The Age of Exploration

Part 5- The Search for Wealth

What led the Spanish to explore the lands of what is now modern-day United States?

They were in search of gold. Cabeza de Vaca returned from a journey in which he said Indians told him of rich cities.

Describe the accomplishments/actions of each of the following:

Juan Ponce de Leon-

Named Florida when searching for the Fountain of Youth and gold.

Cabeza de Vaca-

One of only 4 survivors of the Narvaez expedition. Reported that Indians told of rich cities.

Estevanico-

One of only 4 survivors of the Narvaez expedition. Learned many American Indian languages and was killed on a future expedition.

Francisco Vasquez de Coronado-

Led an expedition across the Great Plains into the center of modern-day U.S.

Hernando de Soto-

Led an expedition throughout the southeastern U.S. becoming the first European to see the Mississippi River.

Juan Rodriquez Cabrillo-

Explored along the west coast of California.

Juan de Onate-

Took over an Indian town and renamed it San Juan.

Even though these explorations didn’t accomplish the goal of finding vast riches, what did they accomplish? The Spanish increased their knowledge of the geography of North America.