

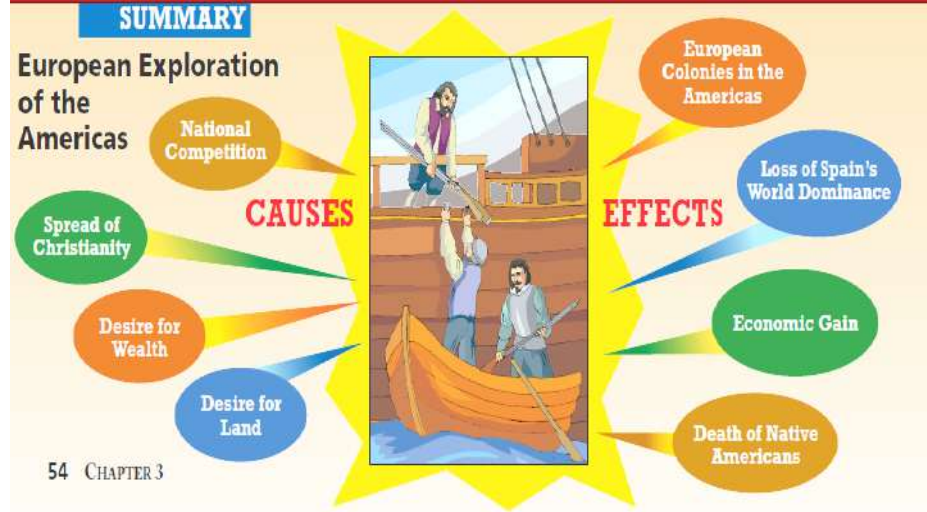
settlement of North America, with emphasis on the interests of the French, Spanish, and British in the southeastern area.

SS8H1b

Evaluate the impact of European contact on Native American cultures; include Spanish missions along the barrier islands, and the explorations of Hernando DeSoto.



## European Exploration of the Americas



**HERNANDO de SOTO** - A Spanish born explorer and first European to set foot in Georgia, in 1540. De Soto led 600 conquistadors through the southeast region of North America in search of gold. His expedition failed as he did not find the gold he was looking for and died of illness near the Mississippi River.

Two social studies concepts: Conflict & Change, and Individual – Groups, help explain the impact Hernando de Soto had on Native Americans. Despite being outnumbered by the native people the Spanish conquistadors were militarily superior with horses, war dogs, and metal armor. Hernando de Soto often tortured, enslaved, and killed Native Americans along his path in his quest for gold and glory. The violence and diseases left behind by Europeans on Mississippian tribes and the population decrease that several of de Soto's conquistadors kept journal about their history.

### SPANISH MISSIONS

The Spanish missions built on the barrier islands off the coast of Georgia were intended to convert the Native Americans to the Catholic faith, a branch of Christianity. This would allow the Spanish to settle and colonize the region and help future trade and exploration efforts, as well as protect the region from French and British settlement. Over time, the enslaved Indians died of disease or fled the area and Spanish missions failed.



### SPANISH MISSIONS

The main Spanish missions were built on the barrier islands off the coast of Georgia were to convert the Native Americans to the Catholic faith, a branch of Christianity. This would allow the Spanish to settle and colonize the region and help future trade and exploration efforts. Over time, the Indians died of disease and eventually the British pushed the Spanish out of Georgia.