

## ***Hernando de Soto and his journey through America***

*Things to ponder (think about) as you read these 4 excerpts from men on De Soto's Expedition.*

*What are De Soto and his men doing or not doing?*

*How does De Soto describe himself to American Indians?*

*What can you infer about how American Indian tribes during this time period (1500's)?*

*Who are the "Christians?"*

### **Excerpt 1**

"So soon as the people were come to land, the camp was pitched on the seaside near the bay, which goes up close to the town. Presently the Captain-General, Vasco Porcallo, taking seven horsemen with him, [went] up the country half a league about and discovered six Indians who tried to resist him with arrows, the weapons they are accustomed to use. The horsemen killed two and the four others escaped, the country being obstructed by bushes and ponds in which the horses bogged and fell with their riders, of weakness from the voyage. At night the Governor, with a hundred men in the pinnaces, came upon a deserted town; for, so soon as the Christians [Spaniards] appeared in sight of land, they were descried [seen from the distance by the Indians], and all along on the coast many smokes [fires] were seen to rise which the Indians make to warn one another. . . . "

Fidalgo of Elvas

Florida, May 1539

### **Excerpt 2**

"The Governor [DeSoto] responded that he greatly thanked him [Cacique Indian] for his good will, as much so as though he had given him a great treasure. He told him that he was the child of the Sun, coming from its abode, and that he was going about the country seeking for the greatest prince there and the richest region. The Cacique stated that farther on was a great lord whose territory was called Ocute."

Fidalgo of Elvas

Georgia 1539

### **Excerpt 3**

"When Johan de Anasco came they took out this emerald and it was glass, and after it many beads of glass and rosaries with their crosses. They also found Biscayan axes of iron from which they recognized that they were in the government or territory where the lawyer Lucas Vazquez de Ayllon came to his ruin. They took away from there some two hundred pounds or pearls; and when the women chief saw that the Christians set much store by them, she said: "Do you hold that of much amount? Go to Talimeco, my village, and you will find so many that your horses cannot carry them."

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### **Excerpt 4**

...they entered the land of Quarqui, and passed through small villages; and the next day, Friday, St. John's day, they came to the village of the Lord Casqui, who gave food and clothing to the army. It was Saturday when....There the Christians planted the cross on a mound, and they received it and adored it with much devotion, and the blind and lame came to seek to be healed. Their faith...would have surpassed that of the conquerors if they had been taught...."

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Correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation 10pts  
Address Content De Soto and his interactions with Indians 20pts