

## Colonies in the Americas

### Christopher Columbus (Spanish explorer)

*Whereas, Most Christian, High, Excellent, and Powerful Princes, King and Queen of Spain, this present year 1492, after your Highnesses had terminated the war with the Moors reigning in Europe... Your Highnesses, as Catholic Christians, and princes who love and promote the holy Christian faith, and are enemies of the doctrine of Mahomet, determined to send me,*



*Christopher Columbus, to the above-mentioned countries of India, to see the said princes, people, and territories, and to learn their disposition and the proper method of converting them to our holy faith.*

### Francisco Vázquez de Coronado (Spanish explorer)

*IN THE year 1530, Nuno de Guzman, who was President of New Spain, had in his possession an Indian, a native of the valley or valleys of Oxitipar, who was called Tejo by the Spaniards. This Indian said he was the son of a trader who was dead but that when he was a little boy his father had gone into the back country with fine feathers to trade for ornaments, and that when he came back he brought a large amount of gold and silver, of which there is a good deal in that country... Acting on this information, Nuno de Guzman got together nearly 400 Spaniards and 20,000 friendly Indians of New Spain... in this way getting to the country which they were looking for, which was already named "The Seven Cities."*

### Francisco Vázquez de Coronado (Spanish explorer)

*AFTER Stephen [Esteban] had left the friars, he thought he could get all the reputation and honor himself, and that if he should discover those settlements with such famous high houses, alone, he would be considered bold and courageous. So he proceeded with the people who had followed him, and attempted to cross the wilderness which lies between the country he had passed through and Cibola.*



Sir Walter Raleigh (founder of Virginia)

*May it Please Your Most Excellent Majesty,*

*I have diligently, in my travels, observed how the countries herein mentioned do grow potent with abundance of all things to serve themselves and other nations... and that their never-dried foundations of wealth by which they raise their estate to such an admirable height as that they are even a wonder of the world, proceedeth from Your Majesty's seas and lands.*

Thomas Hariot (Virginia colonist)

#### CONCERNING MARKETABLE COMMODITIES

*Grass silk. There is a kind of grass in the country which has a thin, glistening, skin. When this is stripped off, it makes very good silk...*

*Oil. There are two kinds of walnuts, both of which yield oil, though one far more plentifully than the other. If there were mills and other devices of the sort, large amounts of oil could be obtained.*

*Cedar. A very sweet wood which makes fine timber.*

*Chests of drawers, fair and fine bedsteads, tables, desks, lutes, virginals, and many other things (which we have already made) could be fashioned from it and shipped to make up freight with other principal commodities that would yield profit.*

*Furs. All along the seacoast there are many otters, and if they could be caught by weirs and other traps, they would make us good profits.*

