How did European contact affect Native Americans?
SS8H1b
I. Why explore?

A. Gold – nations that had explorers got richer from things they found.

B. Glory – European nations would be more powerful. The monarchs and the explorers would be famous throughout Europe.

C. God – European countries could spread Christianity through the New World
II. Spain takes the lead

A. Many European countries sent explorers on journeys, but Spain was the most successful by the 1500s.

B. Famous Spanish explorers – Christopher Columbus, Francisco Pizarro, Ponce de Leon and Francisco Coronado

C. The area we live in was explored by Spanish conquistador, Hernando de Soto.
III. DeSoto’s journey (1539-42)

A. DeSoto was already a wealthy conquistador when he was picked to explore “La Florida” to find gold.
III. DeSoto’s journey

B. Left from Cuba in 1539 with a crew of more than 600 men and 250 animals, including horses, pigs, and “war dogs.”

C. May 1539 - landed on the west coast of Florida, near modern-day Tampa Bay.
III. DeSoto’s journey

D. Through 1539 - explored west Florida, including the panhandle and camped with the Apalachee Indians, near Tallahassee.

E. March 1540 – kept looking for gold “in the direction of the sunrise” – east. This brought them into south Georgia.
IV. DeSoto in Georgia

A. March 1540 – DeSoto enters south Georgia near Cairo

B. They came to the Flint River and followed it to a chiefdom called Capachequi, probably near Albany.

C. After staying a few days, they marched northeast and came to the Ocmulgee River and found a chiefdom called Ichisi. Today, we call it Macon.
IV. DeSoto in Georgia

D. They continued northeast and came to the Oconee River with the chiefdom of Ocute.

E. They moved eastward to the Savannah River, north of present-day Augusta, into South Carolina.

F. They came back into northwest Georgia in July 1540.
IV. DeSoto in Georgia

G. They came to a chiefdom named Coosa. The remains of that chiefdom are underwater near Carters Lake.

H. They crossed the Etowah River and went to the chiefdom of Ulibahali – today’s Rome, Ga.

I. They left Georgia for the last time in Sept. 1540

J. DeSoto came through the area where gold would be found in GA 300 years later.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number from map</th>
<th>Chiefdom</th>
<th>Modern Day city</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>Cairo</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Capachequi</td>
<td>Albany</td>
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V. The rest of the journey

A. He continued through Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Arkansas.

B. He came near the cities of Mobile, Memphis, and saw the Mississippi River.

C. DeSoto developed a fever and died in May 1542 on the western side of the Mississippi River. He had claimed to be “immortal,” so his death had to be hidden.
V. The rest of the journey

D. The crew wrapped his body and threw him in the Mississippi River. The crew decided to end the expedition.

E. It took them the rest of the summer of 1542 to work their way down the Mississippi River and around the Gulf coast to Mexico City.

F. Only half of the crew survived. Most of the animals had died or been eaten. Many of the crew wore animal hides for clothes.
VI. What were the effects of his journey?

Positive Effects

• People in the crew kept journals of the expedition so we have records of how the Mississippian Indians lived.
• He and his crew introduced guns, horses, and pigs to North America.

Negative Effects

• Villages were raided by DeSoto’s crew. They let their horses eat corn that had been stored.
• They had battles with many Indians – one of the worst being at Mobile Bay
• Thousands of Indians were killed from diseases and starvation.
Spain’s next focus - missions

• Spain decided to take a different approach to converting natives by setting up missions.
• Friars (Catholic priests) staffed the missions and worked on making the natives Christian.
The Spanish had a very methodical way to set up the missions:

– They put the missions near a politically important town in the chiefdom
– The priests were only to tend to religious matters
– Priests could serve as go-betweens for problems with the natives and Spanish officials in the area.
– After gaining the trust of the natives, the Spanish would work to assimilate (blend or make part of) the natives into their colonial system
Georgia’s mission period

• Spain set up missions in north Florida and along Georgia’s coast
• Georgia’s coast was divided into two chiefdoms – Guale and Mocama
• The first Christian service in Georgia was conducted by Pedro Menendez in 1566, a year after he founded St. Augustine in 1565.
• The mission was called Santa Catalina de Guale.

• Two priests served the mission but were gone in less than 18 months and only 7 natives were converted.
• A major turning point for the mission period occurred in 1597 known as Juanillo’s Rebellion.
• Juanillo was to become the next chief of the Guale chiefdom.
• The local priest thought Juanillo was not worthy to become chief because he had two wives.
• Juanillo didn’t think the priest had the right to decide that so he got some people together to kill the priest.
• He also encouraged the other chiefs to revolt against the Spanish missionaries.
• The chiefs started a rebellion and by the time it was over 5 missionaries were executed.
• The Spanish responded by destroying villages and burning crops.
• New missions were established and the Christian influence along Georgia’s coast continued.

Modern-day excavations on St. Catherine’s Island have found remains of more than 400 natives who were buried with Christian artifacts.
Location of Georgia’s missions