

Name: _____ Date: _____

Viewing Guide:

Guns, Germs, and Steel: Episode 2

1. At the time that the Spanish conquistador's invaded the Inca Empire, they were armed with state of the art weaponry. Describe this weaponry.
2. What is Jared Diamond's explanation for why the Spanish had advanced to steel swords while Inca's were still making tools and weapons from bronze?
3. What advantages did European farming methods have over those in the New World?
4. Where did the Europeans inherit their metal technology from?
5. What is the modern-day equivalent of an "espara ropera"? (an amusing answer)
6. How did the battle tactics used by the Spanish conquistadors help the small army defeat the Inca army that outnumbered it by the thousands?
7. What are the main geographical differences between Eurasia and the Americas? How did this affect the spread of crops and animals as well as people, ideas and technologies?
8. What was Pizarro's secret weapon? How did this help him conquer Incas?
9. According to Jared Diamond, what made the Europeans "accidental conquerors"?

Post Video questions.

1. How did the development of steel help civilizations gain power?
2. What were the common weapons of war 500 years ago? 300 years ago? 100 years ago? 50 years ago?
3. What weapons do you think have had the most impact on warfare throughout history?
4. Why were the Europeans the people who were able to conquer so many of the world's great civilizations and control so much of the world?
5. Look at your answer to question 3. Do you think that Jared Diamond would agree with your response? As an environmental determinist what do you think Jared Diamond's answer to the question would be? (Answer on a separate sheet)