In school the instructor just barely has time to give the students some names and dates of early explorations – plus, within weeks after the “tests” they are forgotten anyway. (Pssst – no tests in this class!)

This session summarizes months of boring history classes into 1.5 hours ☺

Take notes if you wish, ask questions, but this slide deck will be posted at OLLI website for your downloading and reviewing as you wish.

This lecture focuses on the French, English, and Dutch settling of North America; there is a companion lecture on the Spanish landings in North America.
“Everyone else but Spanish” settling of the Americas

Spain: “The quest for gold, Catholicism”
Everyone else: “Land, freedom, trade”

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In the beginning

- Native Americans (aka First Americans) had evolved into communities ruled by a strong leader (chief)
- It’s a big ocean out there
- Started with Nordic landings

- Well agreed upon that Vinland (North America) was “found” and a few outposts established by Danes 550 years before English, and almost 500 years before Spanish
- Takes a lot of people to establish a “colony”; Danes brought a few cows, pigs, sheep, and maybe 100 people, but it took more quantity to make it last
- They gave up - otherwise we would be eating pickled herring at McDonalds
L'Anse aux Meadows
Geography lesson 101
1453 Ottomans cut off land route

Marco Polo
So .... While the rest of Europe was exploring north of La Florida, the Spanish were running rampant through the bottom of the U.S., Mexico, and South America in search of: 1. gold/silver, 2. converts to Catholicism, and 3. slaves

- The Spanish published a manual for conquistadors
- Depicts Spanish captain with “dividers” and hand on his sword hilt
- The caption reads “With the compass and the sword / More and more and more.”
- The Spanish (along with most of central Europe) was obsessed with ridding the world of Muslims; they had won battles back home, and this confidence spilled over to the above me
- Cortes: “we were obliged to make war against enemies of our faith.”
Example of how things went wrong – and was repeated over and over

• Early 1600’s, English scalawag John Oldham was hired to demand a payment of some kind from a local native tribe
• Indians didn’t take kindly to Oldham, and hacked him into pieces
• Governor of Mass. (Sir Henry Vane) didn’t take kindly to having another Englishmen chopped up, so sent 90 men to Block Island with orders to kill every native man and bring back all women and children as slaves
• Some men escaped, so raiding Englishmen sailed into Thames River, demanded payment for the Englishmen “suffering”, and took native children as hostages until payment made
• Really bad PR for the English
The Dutch East India company was formed to gather up all of the smaller Dutch trading companies into one

• The Dutch were traders – not warriors
• The Dutch East India company became the largest trader in the world surpassing England (#2) by 5:1
• The established good treaties with tribes

(England controlled territories in Red, France in Green, and “New Belgium/New Nederland” in brown)
• 1637 Earliest Dutch settlement* – Block Island
• Captain Block; ship sank, was rescued by another Dutch ship a year later

* Lasted about a year, then abandoned
Some lasting names the Dutch left us:

- Dutch were first “whites” on Manhattan; the name Manahatta is Lenape for “hilly island”; Dutch adopted and kept this name (and no, they didn’t buy it for $24)
- Breukelen – now Brooklyn
- Wal Straat – now Wall Street
- Stuyvesant – still named this (just south of Albany on the Hudson River)
- Staten Generaal – Staten Island
- Haarlem - Harlem
- Konijnen Eiland – Coney Island
- Vlissingen - Flushing
The Dutch - continued

- The Holy Grail – find a passage from east side of North America to the west side so we can stop having to go around Terra Del Fuego or Cape of Good Hope when we want to go to Asia
- In 1579, the Dutch revolted against the Spanish’s taxes and other infringements of Dutch rights
- In 1610, the Dutch hired Henry Hudson, gave him a sail boat, and sent him up-stream in Manhattan – he didn’t get far; the Hudson River bears his name today
- In 1614, Adriaen Block explored from Virginia north, and named the area New Netherland, and the Dutch government granted him all of the areas from Virginia to the French St. Lawrence area (present day Canada); the Dutch failed to ask Spain, England, France, and, of course, any native Americans
- In 1615, the first Dutch settlement (that lasted) in America (Fort Nassau) was founded in present day Albany, NY (about 140 miles from Long Island)
- Fort Amsterdam was established at the tip of Manhattan
- Literally shiploads of Dutch (along with slaves) came to America over the next 50 years
- In 1664, the English rolled into Manhattan with super gun ships and threatened to “sink the island with along with all of the Dutch; Dutch bartered briefly and in exchange for giving up “New Netherland” for the new name “New York”, the Dutch was given ..... (any ideas?)

The Dutch traded in relatively peace in North America, but continued their world explorations by planting their flag all over Africa and the South Pacific area
Trivia: 60% of the residents today speak Dutch
By the early 1500’s, England, The Netherlands, France, German, and Italy were well aware of Spain finding land – and they were well aware of Spain finding “south America”, La Florida, and other areas.

In 1534, France sent Jacques Cartier to explore Newfoundland and the St. Lawrence bay/river.

What was the Holy Grail?
• In 1534, Cartier established a fort where present day Quebec City is; lasted about a year before native Americans ran them out
• In 1562, France tried to establish a fort in the Charlestown, SC area, but it lasted less than a year because France “forgot” to bring them supplies
• In 1564, they blundered by establishing a fort in Jacksonville, FL area - in Spain’s backyard; two big issues:
  1. Spain didn’t like neighbors this close who might find gold
  2. France, although Christians, they were not Christian enough (meaning they could be Huguenots, Protestants, or “heaven forbid” Lutherans!)
Spain had established, in September 1565, a fort in St. Augustine in La Florida

- King Philip II of Spain told Menendez “get them out of there”
- 142 French slaughtered as Menendez moved north (even though the French surrendered)
- The French sent a navy/army south of St. Augustine to attack; Menendez alerted by friendly natives, and he turned to go south where he attacked and slaughtered all but 10 (who said they were Catholics)
- A cleric witnessing the scene said that Menendez “gave them a noble and honorable death in that he only chopped off their heads, as he could have burnt them alive at the stake.”

- 13 miles south of St. Augustine
- Matanzas means “The Slaughters” in Spanish; you will find a bridge and inlet commemorating this event
Decided Florida not a good idea... Headed back north....
Established forts (most short-lived) in Nova Scotia, St. Croix Island (present day Maine), Newfoundland
In exchange for their freedom, convicts brought over to help settle the areas
Samuel de Champlain headed west – explored the Great Lakes
Jean Nicolet explored Wisconsin (just north of Milwaukee is Nicolet High School, Nicolet National Forest in upper Wisconsin, and
• France and England declared a sort “semi war” against Spain
• Every Spanish flag flying ship was fair game for plundering and stealing the ship
• Both England and France hired “free lancers” (aka pirates) to attack as they wanted and keep the loot
• Both England and France too pre-occupied by Spain that they literally chose attacking Spanish ships instead of going about their mission and resupplying their fellow country men/women
• France was continuing to fight the Iroquois
• France desperate for increasing it’s fan base in North America did 2 things:
  1. Shipped over about 600 “daughters of the king” with orders to marry and have babies
  2. By now the Catholic church had assumed control with the King of France, and France gave an order to his wandering priests to convert every native American to Catholicism and thereby making them official French citizens
• France could not hold out in “Canada”, and in 1713 ceded Maine, Newfoundland, and all of Hudson Bay to England
• But, down south….. Louis Jolliet and Jacques Marquette started up the Mississippi River
What important about this map is that it shows that Spain and England stayed pretty much close to the coast so they could support their forts – they had no idea how big America was. But, the French wanted to find out.
France - continued

• In 1718, there were only 700 Europeans in all of present day Louisiana
• France saw potential in shipping and trading, and brought over thousands on slaves, convicts, French citizens to populate the area (basically to make it harder on the Spanish to push them out)
• But... more wars with England and against the Indians did them in....
• France ceded all of their remaining holdings to England and to Spain... except for

Just off the southern coast of Newfoundland is last and ONLY French settlement left in North America (not counting the Caribbean)

Bad feelings run deep – when the colonists and Washington were trying to win their independence, France remembered how they were treated and paid back to England what she had done to them
The idea that England would become a major player in North America was as far fetched as America winning the world cup in soccer 😊

In 1558, England had just lost battles in France, didn’t own Scotland, and only had a few cod fishing boats off the coast of Newfoundland – they were NOT a major player in exploration of the Americas
English and Dutch and French fell in love with “pelts” and north American cod.

Easy pickings because the Spanish were busy plundering South America, Mexico, and La Florida.

And then …

And with each successful foray, they hightailed it across the ocean back home, and now the next group used those coordinates to come back to North America.
1585: Although a few feeble attempts were made earlier in Newfoundland, Roanoke was a real attempt with 108 men (since no women were there, the Indians thought that white men weren’t born somehow!)

The settlers didn’t know how to plant crops or hunt, so they stole things from the “locals”; didn’t go over well.

August 1587, their ship set out for England with a “We’ll be back soon!” Liars.

Returning to England, England was in the midst of an ocean war with Spain.

Still, 2 ships with full crews and supplies set off for Roanoke; but....

They decided to do some plundering along the way by attacking small Spanish ships, and bigger Spanish ships put an end to this and drove the 2 ships back to Merry ol’ England.

In 1590 they tried again, but instead of heading directly to Roanoke, they decided to do some more plundering in the Caribbean and work their way up the coast; Roanoke by now had ceased to exist.
King James: Fort James -> Villa James -> James Town -> eventually Jamestown

- In 1606, England tried again (about 500 miles north of the mean Spanish in Florida)
- Didn’t go well – water was brackish, no crops, and they harassed the Indians (and vice versa)
- In 1609 there were 500 inhabitants (men AND women)
- On June 7, 1610, only 60 remained alive and orders were given to “abandon ship”; as fate would have it, they had just made their way out to sea when they met a resupplying ship – so they turned around
- Orders were to start exporting goods (namely tobacco)

* This is the city of John Smith, Pocahontas, John Rolfe, etc. fame. There are hundreds of books written about these characters; Pocahontas died in Gravesend, England, on March 21, 1617
Jamestown and epilog

- 1610 – Lord De La Warr put in charge after buying 3 ships, hiring 150 men, and given control of Jamestown; set rules to get things organized:
  - Missing attendance at church? – whipping
  - Blasphemy against church or state? – having a lancet thrust through the tongue
  - Desertion or robbing from storehouse? – hanging or bound to a tree until starved to death
  - Attacked and plundered local Indian villages and killed chiefs
- In 1611 Germans and Poles were brought over to start their crafts such as wood-working, glass blowing, etc.
- In 1619, 50 black slaves were unloaded from a joint Dutch/English ship
- John Smith (not to be confused with the original John Smith) was given full control of the Virginias
- De La Warr died at the age of 41 on June 7, 1618, at sea (rumor he was poisoned)
- In 1631, at the age of 51, Smith died penniless in England

Heard of the state Delaware? 😊 One can find the De La Warr Community Center in New Castle, DE.
• As early as 1524, Goiovanni da Verrazano (Italian) put into Narragansett Bay
• In 1601 Bartholomew Gosnold (English) visited the same area
• English cod fishing was a thriving business in the early 1600’s
• In 1605 Samuel Champlain (French) explored the same area
• Captain John Smith (English) from Jamestown ventured to this area and took Indians as slaves; the Indians did not forget this and took it out on the Mayflower folks later on
Saturday, November 11, 1620
The Mayflower dropped anchor
The Mayflower

• About 90 years afterwards a grandson of a Mayflower descendent, said as his ship approached mentioned a wharf that his father said they had stepped on a rock when they landed. First, his dad was not born then. But, the rock was attempted to moved – and it broke. A piece of it finally dragged to a higher place; it was attempted to be moved again and was broken. One of the pieces was paved over. Literally centuries later the piece was found and joined back with the other piece. This is the “rock” worshiped today by tourists.

• Moved slightly south, exploring as they went, then to the west.
• Typical settlers – needed food
• Made friends with a tribe that just happened to be a “war” with another local tribe
• Used their Indian friends to help wipe out rival tribe
• And, of course, turned on their Indian friends and wiped them out too
• Other very small English settlements were up and down the area the Mayflower was in
• Established a loose “government” of English, mapped out towns, sold land/plots
• More English arriving every few months
• English sending back pelts, sassafras, cod – trade was good, and Indians in return got a copper pot, belt, etc.
Major tribes across North America before Europeans
Out of which there were literally hundreds of sub tribes
The Europeans of all countries except Germany participated in: 1. slavery of Indians, and 2. disruption of their tribal systems
Before the Europeans, Indians had a farming community where a variety of crops were grown
The Indians never had a chance against guns, armor, horses, lances, gun powder
Jamestown drove out all of the Chickahominy tribe
By 1538, between 300-350 ships were in the Newfoundland area engaging in whaling and fishing
By 1580 (40 years before the Mayflower) it is estimated that ~20,000 Europeans were living scattered in North America
French and English were masters of turning one tribe against another in return for metal, clothes, etc.

(page 75, “The Historical Atlas of Native Americans”)
The Spanish got a jump-start on the English, French, Dutch, etc.

Columbus didn’t know where he was but ….. Provided bases from onward expansion and exploration

Spain riding high on their battles against the Muslims – basically kicking them out of Spain

Catholic church wanted gold and more Catholics, and Spain promised it

Spain wanted gold – explorers promised it (Spain had wars to fight and needed to build ships, armor, guns, etc. – wars are expensive!)

Spanish explorers were given land and a share of silver and gold

Rhode Island is not an island but Explorer Verrazano (Italian, but sailed under contract of Spain) had it confused with Block Island and it resembled the Greek Isle of Rhodes

California is believed to be derived from the queen Calafia – a tribe of tall, black Amazons Spaniards found in South America

Americus Vespucci had two continents after him, and he never sat foot on either

The American Indian had no concept of land “ownership”; there were no plats, state lines, county lines

One of the first things the Pilgrims did was lay out a city and sell plots
Summary

• The First Americans were having their domains turned upside down, and all they could do is fight as long as they could – making each mile bloody to take over; Chief Tecumseh did his best to pull tribes together (from the Gulf of Mexico to north of present day Canada border) to combat the “white man”
• The Iroquois consolidated the Seneca, Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida, and Mohawk tribes to fight in the Northeast (mostly against the French and Huron tribe)
• The Spanish, French, and English became masters of turning tribes against one another in southeast (Florida, Georgia, Alabama areas)
• No horse (at least trainable) existed in the Americas before the Spanish; it changed how Indians fought and how they prized this animal
• Finally the French and English established too much resistance and Spain gave up claim to lands in South America, Mexico, and in the U.S. … but CUBA was their prize/
• Cuba provided copper mines and sugar – a cash cow for Spain trade
Epilog and Irony

- June 2022; Most New England states agreed to provide free beach access to any Native American, while Rhode Island only gives free passes to Narragansett tribe members.
- Henry Hudson was an explorer at heart, and kept going on and on trying to search for the “holy grail”; he entered a huge body of water and no idea where it went; camped in the winter of 1611, and in the spring wanted to press on; his crews said, “mmm, we don’t think so”; the put him and his son in a lifeboat and sailed back to England without them. Hudson was 46 years old, and had the body of water named after his body – Hudson Bay.
- Samuel de Champlain died at age 68 in currently Quebec City, Canada.
- England burned one too many bridges (literally) with France, and the colonists with France’s help defeated England to have colonists win war against England.
- Spain could not support their missions in California, plus locals rebelled against their harsh treatment.
- The Caribbean had islands owned by Spain, The Netherlands, France, England, and the U.S.
- Cuba was owned by Spain until the U.S. attacked them in early 1900’s. (Spain surrendered and also gave the U.S. the Philippines.)
• Found this map searching English maps; from about 1600, shows Texas as “Tecas” and north Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado, etc. as “Great space of land”
In 1803 the U.S. bought what was called the “Louisiana Territory” from France for $15,000,000 (very complicated as to background and why... )
Post Revolutionary War – floodgates opened

English, French, Dutch, Germany, Italians, Irish, Russian, etc.
Remember Block Island (just off coast of Rhode Island) settled by the Dutch?

- Native Americans would have been proud – 40% of island a nature preserve
- 32 miles of beach and inland trails
- Nature Conservancy declared the petite isle one of a dozen “Last Great Places” in the western hemisphere
What exploring country is noticeably missing from this migration?

Spain, original explorers of maybe ½ of the “United States” 100 years before the Mayflower had given up, and was relegated to barely holding on to Cuba
Some good reading

- “A Voyage Long and Strange”, Tony Horwitz
- “Carnage and Culture: Landmark Battles in the Rise to Western Power”, Hansen, Victor Davis
- “Alvar Mímez Cabeza de Vada: His Account, his life and expeditions”, Adorno, Rolena, and Patrick Pautz
- AmericanJourneys.org
- “The Historical Atlas of Native Americans”, Dr. Ian Barnes
- “Mayflower”, Nathaniel Philbrick
- “Sir John Franklin – and then they ate their boots”, by ? (can’t find my copy, but read ANYTHING you can find on this man!)
- “The True Cost of the Louisiana Purchase”, Robert Lee
Questions?

If you think of something later or just want to discuss something, drop me an email at DARRELVAN@GMAIL.COM
Thank you very much .... Please go to OLLI website and leave your comments