National Geographic: Guns Germs and Steel
(Episode #2: Conquest)

Directions: Answer the questions below while watching the video documentary.

1. What provided Europeans with the success to conquer foreign territory according to anthropologist Jared Diamond?

2. What first did Francisco Pizarro and his conquistadores accomplish on their conquest of South America?

3. Discuss the differences in farming between Europeans and natives of the New World?

4. What additional domesticated animal proved to be important to the Europeans, which fascinated the Incan of the New World? List the important features these animals provided the Spanish?

5. What is jimeta? How was this used as a means of asserting control?

6. Who is Atahualpa? What does he inform the Spanish conquistadores who have penetrated into Incan territory?

7. Why was Atahualpa not convinced that the Spanish invaders were not gods?

8. What was a Jacobus? What were the disadvantages of this invention?

9. Discuss the history of automatic weapons according to Diamond’s research? Who were the first to use gunpowder? Who were the first to use gunpowder in a weapon?

10. What metal became an important resource in the Spanish arsenal along with the Jacobus? How was this metal produced?
11. Why were the Spanish so familiar with a variety of weapons why the New World were not?

12. What was the rapier? What was it initially used for? What does the term mean in Spanish?

13. Describe the first reaction between Atahualpa and the Spanish (De Soto).

14. What plan does Pizarro suggest for beating the Incan army which was almost 80,000 strong? Where does he get his inspiration for the plan?

15. What served as the basis for human writing? What helped to provide widespread exposure for writings?

16. Why didn’t writing techniques (such as early Maya strokes) in the Americas spread successfully as those in Europe?

17. What was used to confirm aggression against Atahualpa and the Incan army?

18. What was the first virus brought to the New World? How does the virus spread from person to person?

19. Where did this virus spread first after it reached the New World?

20. What made the European diseases so “one sided?” Why didn’t the Europeans catch any of the viruses that were generated by the Mesoamericans?

**Critical Analysis:** Create a thesis to start a DBQ essay on why the Spain in the “right place at the right time” in history to successfully conqueror such a vast empire such as the Inca? Be sure to reference you SPRITE themes to organize your thesis.