

PRESENTER'S NOTES

1. 1540: Three Worlds Collide The Tiguex War in the Rio Grande Valley

Tiguex is pronounced “Tea-Wesh” and refers to the Tiwa speaking pueblos of the middle Rio Grande Valley. The first war between Native Americans and Europeans occurred here between the Tiwa-speaking pueblos and the Spanish expedition led by Francisco Vasquez de Coronado.

2. Coronado Historic Site

Located on the west bank of the Rio Grande just north of Hwy 550, Coronado Historic Site offers a beautiful museum, trails, and a docent-led tour through the ancient village of Kuaua. The admission for adults (as of 2017) is \$5, with free days on the first Sunday of the month for New Mexico residents. Seniors sixty years of age and older are free on Wednesdays with a New Mexico ID. A FamilyPass can be checked out from any New Mexico public library which will allow your family of six adults (children are always free) admission to museums and state historic sites for no charge.

3. Map to Coronado Historic Site

Coronado Historic Site is located at 485 Kuaua Road. The turn is west of the Rio Grande on the north side, just before the Warrior gas station. A campground is located at the entryway, but the museum and ancient village are located about a half-mile north.

4. Coronado Historic Site

The intent of the excavation was to find the campground where Francisco Vasquez de Coronado, along with a party of 289 Europeans and uncounted Spanish servants, slaves, and Native Americans, spent the winters of 1540 and 1541. The sites in Bernalillo, NM -- Kuaua Pueblo and its sister pueblo which was dubbed Santiago, were thought to be the location of the camp sites. In the 1930's, WPA money was used to fund the excavation. Original plans included a 40' statue of Coronado overlooking the Rio Grande and a recreated pueblo, but the end of the WPA funding brought a new plan, which was to create a footprint of the ruins instead.

5. Kuaua – 1660 AD

This computer simulation shows the size and structure of Kuaua at its peak population. The pueblo had about 900 first floor rooms and six kivas. The second and third story adobe rooms eroded to cover and protect the bottom story, which was primary storage of food supplies.

6. Archaeology at LA 187

Another village, called Santiago by the Spanish, is thought to have been the campsite of the Coronado expedition. It was located about two miles south of Kuaua. Both sites were excavated by WPA workers, but the emphasis was put on Kuaua because Edgar Lee Hewett, noted archaeologist who was ultimately in charge of this project, favored the Bernalillo location.

7. Valentine's Day Surprise - The Painted Kiva

On February 14, 1934, archaeologists discovered an archaeological treasure – a painted kiva. With much effort, the walls were excavated and the fresco paintings in the 82 layers of plaster were preserved. Fourteen of these images are located onsite at Coronado today.

8. 500 Year Old Paintings!

The Painted Kiva now open for visitors to see at Coronado is a replica, and the paintings inside were done by Zia painter Ma Pa We, also known as Velino Shije Herrera. It is likely that other WPA artists also assisted. Our research team is currently working to access records to identify other artists.

9. The Pueblo of Kuaua

Wooden vigas were removed long ago to use in other structures, so the ruins filled in with sand which protected the contents. The oldest kivas were round, but as the pueblo grew northward, square kivas were built. Later kivas were built into the room blocks to hide ceremonies from the Spanish.

10. Ancient Pueblo Homes

Living quarters faced into the plaza, with the back rooms and those on the first floor, which had no sunlight, used for storage of food, tools, etc. No doors on the outside of the pueblo meant that the pueblo was protected from invaders.

11. An Agricultural Economy

Corn, beans, squash, amaranth, and melons were among the crops planted by middle Rio Grande pueblos. Turkeys were domesticated more for feathers than meat. Evidence shows that these people ate deer,

PRESENTER'S NOTES

antelope, rabbits, birds, elk, buffalo, as well as fish and rodents. Native plants were gathered for food as well as medicinal plants and herbs. Cotton was planted and harvested, spun into yarn and woven into clothing. Furs and leather from animals they hunted were also used. Turkey feathers or rabbit fur were twisted around yucca cordage and then woven into warm blankets. Weaving was traditionally done by the men in the kivas.

12. The Coronado Expedition

The Coronado Expedition started in 1540, led by Captain General Francisco Vasquez de Coronado. He was a 28 year old nobleman who financed much of the expedition himself along with the Viceroy of Spain, Antonio de Mendoza. His goal was to find a large population base capable of producing goods to export to Spain. They followed the lead of Fray Marcos de Niza, who had been north before with Esteban. Esteban, a Moorish slave, was one of the only survivors to have traveled across what is now the Southern United States.

The voyage included over 300 Europeans and somewhere between 1,000- 3,000 Nahuatl speaking Mesoamericans. Because they did not have accurate maps of the southwest yet, they were separated from most of their supplies, which were on ships that came along the Gulf of California. By the time the Coronado expedition reached the area which is now New Mexico, they were becoming desperate to find food, warm clothing, and a safe place to spend the winter.

13. Who Accompanied Coronado?

Primary sources called Codex were basically illustrated histories put together by the Mesoamericans. In these histories, they tell about their warriors leaving in 1540 to accompany the Coronado expedition. The Spanish did not give Mexican warriors very much credit for their contribution, but in a very real sense, they did not work as porters and servants, but as a mercenary army under the control of the Spanish. The impact of having another 1000-3000 mouths to feed would be huge, and had to have drained the available resources in the Rio Grande pueblos.

14. Aztec Jaguar Warrior

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15. What Worked in Mexico City ...

The Spanish were famous for their quest for the Seven Cities of Gold (or Cibola), but in reality, they were attempting to recreate another prosperous marketplace like the one in Mexico City to produce goods that could be exported and sold in Europe. In order to make this work, a huge population base was necessary. The Spanish were to discover that there was no area in New Spain which could support the necessary population density to do this.

16. Setting Out for Cibola: The Seven Cities of Gold

This expedition was funded entirely out of the pockets of investors like Francisco Vasquez de Coronado and Viceroy Antonio Mendoza. Others who came brought their own supplies, weapons, horses and tools. The Spanish crown did not financially back this venture, though they would have gained from it if it had been successful. It is important to remember that the Spanish who came along were, for the most part, not professional military men, but entrepreneurs who had dreams of building kingdoms of wealth in the north. This is an important piece of the story, because when the expedition was not successful, they lost their investments. The trial of Coronado was in part due to their anger.

17. Disappointment at Cibola

Fray Marcos de Niza was a Franciscan friar who was sent north in 1539 to explore what is now the Southwestern United States. He was guided by Esteban, an enslaved Moor who had traveled the southern United States with Cabeza de Vaca. Esteban is thought to have died in a conflict at Cibola, and Fray Marcos probably only saw Cibola from a distance if at all, but in his report, *Descubrimiento de las siete ciudades*, he described it as comparable to Mexico City. This was a major motivator for the Coronado expedition, which left the next year.

18. Moving East Toward the Rio Grande: The Province of Tiguex

PRESENTER'S NOTES

Tiguex was the name given by the Spanish to the 12-15 Tiwa speaking pueblos along the middle Rio Grande valley. They were located between modern-day Bernalillo, to the north, and Isleta Pueblo, to the south. Coronado had been told by other Native American tribes that this valley would have ample resources to sustain them through the winter.

19. Coronado Moves In For the Winter

Spanish primary sources state that the pueblos had a great deal of corn stockpiled. The Spanish moved into a pueblo near Coronado Historic Site in Bernalillo. Parties to demand tribute in the form of food and clothing were sent out to the other Tiwa pueblos. In the beginning, they were greeted with hospitality. As time passed, the tribute demanded drained Pueblo stockpiles to the extent that they would not be able to feed and clothe their own people through the winter.

20. The Tiguex War

When a Spanish soldier was identified as having attacked and raped the wife of a Pueblo man, nothing was done. According to eyewitness accounts, that provoked the attack of the Tiwa against the Spanish. Recognizing the advantage that horses gave the Spanish, they struck the herd by killing the guard and according to primary sources, herding the horses into the pueblo of Arenal, where the men were shooting arrows down at them from the rooftops around the plaza. Spanish accounts tell that Coronado became furious and sent men in to retaliate by burning the pueblo. Accounts vary about whether the men were hung or burned. This began the Tiguex War.

21. Unsung Heroes

The location of this pueblo is still the subject of much conversation. The description of it given by the Spanish tells us that it was located to the north, obviously near the river, and on a high bluff. When the Pueblos ran out of fresh water, they made one desperate rush for the Rio Grande. The leader Xauian was probably killed in this battle, as he does not appear in Spanish records after that time.

22. Why Did the Spanish Win? - No text

23. Why Did The Spanish Win?

This image is from the Codex Mendoza, an illustrated history that was compiled by Mesoamericans. In this picture, Viceroy Mendoza is leading Tlaxcalan warriors bearing macuahuitls (obsidian edged war clubs) against a tribe of Mesoamericans who lived in what is now northern Mexico. It shows the advantage that the Spanish – Aztec alliance would have against other tribes, like the Pueblos of the American Southwest.

24. Spanish Arms and Armor

Armor of the time would have included chain mail, helmets and armor pieces. Most of the men would have had armor vests made of either quilted cotton or leather – which makes sense, as they would be traveling through the desert sun to reach the Rio Grande valley. The muster rolls list every weapon that was carried by the Europeans, and although there were swords, crossbows, and arquebus (black powder muskets), they also carried weapons used by the Mesoamericans. Crossbow bolts from the Coronado expedition are easily identified because in 1540, they were made of copper mined in Mexico. After the Coronado expedition, crossbows were not used in New Spain.

25. “Armas de la Tierra”

Most of the Spanish on the muster list reported some armor or metal weapons, but the most common form of armor or weapons was “arms and armor of the land,” meaning that the Spanish carried some of the same weapons and armor that their Aztec comrades used. The macuahuitl is the obsidian-edged war club or sword that is being used in this picture. According to Cortes, who led the Spanish against the Aztecs in the conquest of Mexico City, the macuahuitl was so sharp that it could decapitate a horse. The shields carried by the Aztecs were probably commonly used by Europeans as well. The tepoztopilli was an obsidian edged lance which was carried even by servants and porters, so that when time came for battle, everyone was armed.

26. The Aftermath

Coronado was tried in Mexico City for cruelty to Native Americans on his expedition. Found “guilty,” Coronado received no real punishment and went on to hold posts as a bureaucrat in Mexico. He died young, probably due to injuries sustained in New Spain.

27. What's the Impact? The Columbian Exchange

PRESENTER'S NOTES

The Columbian Exchange, so-called because the arrival of Columbus to the New World in 1492 was the first documented voyage which returned to the Old World, created a stream of ships crossing the Atlantic between the Old World and the New on a regular basis. The biological exchange that incurred was life changing for all. Before the Columbian Exchange, “there were no oranges in Florida, no bananas in Ecuador, no paprika in Hungary, no potatoes in Ireland, no coffee in Colombia, no pineapples in Hawaii, no rubber trees in Africa, no chili peppers in Thailand, no tomatoes in Italy, and no chocolate in Switzerland.”

28. **Exchanges of Food and Disease** - No text

29. **The Spanish Introduced New Technology** - No text

30. **Christianity**

The role of the Catholic church in colonization and settlement of the New World was extremely significant. Franciscan missionaries came to the Rio Grande Valley with the very first expeditions, and accompanied every group that followed. This led to the establishment of churches, including forced acceptance of Christianity and forced labor by the Pueblos.

31. **And More – DNA!** No text

32. **Art and Photo Credits** – No text