What Happens When Cultures Meet?

Designed by Leah McFarlane (leah_mcfarlane@apsva.us). Last updated July 16, 2005.

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When European explorers set sail from across the Atlantic, they had wealth and conquest on their minds. Survival was certainly not always easy on the rough waters or cramped conditions on board their ship and making it on land once they arrived in the Americas was not even guaranteed. For those who did survive, gold and limitless natural resources for export served as valuable rewards for their trouble, not to mention the status they gained in many history books. What about the people on shore who saw them coming?

You have been reading stories about famous explorers throughout this unit on exploration.

Preview Questions and Connections:
How would you feel if aliens arrived in your neighborhood? They look and sound different from you and your friends. They arrived in transportation that you’ve never seen and they are attempting to communicate with you, but you are unclear about what they are saying. What kinds of thoughts are going through your mind? Are you excited? Nervous? Why do you think they came? Use the photographs to revisit and discuss how the Native Americans might have felt.
Model with students how to complete a photo analysis on one of the pictures. Have students complete one on one of the other pictures and share.
Social Studies/Literacy Mini-Lesson 7  Photo Analysis
What Happens When Cultures Meet?

The Arrival of Hudson, 1609
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Henry Hudson and His Crew Sailed into the River that Would Bear His Name
September 3, 1609
How did the Hudson River in New York and New Jersey get its name? On the misty morning of September 3, 1609, explorer Henry Hudson and his crew aboard the Half Moon sailed into the majestic river off the Atlantic coast by chance. Strong head winds and storms forced them to abandon the northeast voyage they had been assigned. Rather than return to Holland with nothing to report, the crew voted to look for the Northwest Passage, a legendary waterway that would carry a ship all the way from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean. They passed by the island we know today as Manhattan and sailed up the river.

Hudson was not the first European explorer to discover this river. The Florentine navigator Giovanni da Verrazano discovered the Hudson in 1524. But Henry Hudson traveled the river much farther than its
previous explorer. After 150 miles, the *Half Moon* did not reach the Pacific, but it did reach what would later become Albany, New York. There, they turned around. But as a result of Hudson's exploration, the river bears his name today.

Hudson was a headstrong but courageous commander. Though he often mismanaged his crews by playing favorites or letting morale suffer, he was a competent navigator. He undertook four dangerous voyages, and made huge contributions to geographical knowledge. His exploration of the Hudson River led to Dutch colonization of the area.

The Hudson River, once known to the Mohican Indians as Muhheakunnuk ("Great Waters Constantly in Motion"), was the site of key battles in the American Revolution. It also inspired an important phase of landscape painting called the Hudson River school that celebrated the natural beauty of the American landscape. Today, the Hudson is one of the nation's most important waterways. Oceangoing ships can navigate the river to Albany year-round. Pleasure boats and tugboat and barge traffic can reach the Great Lakes from May to November. Cargo such as wood pulp, steel, cocoa beans, grain, and scrap metal rely on the Hudson for deliveries. The U.S. Military Academy at West Point overlooks the Hudson too. What would Henry Hudson say if he saw that river today?

**Closing Reflection and Discussion:**
How was the arrival of European explorers reflected in the pictures? Why do you think many writers of history have depicted the explorers as heroes? Why is it important to look at things from different viewpoints? Give an example to support your opinion.