Period 1: 1491-1607

AP United States History · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
maize /meɪz/	**Maize** was the main crop of many Native American peoples.
advanced irrigation /əd'vænst ˌɪrɪ'geɪʃn/	Some peoples used **advanced irrigation** to farm dry land.
mobile lifestyles /'məʊbaɪl 'laɪfstaɪlz/	Peoples of the Great Plains kept **mobile lifestyles**, moving with the bison.
adaptation /ˌædæp'teɪʃn/	Thick fur is an **adaptation** to cold weather.
Cahokia	**Cahokia** was a large city near the Mississippi River.
Three Sisters	The **Three Sisters** were maize, beans and squash, grown together.
new sources of wealth /nju: 'sɔ:sɪz ɒv welθ/	Europeans sailed west to find **new sources of wealth**.
Christianity /ˌkrɪstɪ'ænɪti/	Spanish explorers wanted to spread **Christianity**.
maritime technology /'mærɪtaɪm tek'nɒlədʒi/	Better **maritime technology** made long voyages possible.
joint-stock company /dʒɔɪnt stɒk 'kʌmpəni/	A **joint-stock company** let many investors share the costs and profits.
Treaty of Tordesillas	The **Treaty of Tordesillas** split new lands between Spain and Portugal.

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Word	Example
missionary	A **missionary** tried to convert local people.
Columbian Exchange /kə'lʌmbɪən eks'tʃeɪndʒ/	The **Columbian Exchange** moved crops, animals and diseases across the Atlantic.
potato /pə'teɪtəʊ/	The **potato** came from the Americas to Europe.
European population growth /ˌjʊərə'pɪən ˌpɒpjʊ'leɪʃn grəʊθ/	New crops helped **European population growth**.
silver /'sɪlvə/	Spain shipped huge amounts of **silver** from the Americas.
epidemic disease /ˌepɪ'demɪk dɪ'zi:z/	**Epidemic disease** killed most Native Americans.
demographic collapse /ˌdemə'græfɪk kə'læps/	Smallpox caused a **demographic collapse**: the population fell sharply.
encomienda system /enˌkəʊmɪ'endə 'sɪstəm/	The **encomienda system** forced Native Americans to work for Spanish settlers.
mining /'maɪnɪŋ/	**Mining** digs metals and coal out of the ground.
Atlantic slave trade /ət'læntɪk sleɪv treɪd/	The **Atlantic slave trade** carried millions of Africans to the Americas.
caste system /kæst 'sɪstəm/	The Spanish **caste system** ranked people by their ancestry.
divergent worldviews /daɪ'vɜ:dʒənt 'wɜ:ldvju:z/	Europeans and Native Americans had **divergent worldviews** about land.

Word	Example
private property /ˈpraɪvət ˈprɒpəti/	Europeans believed in **private property**; many Native Americans did not.
mutual misunderstanding /ˈmjuːtʃuːəl mɪˌsʌndəˈstændɪŋ/	**Mutual misunderstanding** led to conflict.
resisted /rɪˈzɪstɪd/	Many Native Americans **resisted** European control.
Valladolid debate	In the **Valladolid debate**, Spaniards argued about how to treat Native Americans.
Bartolomé de las Casas	**Bartolomé de las Casas** spoke out against cruelty to Native Americans.
context /ˈkɒntekst/	Explain the **context**: what was happening at the time.
Contextualization /kənˌtekstʃuːəlaɪˈzeɪʃn/	**Contextualization** places an event in its wider setting.
causation /kɔːˈseɪʃn/	**Causation** explains why something happened.

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