

Unit

1

**Accidental Conquerors: The Inevitable
Success of European Colonialism****Guns, Germs, and Steel**

Directions: Before viewing the film, read each question below so you know what information and ideas you should be looking for as you watch Episode 2: Conquest. Record your answers to each question by providing as many facts, details, and examples as necessary to answer each question. Be prepared to discuss your answers with the class.

Episode 2: Conquest

THE BIGGEST SHIFT OF POPULATION IN MODERN TIMES has been the colonization of the New World by Europeans, and the resulting conquest, numerical reduction, or complete disappearance of most groups of Native Americans (American Indians)... Conquistador Francisco Pizarro set out for Peru to secure the pagan kingdom of the Incas for Charles V of Spain and the Catholic Church. Accompanied by 168 soldiers, Pizarro disembarked confidently. Wearing shining armor and mounted on horses, the conquistadors rode inland from the sea toward the Inca city of Cajamarca, and were greeted along the way by awestruck natives. In Cajamarca, Pizarro was to meet with Atahualpa, the tyrannical Inca ruler. After a cultural misunderstanding, Pizarro's men charged a numerically superior army of Incas, and what ensued was one of the most one-sided battles in history...

1. From whom did the Spanish acquire written language? How did it assist Pizarro in preparing for his encounter with Atahualpa (and the Inca's subsequent subjugation)? Why didn't the Incas develop writing?
2. Why do you think Atahualpa drastically underestimated the danger when he invited the Spaniards to meet him at Cajamarca?
3. What beliefs and recent events put the Incas at a disadvantage at that time?
4. How did the battle tactics used by the Spanish conquistadors help the small army defeat the Inca army that outnumbered it by thousands?
5. Why did the Spanish pass their diseases onto the Native Americans, and not [so much] the other way around?
6. According to Diamond, what made the Europeans "accidental conquerors"? Explain.