

A Change of Attitude?

Comparing and Contrasting the Requerimiento and
the New Laws of the Indies, 1542



Act It Out! ~ The Requerimiento

Your teacher will divide you into three groups.

Each group has a part!

Here's the background:

In 1540, Francisco Vasquez de Coronado came into the Rio Grande valley with about 300 Europeans and between 1000-2000 Native American allies from Mexico. They needed food and shelter.



Group One:

Spanish Conquistadors

(and other Europeans who accompanied them)

They were armed with swords, muskets, pikes, crossbows, horses, small cannon.

Spaniards also used Native American armor and weapons.



Group Two:

Indios Amigos

Native Americans from Mexico accompanied and supported the Spanish in their conquest.

They were Aztecs and other Native American tribes from Mexico.

They were armed with obsidian war clubs, spears, leather shields and armor.



Group Three: Tiguex Pueblos

Along the Rio Grande,
there were twelve
agricultural villages.

The pueblo people
were greatly
outnumbered by
Coronado's army.

They were armed with
bows and arrows,
spears, stone clubs.



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Act One!

SPANIARDS: well armed, approach the pueblo. (holding scroll)

INDIOS AMIGO: also well armed, back them up. (wave weapons)

PUEBLOS watch from their rooftops.
Three Pueblos come down to meet the intruders.



Act Two!

SPANIARDS approach.
Spokesman reads the
Requerimiento in Spanish.



Requerimiento - Read loudly!

**Si no haces lo que te pido , les
aseguro que con la ayuda de
Dios , voy a atacar
poderosamente. Voy a hacer la
guerra contra ti en todas partes
y en todo lo que pueda!**

Act Three!

INDIOS AMIGOS follow
Spanish and read their
“translation” to the
Pueblo people:



Indios Amigos – “Translation”

Diese Spanier haben Blitz und Donner-Sticks! Ihre Pferde und Hunde werden dich in Stücke reißen. Wenn Sie nicht auf sie hören, werden sie dich töten und Sklaven der Frauen und Kinder zu machen!

Act Four!

Two Pueblos come down
and read their part.

One draws a line of corn
meal in the sand in front of
the Spaniards.



Pueblo Response

- Et hic manere et cibabo te frumentum et fabam cucurbitae . Sed quia cum religione , et ad eam non transeat hac civitate .

Is There a Problem Here?



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Translate!



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Spokesmen from each group, read the English translation of what you said in the Act It Out.

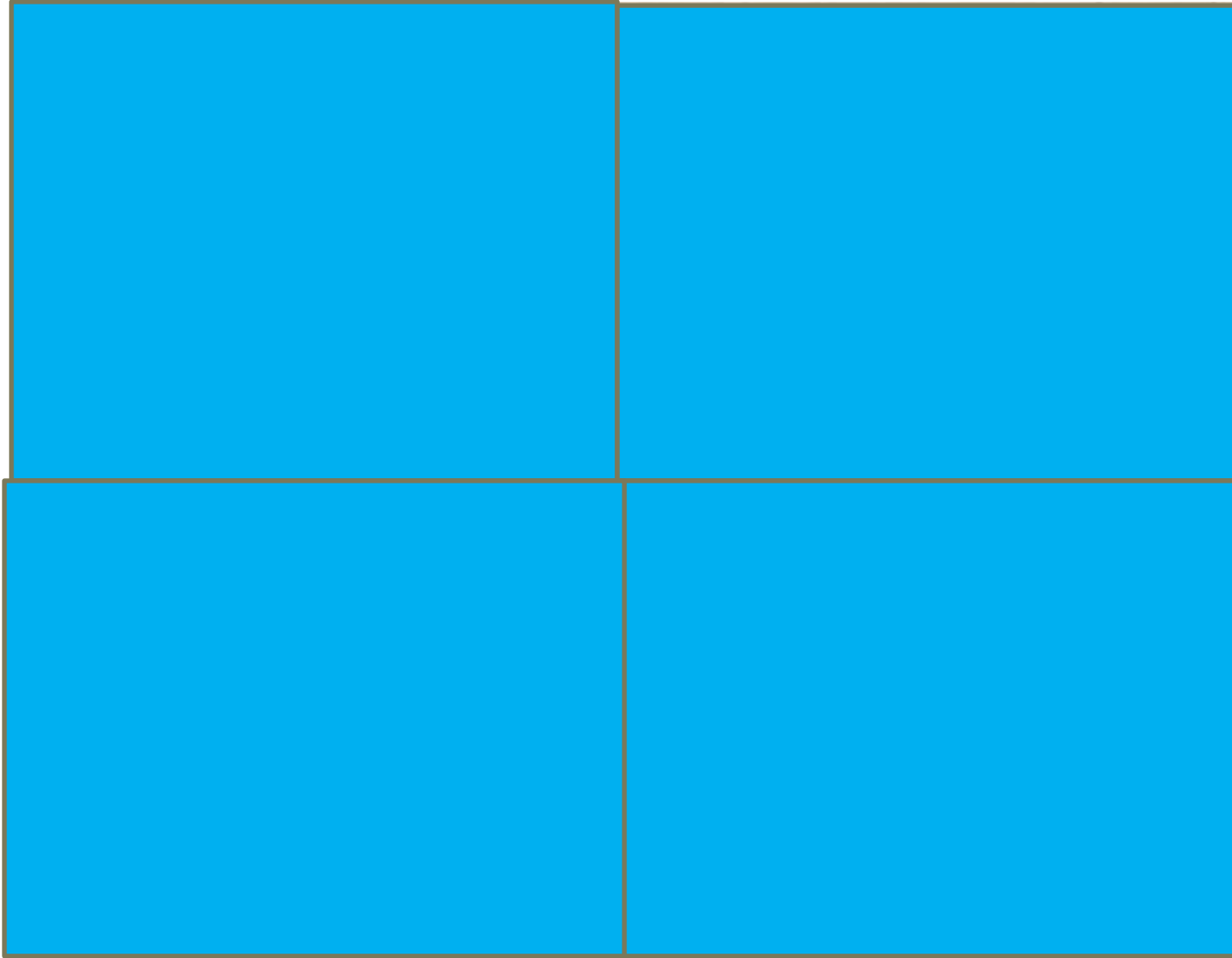
If people understood what you said, do you think that they might have acted differently?

What They Really Said:

Spaniards	Indios Amigos	Pueblos
If you do not do what I ask, I assure you that with the help of God, I will attack you mightily. I will make war against you everywhere and in every way I can.	These Spaniards have lightning and thunder sticks! Their horses and dogs will tear you to pieces. If you do not listen to them, they will kill you and make slaves of your wives and children!	You can stay here, and we will feed you with corn, squash and beans. But as we are having a religious ceremony, you cannot cross this line and come into our town.



The Result



The New Laws of the Indies, 1542

- King Charles I of Spain was concerned about the reports of abusive treatment of Native Americans.
- He wrote a new set of laws that would apply to all Spanish colonies.



Read “The New Laws”

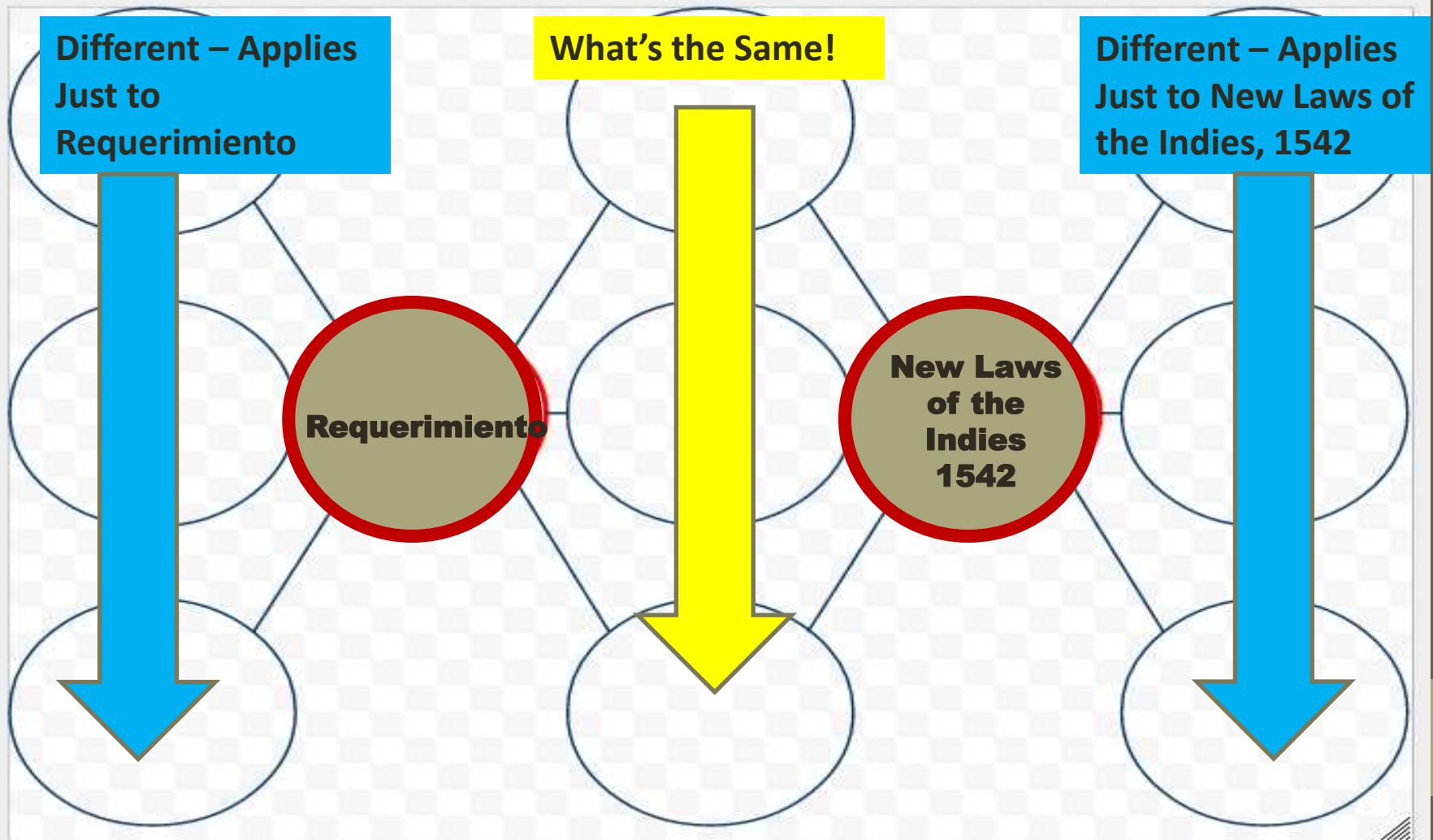
- With a partner, read the excerpts from “The New Laws of the Indies, 1542,” found in the left column of your handout.
- Answer the questions in the right column. Find and highlight the supporting text in the primary source.
- Return to the introductory paragraph. Reread it to answer the essential question: Did the New Laws of 1542 indicate a change of attitude by the Spanish king towards Native Americans?



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MARTIN

Compare the Two Documents!



Four Corner Discussion

Essential Question: Did the New Laws of 1542 indicate a change of attitude by the Spanish king towards Native Americans?



**Strongly
Disagree**

**Strongly
Agree**

- Choose a position!
- Discuss & write a position statement
- Share and defend
- Reflect

**Somewhat
Disagree**

**Somewhat
Agree**

Write a Letter to the King!



- Tell King Charles I of Spain how you feel about the New Laws of the Indies, 1542.
- Examine the rubric carefully before you begin writing!

Resources

Curley, Cara. By permission of the artist, cartoon images of conquistadors and Aztecs.

"Jal-ixco" by unknown Aztec scribes - Licensed under Public domain
via Wikimedia Commons.

http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/Exhibits/nativeamericans/lg25_2.html

James, Betsy. By permission of the artist, drawings of Kuaua Pueblo and the Tiwa people.

Martin, Phillip. – By permission of the artist, free educational clip art
of archaeologists, Native Americans, and conquistador.

"New Laws of the Indies, 1542." *From The New Laws of the Indies, ed.
Henry Stevens (London: The Chiswick Press, 1893), pp. iii-xvii, passim.*

<http://legacy.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1542newlawsindies.asp>