

# Timeline Challenge

## Europe Enters the Modern Age

**1492**

### Columbus Reaches the Americas

Christopher Columbus sails from Spain and reaches the Americas when he lands in the West Indies.



**1519–1532**

### Spanish Conquer "New Spain"

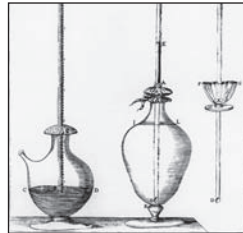
Spanish conquistadors Cortés (below) and Pizarro conquer the Aztec and Inca empires. Wealth from the Americas helps Spain become one of the world's richest and most powerful countries.



**1500s–1700s**

### Scientific Revolution

New thinking leads to the scientific method and tools such as the microscope that allow rapid advances in understanding nature.



**1600s–1700s**

### Enlightenment

Enlightenment salons in Europe host thinkers who exchange and debate ideas about government and individual rights.



**1687**

### Newton's Scientific Laws

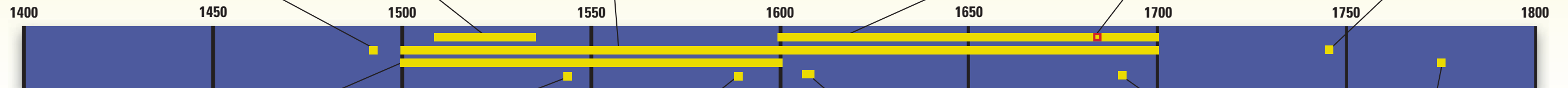
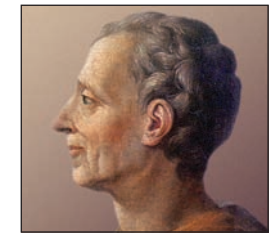
Isaac Newton's laws of gravity and of motion provide an explanation of earlier scientific observations.



**1748**

### Montesquieu's Separation of Powers

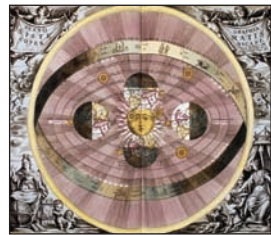
Baron de Montesquieu argues that government powers should be divided among three branches of government.



**1500s**

### Asian Trade

Portuguese control of the Indian Ocean breaks the Muslim and Italian hold on Asian trade, lowering the price of goods, such as spices and silk, for Europeans.



**1543**

### Copernicus's Heliocentric Theory

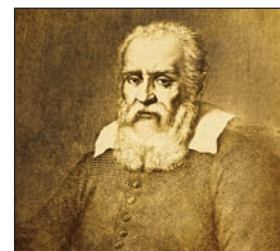
The heliocentric theory of the universe is published by Nicolaus Copernicus, changing scientific opinion about Earth as the center of the universe.



**1588**

### Spanish Armada Defeated

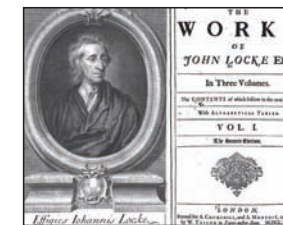
The defeat of the Spanish Armada by England leads to declining Spanish power in Europe and abroad.



**1609–1610**

### Galileo's Discoveries

Galileo Galilei uses a telescope to make important astronomical discoveries that support the heliocentric theory, but conflict with Catholic Church teachings.



**1690**

### Locke's Natural Rights

John Locke argues that the purpose of government is to protect people's natural rights; if government fails to do so, the people can overthrow it.



**1775**

### American Revolution Begins

Revolutions in the United States, and later in France in 1789, are fueled in part by Enlightenment ideas of liberty, natural rights, and equality.