



By 1491

---

A critical moment in an era of global  
change that ushered in the Modern  
Age.



# Contextualization

The circumstances which either produce a situation or an important series of events.



# Setting the Stage

---

Portugal, Spain, England and France have become unified nations for the very first time.

The new nations of Western Europe have rebounded from their losses in the Crusades, the devastation of the Black Death and destruction of civil wars to emerge into a new age of flourishing culture, art, science and literature– the printing press is developed during this time.

Using new technologies– such as the gun and the caravel, Europeans are able to repel Muslim invaders and to sail to find new routes of trade from lands far and away (their first target is West Africa).

By creating plantations on islands off of the coast of West Africa, the Portuguese, begin the process of creating a system of trade based on slavery and plantation-based agriculture.

Some Native American groups are at war with one another as a mini-Ice Age grips North America, some of the larger societies are in a state of decline, but each of these groups are living lives that are well-adapted to the natural environment.

# Bell Ringer Activity

---

What will happen to the Native Americans as a result of their contact with Europeans? What are the differences between the two groups that will put them into eventual conflict with one another?