Cultural Encounters

# Reading questions

Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper. Be sure to give examples from the text where necessary.

1. Did the Europeans have any prior experience in dealing with “foreigners”? Examples.
2. “To speak a language is to demonstrate humanity.” Discuss this statement. How do you think it relates to the initial encounter between the Europeans and Native Americans?
3. From this account, does it seem as though the Europeans were willing to learn indigenous languages? Does it seem as though the native people made attempts to learn European languages?
4. Discuss ways in which the pictures and maps were used as a communication tool.
5. “Native American tribes occasionally encouraged intermarriage with the Europeans as a protective measure.” To what extent is this statement accurate? What would have been the positive and negative effects of this behavior on the native communities? On the new European settlements?
6. Why, during what were intended to be peaceful encounters, might violence have broken out between the Native Americans and Europeans?
7. Compare and contrast the encounters of the early European explorers and Native Americans with NASA’s Golden Record.