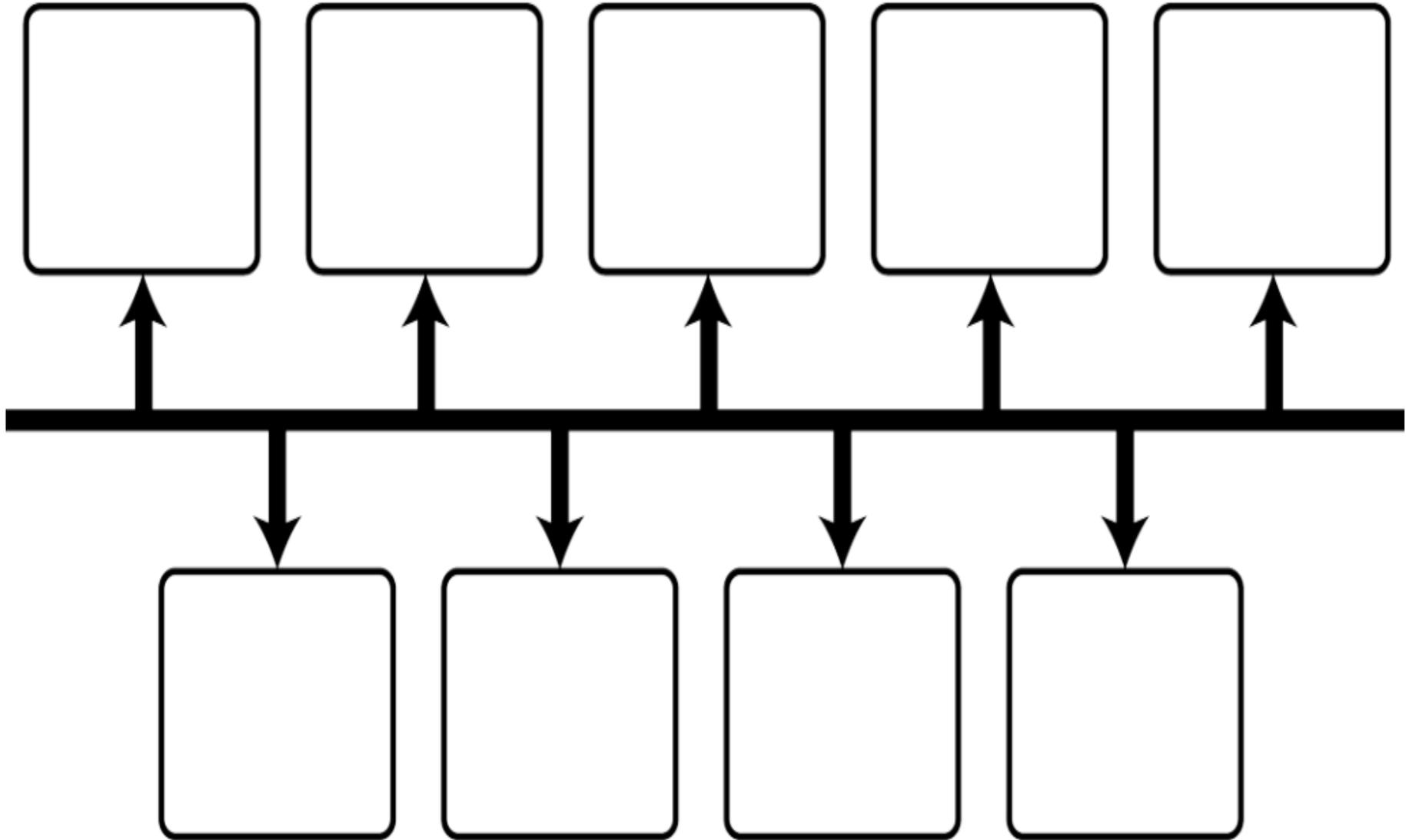


Name: _____ Date: _____ Heroes or Villains: Spanish Conquistadors in the Age of Exploration

Part I: Timeline

In the timeline below, detail what each of the following people did and what year(s) the event(s) happened: Vasco de Gama; Ferdinand and Isabella; Christopher Columbus; Amerigo Vespucci; Hernan Cortes; Pedro Alvarado; Francisco Pizarro; Ferdinand Magellan; Bartholomew de las Casas



Common Core Objective:

R.H.9-10.3: Analyze in detail a series of events described in a text; determine whether earlier events caused later ones or simply preceded them.

Part II: Discussion Questions

1. This article begins with Portuguese sailors looking for an all water route to the spice trade in the East Indies and ends with the Spanish Conquistadors decimating the native people of the Americas. In your mind, is this a story of heroes or villains? When looking back in time to an era very different from our own, is it fair for us to make judgments about past actions or events using the standards of our contemporary lives? How do you suppose these “conquerors” justified the terrible things they did to the native people? List some other well-known events in the past where one group of people thought it was right or reasonable to mistreat or kill a different group of people.

2. What do you think motivated the leaders of European countries to provide ships and supplies for new world exploration and colonization? What motivated the captains, sailors, and settlers to undertake these dangerous voyages across the Atlantic to settle in an unknown world? Are there any similar, dangerous adventures in the modern world that people are willing to risk their lives on? What would motivate you today to take a risk that had a high probability of personal injury or death?

3. In the 15th century, the efforts of these explorers were considered heroic. Today our negative opinion of them is influenced by the moral standards of our time. What makes a person a hero today? What are some instances in the modern world where people have done something everyone agrees is heroic? Who are your heroes and what makes them a hero in your eyes?

Civil Conversations

Rules for Civil Conversations

- (1) Read the text as if it were written by someone you really respected.
- (2) Everyone in the conversation group should participate in the conversation.
- (3) Listen carefully to what others are saying.
- (4) Ask clarifying questions if you do not understand a point raised.
- (5) Be respectful of what others are saying.
- (6) Refer to the text to support your ideas.
- (7) Focus on ideas, not personalities.

Civil Conversation Reading Guide

Reading: _____

Read through the entire selection without stopping to think about any particular section. Pay attention to your first impression as to what the reading is about. Look for the main points, and then go back and re-read it. Briefly answer the following questions.

- 1) This selection is about _____
- 2) The main points are:
 - a) _____
 - b) _____
 - c) _____
- 3) In the reading, I agree with _____
- 4) I disagree with _____
- 5) What are two questions about this reading that you think need to be discussed? (The best questions are ones that have no simple answers, ones that can use materials in the text as evidence.)

The next two questions should be answered after you hold your civil conversation.
- 6) What did you learn from the civil conversation? _____
- 7) What common ground did you find with other members of the group? _____