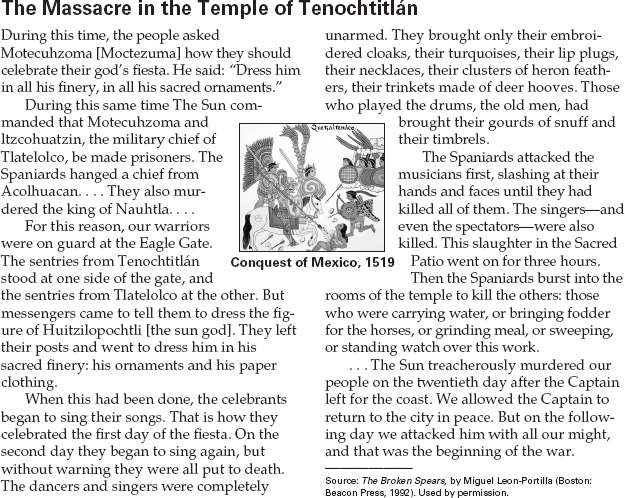
Name Class Date

49

There are only a few surviving accounts of the Spanish conquest of Mexico as told by  
Aztec authors. This excerpt is from a history written in Nahuatl in 1528, by a group  
known as the “anonymous authors of Tlatelolco” (an Aztec city). It describes the  
start of the war between the Spanish and the Aztecs. The Spanish were led by  
Hernán Cortés, who is referred to as “the Captain” in this excerpt, and his second in  
command, Pedro de Alvarado, who is referred to as “The Sun.” ♦ *As you read, think  
about how the Spanish soldiers viewed this incident. Then, on a separate sheet of paper,  
answer the questions that follow.*



31-1

**1.** What actions by the Spanish had made the  
Aztecs wary?

**2.** How were the Aztecs celebrating the festival  
of the sun god?

**3. Recognize Cause and Effect** How did the  
Aztecs respond to the massacre?

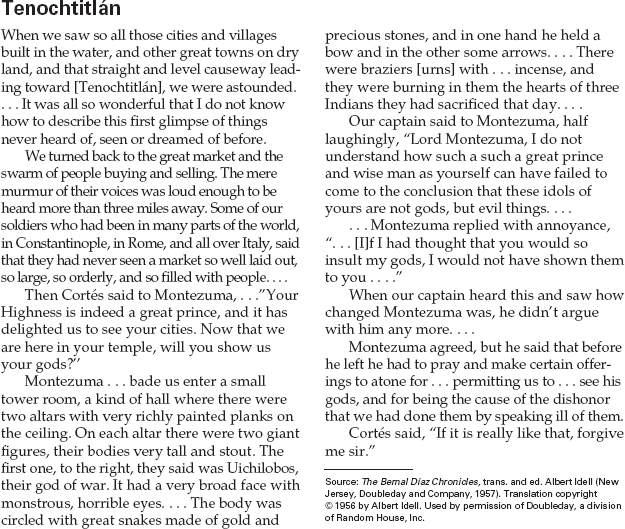
**4. Activity** The Aztecs believed in many gods  
and goddesses. Huitzilopochtli was their  
main god. Research Aztec religion and create  
a chart that names ten other important gods  
of the Aztecs. Include a brief description and  
background information about each of the  
gods.

**copynew51**

Name Class Date

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When they first arrived, Hernán Cortés and his men spent several days with the Aztec emperor  
Moctezuma (spelled Montezuma here) in the capital city of Tenochtitlán. Moctezuma welcomed  
Cortés’s group and even took them to the top of the great temple to view the splendor of the  
city. Later, relations grew strained after Cortés criticized the Aztecs’ religion. In this excerpt,  
Bernal Díaz del Castillo, one of Cortés’s soldiers, describes his group’s experiences before and  
after relations deteriorated. ♦ *As you read, think about the emotions these men felt once knew they had  
angered Montezuma. Then, on a separate sheet of paper, answer the questions that follow.*



31-1

**1.** What causes relations to deteriorate  
between Moctezuma and the Spanish?

**2. Identify Bias** What assumptions do you think  
Cortés and his men have about religion and  
the beliefs of the Aztecs?

**3.** **Activity** Write a short story on what life there was like before and after the city was conquered by  
the Spanish.

Name Class Date

50

Conquest by the Spanish brought hardships and slavery for the original inhabitants  
of the Americas. Most Spanish colonial officials, such as Juan de Solorzano y Pereyra,  
backed official policy. However, one missionary, Bartolomé de Las Casas, became  
the Native Americans’ strongest defender, both in Spain and in the colonies. ♦ *As  
you read, consider the different attitudes these excerpts reveal. Then, on a separate sheet of  
paper, answer the questions that follow.*



31-1

**1.** For Juan de Solorzano, what “good” out-  
weighs the harsh treatment of the Indians?  
What other justifications does he find for  
their treatment?

**2.** According to Las Casas, what has happened  
to the native populations of the Caribbean  
islands?

**3. Recognize Bias** How does Las Casas reveal  
his bias against the Spanish treatment of the  
native peoples? What words or phrases does  
he use to describe them?

**4. Recognize Ideologies** What beliefs do you  
think may have motivated Las Casas to take  
the stand that he does?

copynew

**50**

Name Class Date

48

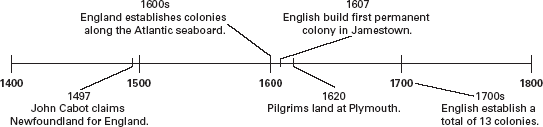
**Recognize Sequence**

When you talk about something that happened to you, you probably tell the story in  
order. This is known as putting information in sequence. As you read, it helps to rec-  
ognize sequence because you will understand how events unfold and lead to other  
events.

In a history textbook, events are often presented in chronological order. It helps  
to create a timeline based on the information you have read to understand and  
remember the sequence of events. Read the following paragraph about the first  
colonies established by the English.

In 1497, Venetian navigator John Cabot found rich fishing grounds off  
Newfoundland, which he claimed for England. In the 1600s, England con-  
centrated on establishing colonies along the Atlantic seaboard. The English  
built their first permanent colony in Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607. In 1620,  
another group of English settlers, known as Pilgrims, landed at Plymouth,  
Massachusetts. During the 1600s and 1700s, the English established  
additional colonies.

The sequence of events in this paragraph is:



**Directions:** *Read Section 3 of The Beginnings of Our Global Age: Europe and the Americas  
under the heading “Struggling for Power.” On a separate sheet of paper, list, in order, the  
dates and names of important events during the British and French struggle for power and  
create a timeline. Then, answer the following questions.*

**Hint:** Watch for dates in your textbook to help you create the sequence of  
events.

**1.** What is important about the year 1754?

**2.** What took place in 1756?

**3.** What key event happened in 1763? What happened to Britain following this event?

copynew**48**