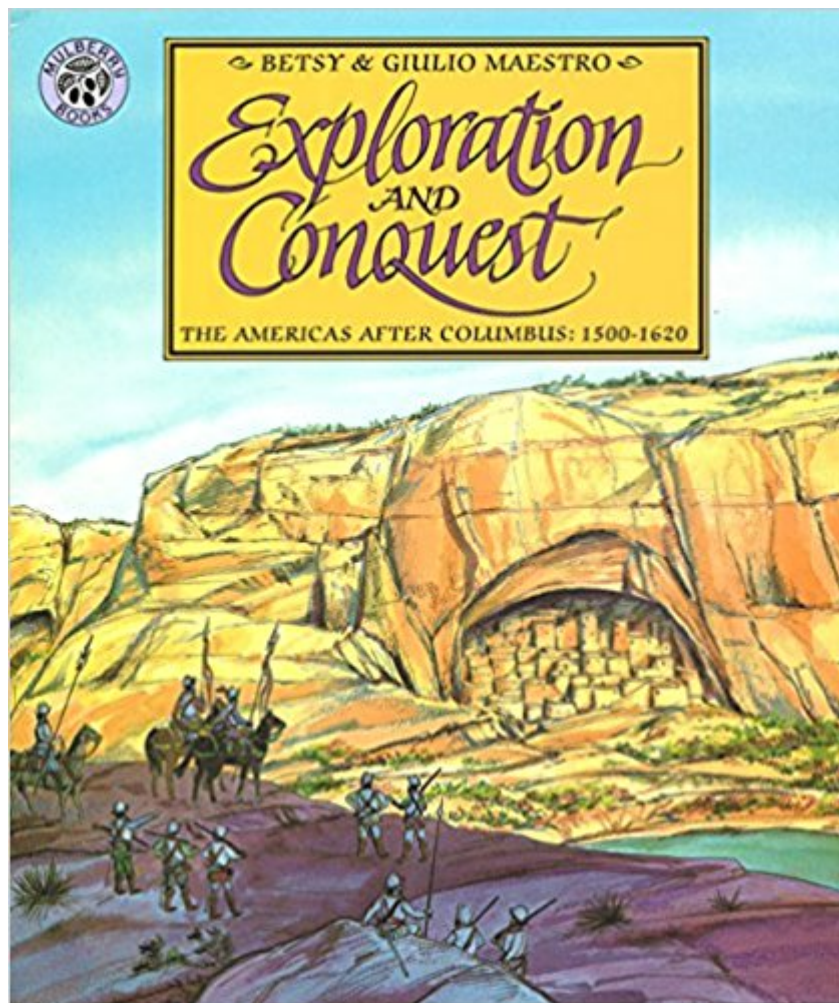




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# Exploration And Conquest: The Americas After Columbus: 1500-1620 (American Story (Paperback))



## Synopsis

Christopher Columbus was not the first to discover the Americas, but his voyages led to European exploration of the New World. Rich in resources and natural beauty, the Americas were irresistible to gold-hungry conquistadors. The newcomers gave little thought to those who had called the lands their home, and exploration soon came to signify conquest. The New World -- and the lives of its inhabitants -- would be changed forever.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 3.7 out of 5 stars 13 customer reviews

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Age Range: 6 - 10 years

Grade Level: 2 - 7

## Customer Reviews

This ambitious sequel to the Maestros' *The Discovery of the Americas* begins with a revisionist summation of Christopher Columbus's famous feats: the explorer "was not the first to discover the Americas. But his voyages led to the European exploration of the New World." The book covers more than 130 years of exploration, presenting brief overviews of Magellan, Cortes, Pizarro, Hudson, Drake, Champlain et al. Betsy Maestro also discusses the effects of these incursions on native peoples; she touches upon the African slave trade, the decimation of the Aztec civilization and the general failure of Europeans to honor their agreements with Native Americans. While the writing is clear, the range of information may be too broad for the reader to absorb easily. Each topic receives only a paragraph or two, and important concepts are often reduced to a single sentence. More satisfying is the watercolor-and-pencil art, which vividly depicts the explorers and their

exploits. Giulio Maestro captures the essence of his settings-the midnight blues of a nighttime sky at sea, the earthy yellows and browns of the American Southwest, the green, tiered mountains of Central America. Appendixes contain a table of dates; lists of explorers not mentioned in the text; useful summaries; and a list of Native American "contributions to the world." Ages 6-up. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grade 4-6-This companion to *The Discovery of the Americas* (Lothrop, 1991) provides an interesting discussion of the European exploration and conquest of the "New World." The author carefully explains that, "The great gain of one people was the great loss of another" and traces the disastrous effects that the Portuguese, Spanish, English, French, and Dutch had on the native peoples of the Americas, while acknowledging the benefits the Europeans enjoyed-gold, land, rich natural resources, and power. North, Central, and South America are discussed, as are the beginnings of the African slave trade. Detailed descriptions of the different native cultures are not provided-the focus is on European politics and rivalry-and there are no chapter divisions, which makes the information somewhat difficult to digest. Although the text is occasionally blunt and dry, this is still a good introduction to a complex topic from a multicultural perspective, beautifully illustrated with lush watercolor and colored-pencil drawings. Cyrisse Jaffee, formerly at Newton Public Schools, MA Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Good information; colorful pictures to keep the attention of younger kids. However I would recommend a secondary book to be read in tandem, to experience all viewpoints as I personally feel some of the info may be biased.

gave as a gift and the teacher loves it

This text is lengthier than the *Constitution* book. I believe it can still be easily read and discussed in two class periods. The text can be easily separated between the Conquistadors and other French & English explorers. This book covers quite a few explorers so, a graphic organizer that lists the names of the men would be helpful for students to keep information during the story.

Very nice book, beautifully illustrated in watercolor pictures on every page. Easy to understand text

even for grade school students, but still interesting facts and stories up to adult-age. This tells about the explorers to America, least of which was Columbus, who never sailed to North America. It answers the question, 'who were the Conquistadors?' 'What is known as 'the Spanish Main'? " What was the Spanish Armada?' We learn of Balboa, Ponce de Leon, Drake, Cortez, Walter Raleigh, Samuel de Champlain, Henry Hudson, and more. We learn about the settlement at Jamestown and The Lost Colony. Very interesting reading can hold students and adults spellbound. It doesn't read like a textbook so much; not just filled with dates and facts, but stories and the beautiful watercolor paintings. I highly recommend this book to teach explorers.

just what I was expecting

This book not only has great pictures but also has a lot of historical information in it. We have been reading a few pages each day as part of our year of American history studies. There is just too much information to read more than a few pages per day. My kids (7 & 4) love the illustrations!

Great addition to our American History studies this year

Thanks

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