1. Archaic Era  Period beginning approximately nine thousand years ago lasting an estimated six thousand years. This period was marked by more intensive efforts on the part of ancient societies to shape the environment to enhance food production.

2. Aztec  Led by the Mexica tribe, the Aztec created a powerful empire whose capital, the great city of Tenochtitlan, was created on an island in Lake Texcoco in 1325 CE.

3. Bartolome de Las Casas  Dominican friar, writer, and advocate for the humane treatment of the indigenous people of the Americas, was one of the most important religious figures of the 16th-century Spanish world. He spent years attempting to expose the abuses that the native population was subjected to under the encomienda system.

4. Black Legend  False notion that Spanish conquerors did little but butcher the Indians and steal their gold in the name of Christ

5. Cahokia  Mississippian settlement near present-day East St. Louis, home to as many as 25,000 Native Americans (c. 1100 A.D.)

6. Capitalism  An economic system in which the market economy determined the prices of goods and services.

7. Columbian Exchange  The term used by modern scholars to describe the biological encounter between the two sides of the Atlantic, including the movement of plants, animals, and diseases.

8. Encomienda  Spanish government's policy to "commend", or give, Indians to certain colonists in return for them promise to Christianize them. Part of broader effort to subdue Indian tribes.

9. Francisco de Coronado  1540-1542 Spaniard who traveled from Arizona and New Mexico to Kansas; discovered the Grand Canyon and enormous herds of buffalo

10. Humanists  Individuals who advocated a revival of ancient learning, particularly ancient Greek thought, and encouraged greater attention to secular topics including a new emphasis on the study of humanity.

11. Incas  a people living in the Cuzco valley in Peru who established hegemony over their neighbors to create the great Inca empire that lasted from about 1100 until the Spanish conquest in the early 1530s

12. Iroquois Confederacy  closest example to an Indian nation-state in North America; developed the political and organizational skills to sustain a robust military alliance that menaced its neighbors, Native American and European alike, for well over a century

13. Jacques Cartier  Frenchman who journeyed hundreds of miles up the St. Lawrence River in 1534


15. Mourning Wars  Military actions by Eastern Woodlands tribes intended to replenish the population reduced by fighting. Prisoners may be tortured and killed or adopted by the tribe.

16. Paleo-Indians  The name given by scientists to the first inhabitants of Americas, an Ice Age people who survived largely by hunting big game, and to a lesser extent by collecting edible plants and fishing.

17. Plantation  An English settlement or fortified outpost in a foreign land dedicated to producing agricultural products for export.

18. Privateer  A form of state-sponsored piracy, usually directed against Spanish treasure fleets returning from the Americas.

19. Reformation  Movement to reform the Catholic Church launched in Germany by Martin Luther. Reformers questioned the authority of the Pope, sought to eliminate indulgences, and wanted to translate the Bible.

20. Roanoke Island  In 1585, Sir Walter Raleigh’s failed colonial settlement off the coast of North Carolina.

21. Robert de La Salle  French who went on an expedition down the Mississippi River in 1682; threatened Spanish control of North America

22. Samuel de Champlain  He was the &quot;father of New France;&quot; A sailor, he also came to be respected as a talented navigator, a cartographer, and the founder of Quebec City. He was also integral in opening North America to French trade, especially the fur trade.

23. Spanish Inquisition  A Spanish tribunal devoted to finding and punishing heresy and rooting out Spain’s Jews and Muslims.

24. St. Augustine, Florida  a Spanish fortress that was erected in 1565; the oldest continually inhabited European settlement in the future United States
25. **Treaty of Tordesillas** June 7, 1494, divided the newly discovered lands outside Europe into an exclusive duopoly between the Spanish and the Portuguese along a north-south meridian 370 leagues west of the Cape Verde islands (off the west coast of Africa).