4a) explaining the roles and economic motivations of explorers and conquistadors.

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| Essential Understandings | Essential Knowledge |
| The expanding economies of European states stimulated increased trade with markets in Asia. With the loss of Constantinople in 1453, European nations fronting the Atlantic sought new maritime routes for trade. | Factors contributing to the European discovery of lands in the Western Hemisphere* Demand for gold, spices, and natural resources in Europe
* Support for the diffusion of Christianity
* Political and economic competition between European empires
* Innovations of European and Islamic origins in navigational arts
* Pioneering role of Prince Henry the Navigator

Establishment of overseas empires and decimation of indigenous populations* Portugal: Vasco da Gama
* Spain: Christopher Columbus, Hernando Cortez, Francisco Pizarro, Ferdinand Magellan
* England: Francis Drake
* France: Jacques Cartier
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4b) describing the influence of religion.

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| Essential Understandings | Essential Knowledge |
| One motive for exploration was to spread the Christian religion. | Means of diffusion of Christianity* Migration of colonists to new lands
* Influence of Catholic and Protestant colonists, who carried their faith, language, and cultures to new lands
* Conversion of indigenous peoples
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4c) explaining migration, settlement patterns, cultural diffusion, & social classes in colonized areas.

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| Essential Understandings | Essential Knowledge |
| Europeans migrated to new colonies in the Americas, creating new cultural and social patterns.Europeans established trading posts and colonies in Africa and Asia. | Americas* Expansion of overseas territorial claims and European emigration to North and South America
* Demise of Aztec and Inca Empires
* Legacy of a rigid class system and dictatorial rule in Latin America
* Forced migration of Africans who had been enslaved
* Colonies’ imitation of the culture and social patterns of their parent countries

Africa* European trading posts along the coast
* Trade in slaves, gold, and other resources

Asia* Colonization by small groups of merchants (India, the Indies, China)
* Influence of trading companies (Portuguese, Dutch, British)
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4d) describing the Columbian Exchange, including its impact on native populations.

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| Essential Understandings | Essential Knowledge |
| The discovery of the Americas by Europeans resulted in an exchange of products and resources between the Eastern and Western Hemispheres. | Columbian Exchange* Western Hemisphere agricultural products, such as corn, potatoes, and tobacco, changed European lifestyles.
* European horses and cattle changed the lifestyles of American Indians.
* European diseases, such as smallpox, killed many American Indians.

Impact of the Columbian Exchange* Shortage of labor to grow cash crops led to the use of African slaves.
* Slavery was based on race.
* European plantation system in the Caribbean and the Americas destroyed indigenous economics and damaged the environment.
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4e) mapping and explaining the triangular trade;

4f) the impact of precious metal exports from the Americas.

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| Essential Understandings | Essential Knowledge |
| The European nations established a trade pattern known as the triangular trade and exported precious metals from the Americas. | The triangular trade linked Europe, Africa, and the Americas. Slaves, sugar, and rum were traded.Export of precious metals* Gold and silver exported to Europe and Asia
* Impact on indigenous empires of the Americas
* Impact on Spain and international trade
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5e) the growth of European nations, including the Commercial Revolution & 5ercantilism.

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| Essential Understandings | Essential Knowledge |
| European maritime nations competed for overseas markets, colonies, and resources, creating new economic practices, such as mercantilism, linking European nations with their colonies. | Terms to know* mercantilism: An economic practice adopted by European colonial powers in an effort to become self-sufficient; based on the theory that colonies existed for the benefit of the mother country

Commercial Revolution* European maritime nations competed for overseas markets, colonies, and resources.
* A new economic system emerged:
* New money and banking systems were created.
* Economic practices such as mercantilism evolved.
* Colonial economies were limited by the economic needs of the mother country.
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