

Columbus's first voyage

- Isabella wished to spread Christianity - agreed to sponsor Columbus
- Challenges included: finding enough food, ships and crew; possible obstruction by Portuguese rivals; Martin Pinzón disagreed with navigation plans
- Columbus won over Pinzón, who helped him find three ships
- Oct 1492 - Columbus discovered land across the Atlantic - claims San Salvador for Spain

Initial contact friendly and resulted in trade - Columbus described Tainos as 'good slaves' but Caribs as 'ferocious'

Contact with 'Indians'

Gold, cotton and tobacco found



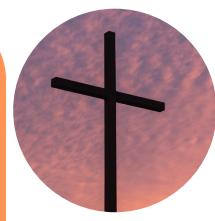
First incident of violence at Samana between natives and Spanish, who were looking for gold

Columbus as governor

- Columbus became 'Viceroy of the Indies' (governor)
- He had 17 ships for the purpose of founding settlements across the Caribbean and sending gold back to Spain
- He could appoint officials to act on his behalf

Santa Domingo

- Columbus's brother Bartholomew built a settlement at Santa Domingo - Columbus returned to rebellion and hung Spaniards and natives
- Spanish government sent new leader, Francisco de Bobadilla
- Columbus and Bartholomew imprisoned



Emerging as powerful country but rivalled by France and Portugal

Church supported crusades to spread Christianity to foreign countries
Ruled by Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand

Spain in the 1490s

Catholic Church had great influence over everyday life

Exploration to expand influence, trade and wealth

Columbus's actions in America

- Sailed south from San Salvador to find gold - explored the Bahamas, but found nothing
- Landed in Colba (Cuba) - named it Isla Juana after Prince Juan, son of Isabella and Ferdinand
- Pinzón sailed away without permission and another ship ran aground, leaving Columbus with one ship
- La Navidad fort built for protection - 39 men left to wait whilst Columbus returned to Europe

SPAIN REACHES THE 'NEW WORLD', c1490-1512

- Encomienda system saw natives exploited as slaves - natives provided labour in exchange for 'protection'
- Natives required to pay tribute to Spanish in gold, cotton or produce and work in gold mines
- Spanish brought smallpox with them which killed many natives who did not have immunity
- Natives who revolted were brutally killed

Catholic missionaries sent to convert the native population

Santa Domingo developed as Spanish centre of territorial rule

Ferdinand and Isabella regulated exploration in the New World through fees and ship registration

Imperial policy



The Laws of Burgos (1512) maintained the encomienda system - turned natives into slaves

Casa de Contratacion established a Spanish monopoly on trade in the Caribbean

