

# Chapter 3: The Coming of the Europeans

---

## *European explorers arrive in South Carolina*

**Objective:** To understand how and why the first European explorers came to South Carolina starting in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

**Standard:** *Indicator 8-1.3 — Early European Settlements*

### **Brainstorming Activity**

During the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, European nations raced to claim land on the newly discovered American continent. Ask your students to list reasons why Europeans were so anxious to explore and settle new areas. Here are a few of the possibilities:

- To satisfy a sense of adventure
- To search for treasure and wealth
- To find a better life
- To escape religious persecution
- To find new trade routes
- To exploit resources in a new area
- To expand the Empire
- To gain respect from other nations

### **Language Arts Integration**

Ask your students to imagine that they are among the first Europeans to arrive in South Carolina with hopes of establishing a settlement. Ask them to write a **diary entry** describing the work that lies ahead in building the settlement. Make sure that your students list a few of the challenges that they might have to face (*i.e. Native Americans, harsh weather, disputes among settlers, etc.*).

### **Working with a Timeline**

Below is a timeline that hasn't been filled out. Help your students **create a timeline** by marking the key accomplishments in the early exploration and settlement of America and South Carolina. The timeline should cover the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The first entry in the below timeline might be Christopher Columbus's discovery of America in 1492. The next several entries should detail the French and Spanish explorations and attempted settlements of South Carolina.

The final entry in the below timeline might be the British landing at Albemarle Point, which became first permanent settlement in South Carolina (*the settlers here later relocated a few miles and created the city of Charleston*).

**Timeline:**

---

1490                      1520                      1550                      1580                      1610                      1640                      1670