

## Document-Based Question

**Directions:** Question 1 is based on the accompanying documents. The documents have been edited for the purpose of this exercise. You are advised to spend 15 minutes planning and 45 minutes writing your answer. Write your responses on the lined pages that follow the questions.

1. Early encounters between American Indians and European colonists led to a variety of relationships between the different cultures—historians call this a “collision of cultures.”

Explain how this “collision of cultures” and the exchange of commodities between the American Indians and Europeans influenced the origins and patterns of development of North American societies in the colonial period.

Limit your answer to the time period from 1495 to 1650.

### DOCUMENT 1

“It appears that . . . [the Indians] had been suddenly pounced upon and bound before they had learnt or understood anything about Pope or Church, or any one of the many things said in the Requirement; and that after being put in chains some one read the Requisition without knowing their language and without any interpreter, without either reader or Indians understanding what was read. And after this had been explained to them by some one understanding their language, they had no chance to reply, being immediately carried away prisoners, the Spaniards not failing to use the stick on those who did not go fast enough.”

—Description of scholar Gonzalo Fernandez de Oviedo, c. 1514

### DOCUMENT 2

“I will be no man’s tributary. I am greater than any prince upon earth. Your emperor may be a great prince; I do not doubt it, when I see that he has sent his subjects so far across the waters and I am willing to hold him as a brother. As for this Pope of whom you speak, he must be crazy to talk of giving away countries which do not belong to him. For my faith, I will not change it. Your own God, as you say, was put to death by the very men whom he created. But mine, my God still lives in the heavens, and looks down on his children.”

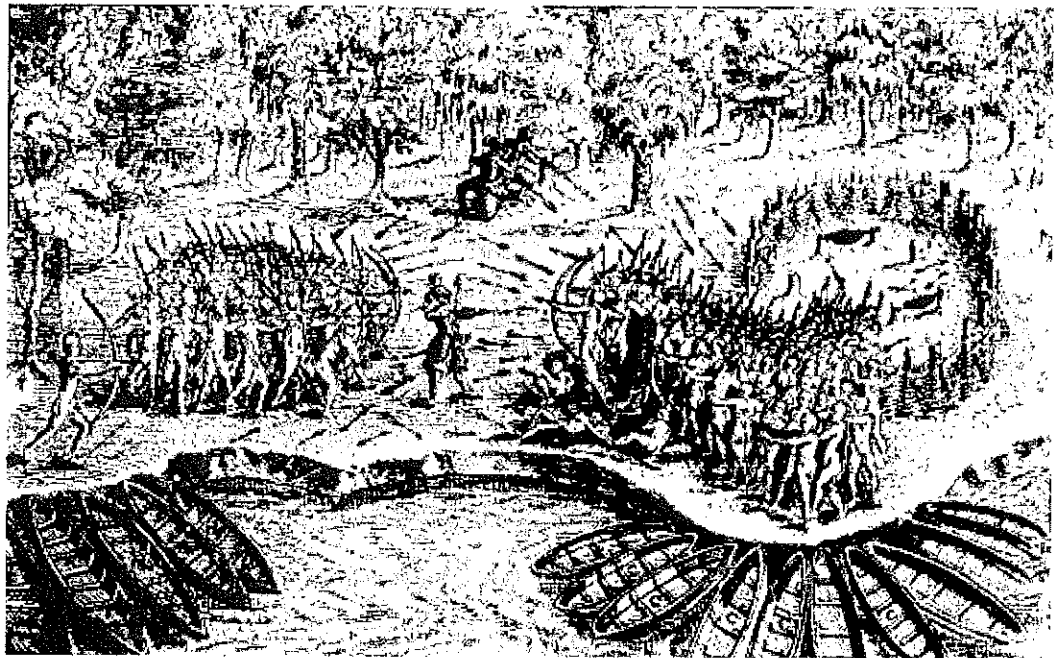
Atahualpa, ruler of the Inca, 1532

## DOCUMENT 3

“In this place were a number of savages who had come for traffic in furs, several of whom came to our vessels with their canoes, which are from eight to nine paces long, and about a pace or pace and a half broad in their middle, growing narrower toward the two ends. They are very apt to turn over, in case one does not understand managing them, and are made of birch bark, strengthened on the inside by little ribs of white cedar, very neatly arranged. They are so light that a man can easily carry one. Each can carry a weight equal to that of a pipe. When they want to go overland to a river where they have business, they carry them with them. From Chouacoet along the coast as far as the harbor of Tadoussac, they are all alike. After this agreement, I had some carpenters set to work to fit up a little barque [barge] of twelve or fourteen tons, for carrying all that was needed for our settlement . . .”

Samuel de Champlain, *The Foundation of Quebec*, 1608

## DOCUMENT 4



Engraving of the 1609 battle between Champlain and the Iroquois

**DOCUMENT 5**

“Why will you take by force what you may obtain by love? Why will you destroy us who supply you with food? What can you get by war? . . . We are unarmed, and willing to give you what you ask, if you come in a friendly manner . . .

“I am not so simple as to not to know it is better to eat good meat, sleep comfortably, live quietly with my women and children and laugh and be merry with the English, and being their friend, trade for their copper and hatchets, than to run away from them . . .

“Take away your guns and swords, the cause of all our jealousy, or you may die in the same manner.”

Powhatan, 1609, to English settlers in Jamestown

**DOCUMENT 6**

“This spring, also, those Indians that lived about their trading house there fell sick of the small pox, and died most miserably for a sorer disease cannot befall them; they fear it more than the plague; for usually they that have this disease have them in abundance . . .

William Bradford on Sickness among the Natives in History of Plimouth Plantation, 1633

**DOCUMENT 7**

“Worthy sr:

I received your loving letter, and am much provocked to express my affections towards you, but straitens of time forbids me; for my desire is to acquainte you with the Lords greate mercies towards us, in our prevailing against his & our enemies, that you may rejoice and praise his name with us . . .

Ther have been now slaine & taken, in all, aboute 700. The rest are dispersed, and the Indeans in all quarters so terrified as all their friends are afraid to receive them.

Yours assured,  
Jo. Winthrop  
The 28. of the 5. month, 1637.”