi River.
100. Diaz claims the land in the name of ____________________ and country. It will become known as the Cape of ____________________. The key to a new ____________________ route to the east, bypassing Constantinople. A direct passage to ____________________. Within 50 years, it becomes one of the busiest ____________________ lanes in the world.

COLUMBUS DISCOVERS THE AMERICAS

101. October 12, ____________________. A date seared onto the hard drive of humanity. ____________________ sailors discover land. Leading them, an Italian: ____________________.

102. Christopher Columbus underestimated the distance to travel to China from Spain by how many miles? ____________________
103. Monarchs from what country finance Columbus’s expedition?

104. After five weeks at sea, Columbus finally reaches land that he believes to be Japan, but which is in fact where? ____________________
105. True or False. The Bahamas are home to the Taino people.
106. Living in a different ____________________ for thousands of years, the people of the Americas have immunity to a deadly threat: ____________________.
107. What is Columbus on the search for?

108. Columbus returns to Spain a ____________________. His journeys open floodgates. All of ____________________ wants a piece of the Americas.
CORTES CONQUERS TENOCHTITLÁN

109. 28 years after Columbus, the lust for ____________________ is about to change the
destiny of the New World, through the ambitions of one man: ____________________.
110. How many European adventurers did Cortes lead? __________________________
111. True or False. Aztec emperor Montezuma is the richest most powerful man in the
Americas and rules over 25 million people.
112. True or False. Montezuma turn Cortes away from his palace.
113. What was Cortes’s plan? ________________________________
114. What are Montezuma’s treasuries filled with? ________________________________
115. True or False. The people of Tenochtitlan try to rescue their emperor from Cortes.
116. True or False. Montezuma was murdered by his own people, but Cortes escaped.
117. What lethal time bomb did the Spanish leave behind?

118. 11 months after his ____________________, Cortes returns, his victory complete.
He’s hijacked the mighty ____________________ Empire. An empire of
____________________ million brought down by just ____________________ men.