

**CHAPTER 4** Section 1 (pages 103-109)

# Spanish Conquests in the Americas

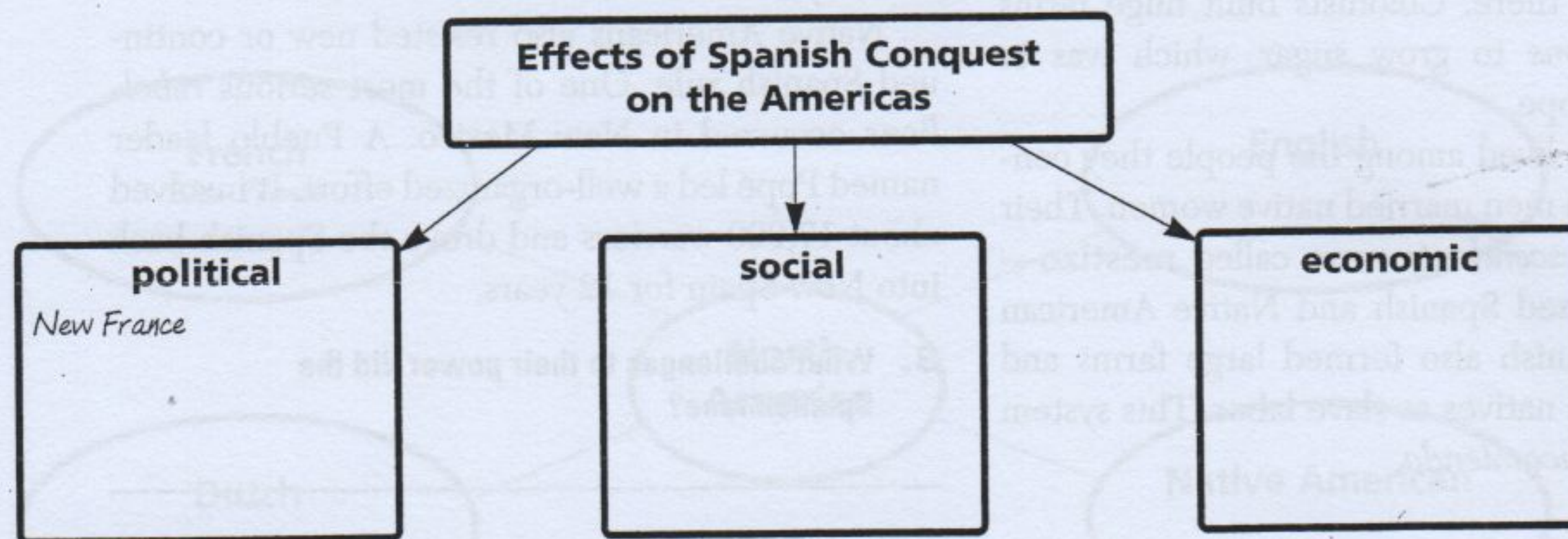
## BEFORE YOU READ

In the last chapter, you read about European exploration in the East.

In this section, you will study the Spanish and Portuguese exploration of the Americas.

## AS YOU READ

Use the web below to show some of the results of Spanish conquest.



## TERMS AND NAMES

**Christopher Columbus** Italian explorer who landed in the Americas  
**colony** Land controlled by another nation

**Hernando Cortés** Conquistador who defeated the Aztec

**conquistadors** Spanish explorers in the Americas

**Montezuma II** Leader of the Aztec at the time of Cortés's arrival

**Francisco Pizarro** Conquistador who defeated the Inca

**mestizo** Person with mixed Spanish and Native American blood

**encomienda** System of mining and farming using natives as slave labor

## Columbus's Voyage Paves the Way (pages 103-105)

*How did the voyages of Columbus change the Americas?*

In 1492, **Christopher Columbus**, an Italian sailor, led a voyage for Spain. He sailed west hoping to reach Asia. Instead, he landed in the Americas. Columbus thought that he had reached the East Indies in Asia. He misnamed the natives he met there, calling them Indians. He claimed the land for Spain. From then on, Spain began to create **colonies**. Colonies are lands controlled by another nation.

In 1500, a Portuguese explorer claimed Brazil. In 1501, Amerigo Vespucci explored the eastern coast of South America. He said that these lands were a new world. Soon after, a mapmaker showed the lands as a separate continent. He named them America after Vespucci.

Other voyages gave Europeans more knowledge about the world. Balboa reached the Pacific Ocean. Ferdinand Magellan sailed completely around the world.

1. Which voyages gave Europeans new knowledge of the world?

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