

New Worlds Met

Week 17 • Monday • When Two Worlds Came Together

This Week's Goals

This week you will learn:

- Who already lived in the Americas before explorers arrived
- What happened when the two worlds met
- How foods and animals were exchanged between lands
- Why we should hear everyone's side of the story

Reading Time

When European ships reached the Americas, the land was not empty. Millions of people already lived there! They had cities, farms, families, and long histories of their own. We call these first peoples **Native Americans** or Indigenous peoples.

The meeting of these two worlds is called an **encounter**. At first, some meetings were friendly — people traded goods and shared food. But many meetings became sad and unfair. Explorers took land that was not theirs, and new sicknesses hurt many Native people.

History has happy parts and hard parts. To understand it, we must listen to BOTH sides of the story. This week, we will.

Reading Questions

1. Who already lived in the Americas when explorers arrived?

2. What is an encounter?

3. What were some sad and unfair things that happened?

4. Why should we listen to both sides of a story?

Vocabulary Grid

Write what each word means in your own words.

encounter

Native Americans

Indigenous

trade

fair

unfair

True or False

Write T for true or F for false in each circle.

- ☐ The Americas were empty when explorers arrived.
- ☐ Native Americans had cities, farms, and long histories.
- ☐ An encounter is a meeting between peoples.
- ☐ Every meeting between the two worlds was friendly.
- ☐ New sicknesses hurt many Native people.
- ☐ We should listen to both sides of history.

Think About It

1. Imagine strangers arrived at your home and said they 'discovered' it. How would you feel?

2. What makes a meeting between two groups fair instead of unfair?

Draw the Encounter

Draw the moment two worlds met: a ship arriving at the shore, with Native people watching from the land. Both groups are wondering about each other.



Coming Up Next

Tomorrow: the great exchange! Foods, animals, and plants crossed the ocean in both directions — did you know there were no horses in the Americas, and no tomatoes in Italy, before this time?