

**Introduction:** This unit explores the early history of the United States, from the first European explorations to the establishment of the first colonies. It covers the period from 1492 to 1700.

**Objectives:**

- Understand the early European explorations of North America.
- Identify the major colonial powers and their territories.
- Explain the reasons for European colonization.



**Key Dates:**

- 1492: Christopher Columbus discovers North America.
- 1607: First English colony established in Jamestown.
- 1620: Pilgrims arrive in Plymouth.

**Key Figures:**

- Christopher Columbus
- John Smith
- William Bradford

**Key Concepts:**

- Colonization
- Exploration
- Settlement

**Conclusion:** The early history of the United States is a story of exploration, settlement, and the struggle for independence. It sets the stage for the development of the nation as we know it today.