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American History

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Francisco Coronado Report

# Spanish explorer Francisco Vaquez de Coronado was born in Spain during 1510 and died in Mexico City September 22, 1554, from an infectious disease. He is known for his many expeditions and conquest of New Spain.

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# Vaquez de Coronado was governor of Nueva Galicia, it was located northwest of Mexico. Friar Macos de Niza told him about a city made of gold,called the Seven Golden Cities of Cibola. In 1540, Coronado assembled a major Spanish expedition made up of two components. One being a ship to carry most of the supplies and the second being a large group of men and slaves to travel by land up Mexico’s west coast and into the southern part of the United States.

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# Coronado and his men travel up the Little Colorado River and followed the Zuni River drainage into the City of Cibola, west of present day New Mexico. Cibola was a disappointment, looked nothing like the city of gold that Friar Marcos had described. It was a just a complex of simple pueblos of Zuni Indians. Coronado’s men were starving and demanded entrance and food for trade. When the Zuni denied them, they look over by force and took what they needed. When other villages did not deny entrance, they had conqured Cibola.

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# In winter of 1540-1541, Coronado heard of another city, full of gold and riches, called Quivira. Coronado and his men traveled hundreds of miles to Quivira, which is in present day Kansas. Once again, he was disappointed there was no gold.

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# In 1542 Coronado was ordered to return back to central New Spain so his men could help The Mixton Rebellion. Although his expedition was a failure, he did discover the Grand Canyon and the Colorado River. In 1544, he was removed as governor for corruption and negligence.