**European Colonization of the Americas Vocabulary**

1. Atlantic Circuit- Commonly known as the “triangular trade,” the term refers to the patterns of trade and exchange between Africa, Europe, and the Americas. European nations traded weapons and other manufactured goods to African nations, which supplied labor for New World plantations in the form of slaves, and the Americas in turn supplied raw materials and cash crops (such as sugar and tobacco) to Europe.

2. Bartolomé de Las Casas- (1474-1566) first bishop of Chiapas, in Southern Mexico. He devoted most of his life to protecting Amerindian peoples from exploitation. His major achievement was the New Laws of 1542, which eliminated the ability of Spanish settlers to compel Amerindians to labor for them.

3. Potosí- Located in Bolivia, one of the richest silver mining centers and most populous cities in colonial Spanish America.

4. Encomienda- A grant of authority over a population of Amerindians in the Spanish colonies. It provided the grant holder with a supply of cheap labor and periodic payments of goods by the Amerindians. It obliged the grant holder to Christianize the Amerindians.

5. Creoles- In colonial Spanish America, term used to describe someone of European dissent born in the New World. Elsewhere in the Americas, the term is used to describe all non-native peoples (part of Spanish casta system)

6. Mestizo- The term used by Spanish authorities to describe someone of mixed Amerindian and European descent (part of Spanish casta system)

7. Mulatto- The term used in Spanish and Portuguese colonies to describe someone of mixed African and European descent (part of Spanish casta system)

8. Indentured servant- A migrant to British colonies in the Americas who paid for passage by agreeing to work for a set term ranging from 4 to 7 years.

9. House of Burgesses- Elected assembly in colonial Virginia, created in 1618.

10. Pilgrims- Group of English Protestant dissenters who established Plymouth colony in Massachusetts in 1620 to seek religious freedom after having lived briefly in the Netherlands.

11. Puritans- English Protestant dissenters who believed that God predestined souls to heaven or hell before birth. They founded Massachusetts Bay colony in 1629.

12. Iroquois Confederacy- An alliance of five northeastern Amerindian peoples that made decisions on military and diplomatic issues through a council of representatives. Allied first with the Dutch and later with the English, the confederacy dominated the area from Western New England to the Great Lakes.

13. New France- French colony in North America, with a capital in Quebec, founded in 1608. It fell to the British in 1763 after Seven Years War (French and Indian War).

14. Coureurs de bois- French fur traders, many of mixed Amerindian Heritage, who lived among and often married with Amerindian peoples of north America.

15. Tupac Amaru II- Member of Inca aristocrats, who led a rebellion against Spanish authorities in Peru in 1780 to 1781. He was captured and executed with wife and other members of his family.

16. Royal African Company- A trading Company chartered by the English government in 1672 to conduct its merchants' trade on the Atlantic coast of Africa.

17. Maroon- A slave who ran away from his or her master. Often a member of a community of runaway slaves in the west Indies and South America.

18. Dutch West India Company- (1621-1794) trading Company chartered by the Dutch government to conduct its merchants' traded in the Americas and Africa.

19. Plantocracy- In the West Indian colonies, the rich men who owned most of the slaves and most of the land, especially in the 18th century.

20. Manumission- A grant of legal freedom to an individual slave.

21. Capitalism- The economic system of large financial institutions such as banks, stock exchanges, and investment companies, that first developed in the early modern Europe. Commercial capitalism, the trading system of the early modern economy, is often distinguished from industrial capitalism, the system based on machine production.

22. Mercantilism- European government policies of the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries designed to promote overseas trade between the country and its colonies and accumulate precious metals by requiring colonies to trade only with their motherland country. The British system was defined by the navigation and the French system by laws known as the Exclusif.

23. Middle Passage- Part of the Atlantic circuit involving the transportation of enslaved Africans across the Atlantic to the Americas.

24. Seasoning- An often difficult period of adjustment to new climates, disease environments, and work routines, such as that experienced by slaves newly arrived in the Americas. Slave traders and slaveowners adopted the term during the transatlantic slave trade when newly arrived slaves died at high rates in the years following disembarkation.

25. Driver- A privileged male slave whose job was to ensure that a slave gang did not work on a plantation.

26. Chartered Company- an association with investors or shareholders that is incorporated and granted rights (often exclusive rights) by royal charter (or similar instrument of government) for the purpose of trade, exploration, and/or colonization.