United States History I Honors
Summer 2019 Assignment

Complete entire activity and return to your United States History I Honors teacher at the first class meeting of the 2019-2020 school year.

NAME_________________________________________________________________________DATE_______________

History Teacher _____________________________________________________________________________________
Use any resources available to complete the following questions

Why did European Nations explore and colonize the Americas from the 15th-16th century?
A_________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________
B_________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________
C_________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________

How did European colonization affect European peoples?
A_________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________
B_________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________

Describe pre-Columbian America?
A_________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________
B_________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________

How did European colonization affect the New World (native) peoples?
A_________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________
B_________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________
I. The Doctrine of Discovery

The Doctrine of Discovery, The Papal Bull “Inter Caetera,” issued by Pope Alexander VI on May 4, 1493, played a central role in the Spanish conquest of the New World. The document supported Spain’s strategy to ensure its exclusive right to the lands discovered by Columbus the previous year. It established a demarcation line one hundred leagues west of the Azores and Cape Verde Islands and assigned Spain the exclusive right to acquire territorial possessions and to trade in all lands west of that line. All others were forbidden to approach the lands west of the line without special license from the rulers of Spain. This effectively gave Spain a monopoly on the lands in the New World. “Alexander, bishop, servant of the servants of God, to the illustrious sovereigns, our very dear son in Christ, Ferdinand, king, and our very dear daughter in Christ, Isabella, queen of Castile, Leon, Aragon, Sicily, and Granada, health and apostolic benediction. Among other works well pleasing to the Divine Majesty and cherished of our heart, this assuredly ranks highest, that in our times especially the Catholic faith and the Christian religion be exalted and everywhere increased and spread, that the health of souls be cared for and that barbarous nations be overthrown and brought to the faith itself. . . We have indeed learned that you, who for a long time had intended to seek out and discover certain lands and islands remote and unknown and not hitherto discovered by others, to the end that you might bring to the worship of our Redeemer and the profession of the Catholic faith their residents and inhabitants . . . chose our beloved son, Christopher Columbus, whom you furnished with ships and men equipped for like designs, not without the greatest hardships, dangers, and expenses, to make diligent quest for these remote and unknown countries through the sea, where hitherto no one had sailed; and they at length, with divine aid and with the utmost diligence sailing in the ocean sea . . . discovered certain very remote islands and even mainlands, that hitherto had not been discovered by others; and therein dwell very many peoples. 

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Should anyone presume to attempt this, be it known to him that he will incur the wrath of Almighty God and of the blessed apostles Peter and Paul. Given at Rome, at St. Peter’s, in the year of the incarnation of our Lord one thousand four hundred and ninety-three, the fourth of May, and the first year of our pontificate.”
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Gratis by order of our most holy lord, the pope.”

**Historical Context**
What date(s), geographic location(s) and historical period are these events taking place in?

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**Audience**
• For whom was the source created? Who is meant to read this document?

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**Purpose**
• WHY or FOR WHAT REASON was the source produced at the time it was produced? What was the author’s GOAL?

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What connection could be made between the motives of early European explorers and motives of many waves of people who have since immigrated to the United States during the past two hundred years?

What connections could be made between Pope Alexander VI’s Document of discovery and the United States government’s current policies on immigration and international trade?