European Colonization
1492-1790
WHAT...Colonization
to establish a colony in; settle: Europeans colonized the New World.

- Beginning in the late 1400’s, explorers, conquerors, missionaries, merchants, and adventurers sought to claim new lands to colonize.
- By the early to mid 1600’s, Spain, England, France, and the Netherlands were all competing for colonies and trade around the world.
- Russian Colonization was primarily along the coastal areas of Alaska, Canada and the north west coast of the United States.
Who ... Spanish Colonization
Conquistadors, missionaries, settlers

- A flood of Spanish settlers and missionaries followed the conquistadors to Spain’s new empire.
- Wherever they went they established colonies, claiming the land and its people for their king and Church.
- When there was resistance, the newcomers imposed their will by force.
- Over time, however, a new culture emerged that reflected European, Native American, and African traditions.
In the 1600s, **France, the Netherlands, England, and Sweden joined Spain in settling North America.**

Before long, though, the **English and French** were turning **large profits**.

By 1700, France and England controlled large parts of North America. **Their colonies differed from each other and from those of Spanish America in terms of language, government, resources, and society.** 

**Portugal** colonized Brazil.
Who: Russian Colonization in North America...The North Pacific Rim

Although Spain and England made claims to territory in Alaska, Canada, and the American Northwest, **Russia was the only one to establish colonies in Alaska.**

Main settlements were located on **Kodiak island and Sitka**...several smaller posts were established throughout Alaska including **Kasilof and Kenai**. **Russia’s** emphasis was on trade and missionary work...not population distribution.
The start of the European colonization of the Americas is typically dated to 1492.

In 1492, a Spanish expedition headed by Christopher Columbus sailed for India to sell, buy, and trade rich spices and other goods, inadvertently discovering what is today North America and South America.

European conquest, large-scale exploration and colonization soon followed. After 1500 colonization extended into the interiors of both North and South America.

In 1497, sailing from the north on behalf of England, John Cabot landed on the North American coast.

In 1741 Vitus Bering sailing for Russia landed on Kayak Island in Alaska.

In the 19th century alone over 50 million people left Europe for the Americas.
Where:
The New World, North and South America, and
The Western Hemisphere

European contact began in the Caribbean islands when Columbus landed there in 1492.

After 1500 colonization extended into the interiors of both North and South America.

Eventually, the entire Western Hemisphere came under the control of European governments.
How were the Europeans able to conquer the much larger population of Native Americans?

- Although Spanish conquistadors and other European Imperialists only numbered in the hundreds as compared to millions of Native Americans, they had many advantages.

- Their guns and cannons were superior to the Native Americans’ arrows and spears, and European metal armor provided them with better protection.

- They also had horses, which not only were useful in battle and in carrying supplies, but also frightened the Native Americans, who had never seen a horse.
How were the Europeans able to conquer the much larger population of Native Americans?

- Most importantly, an invisible invader—disease—helped the conquistadors take control of the Taínos and other Native Americans.
- Europeans unknowingly carried diseases such as smallpox, measles, and influenza to which Native Americans had no immunity, or resistance.
- As a result, the Native American population of the Caribbean islands declined by as much as 90 percent in the 1500s.
- Millions of Native Americans died from disease as Europeans made their way inland.
The **Columbian Exchange**, also known as the Grand Exchange, was a dramatically widespread exchange of animals, plants, culture, human populations (including slaves), communicable disease, and ideas between the American and Afro-Eurasian Hemispheres following the voyage to the Americas by Christopher Columbus in 1492.
In the biological and ecological exchange that took place following Spanish establishment of colonies in New World... people of Europe and Africa settled in the New World, and animals, plants and diseases of Eurasia and the Western Hemisphere were introduced to each area in an interchange.

This exchange of plants and animals transformed European, American, African, and Asian ways of life.
Wisdom: outcome/results

The Slave trade

Enslaved Africans formed part of an international trade network that arose during the 1500s. The Spanish were the first major European partners in the slave trade, buying slaves to labor in Spain’s South American empire. As other European powers established colonies in the Americas, the slave trade—and with it the entire international trade network—intensified.
Today many of Alaskan natives are Russian Orthodox...and have assimilated some of their traditions into the Russian religion.


Many European place names in Alaska including the Kenai Peninsula have Russian origins.