Maize--A crop that formed the basis of agriculture in the Western Hemisphere.

Tenochtitlán--The capital city of the Aztec empire, in present-day Mexico.

Cahokia--A city near present-day St. Louis that was a fortified community created by "mound builders," which had a population between 10,000 and 30,000 in the year 1200

Iroquois--An alliance of five peoples living in present-day New York and Pennsylvania - the Mohawk, Oneido, Cayuga, Seneca, and Onondaga - which formed a Great League of Peace.

"Christian liberty"--An idea common in Europe that freedom would come from abandoning the life of sin to embrace the teachings of Christ.

Zheng He--A Chinese Admiral who led seven large naval expeditions in the Indian Ocean.

Caravel--A ship capable of long-distance travel.

Factories--Portuguese fortified trading posts on the western coast of Africa.

Reconquista--The "reconquest" of Spain from the Moors by King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella

Columbian Exchange--The transatlantic flow of goods and people that began with Columbus's voyages.

Peninsulares--Persons of European birth living in the colonies.

Mestizos--Spanish word for person of mixed Native American and European ancestry.

encomienda system--A Spanish system under which the first settlers had been granted authority over conquered Indian lands with the right to extract forced labor from the native inhabitants.

Black Legend--Idea that the Spanish New World empire was more oppressive toward the Indians than other European empires; was used as a justification for English imperial expansion.

Pueblo Revolt--Uprising in 1680 in which Pueblo Indians temporarily drove Spanish colonists out of modern-day New Mexico.

Popé--A Pueblo Indian who became the main organizer of an uprising that aimed to drive the Spanish from their colony and restore the Indians' traditional autonomy.

Huguenots--French Protestant colonists in America.

Métis--Children of marriages between Indian women and French traders or officials.

Patrons--Shareholders who agreed to transport tenants for agricultural labor.

Wampum--A string of beads used by Indians in religious rituals and as currency.