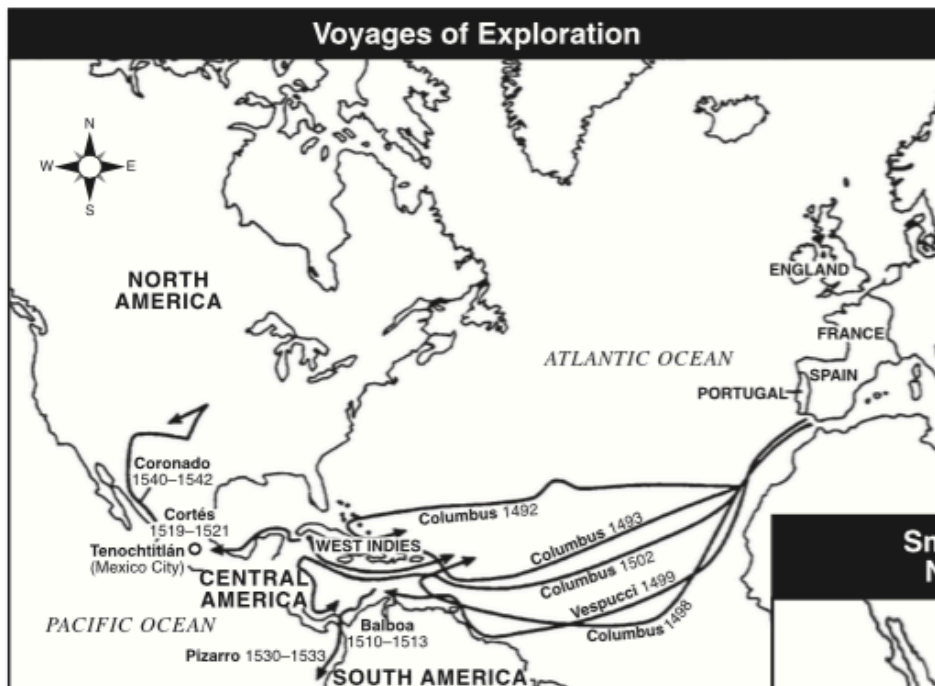
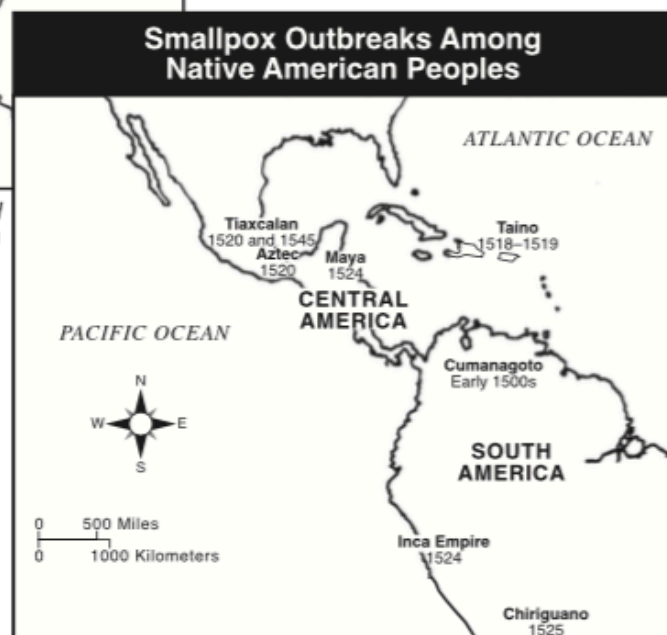


Document 3 - Disease



Source: Henry Brun et al., *Reviewing Global History and Geography*, AMSCO, 2000 (adapted)



Source: *Patterns of Interaction: Cultural Connections Across Time and Place*, Teacher's Resource Book, McDougal Littell, 1999 (adapted)

“ . . . The first was a plague of smallpox, and it began in this manner. When Hernando Cortés was captain and governor, at the time that Captain Pánfilo de Narváez landed in this country, there was in one of his ships a negro stricken with smallpox, a disease which had never been seen here. At this time New Spain was extremely full of people, and when the smallpox began to attack the Indians it became so great a pestilence [disease] among them throughout the land that in most provinces more than half the population died; in others the proportion was little less. For as the Indians did not know the remedy for the disease and were very much in the habit of bathing frequently, whether well or ill, and continued to do so even when suffering from smallpox, they died in heaps, like bedbugs. Many others died of starvation, because, as they were all taken sick at once, they could not care for each other, nor was there anyone to give them bread or anything else. In many places it happened that everyone in a house died, and, as it was impossible to bury the great number of dead, they pulled down the houses over them in order to check the stench that rose from the dead bodies so that their homes became their tombs. This disease was called by the Indians ‘the great leprosy’ because the victims were so covered with pustules [pimples] that they looked like lepers. Even today one can see obvious evidences of it in some individuals who escaped death, for they were left covered with pockmarks. . . . ”

(Source: Elizabeth A. Foster, ed., *Motolinia's History of the Indians of New Spain*, Greenwood Press, 1977)