

---

## LESSON ONE

# Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo: Historical Memory and Evidence

---

### OBJECTIVES:

- ❖ To look at various ways that the acts of Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo are remembered
- ❖ To read and understand primary documents about Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo
- ❖ To evaluate the validity of sources related to the Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo historical narrative

## LESSON ACTIVITIES

### Activity One: Historical Memory

#### Background

In 1913, the Cabrillo National Monument was officially designated by President Woodrow Wilson to recognize the achievements of Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo. At this time, a group called the “Order of Panama” formed to promote San Diego in conjunction with the upcoming Panama-Pacific Exposition of 1915. The Order’s main goal was to advocate for the commemoration of the site, but, despite these efforts, the group was unable to raise the money needed to erect a monument. A few years later, new efforts to commemorate the site went before President Coolidge, although the Order of Panama had formally disbanded. It was not until 1933 that the site came under the domain of the National Park Service; two years after this, at the California-Pacific International Exposition, the site was given a plaque.

Finally, in 1942, a statue of Cabrillo was given as a gift by the Portuguese, and was erected at the site. Close to twenty years later, a Visitor Center was dedicated by Interior Secretary Stewart L. Udall in 1966. Udall’s dedication reads as follows: “[T]o the memory of Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo and those of all lands who will come here in search of history.” It is in this spirit that the lessons in this unit aim to guide students who are “in search of history.” Although it would take nearly a half a century after President Wilson’s official declaration for the Cabrillo National Monument to come to its full realization, it now remains a wealth of information about what Spanish exploration, colonization, and settlement meant in the sixteenth century, as well as the geographical setting that brought these explorers to the region in the first place.

#### **Part One:** *Cabrillo National Monument*

- A. Have students explore the Web site for the Cabrillo National Monument. <http://www.nps.gov/cabr/index.htm>

Explain that the place they are viewing is part of the National Park System. Tell students they should look for (1) the name of the place; (2) where it is; and (3) why they think the place is there.

*Optional:* Using images from the official site, Wikimedia Commons, and Flickr, have students create a powerpoint virtual tour of the Cabrillo National Monument. The powerpoint can also be done as part of a class visit to the site. Revisit the powerpoint at the end of the unit to see if they want to revise it.

---

<sup>1</sup> There has been a long-standing historical debate as to whether Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo was originally from Portugal or Spain. Despite Cabrillo’s place of birth, however, by the time of Cabrillo’s explorations under the Spanish Crown, he would have had to have sworn loyalty to His Majesty and thus been considered a Spanish subject, since law prevented non-Spanish citizens to serve as royal seamen or soldiers. Source: Bob Munson, Interpretive Historian for the Cabrillo National Monument.

<sup>2</sup> For a full account of the history of Cabrillo National Monument see: Susan Collins Lehman, *An Embarrassment of Riches: The Administrative History of Cabrillo National Monument* (Cabrillo Historical Association, 1987). Available: [http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online\\_books/cabr2/](http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/cabr2/) [October 2010].

- B. “What is the Cabrillo National Monument?”
1. Have each student in the class give you a word that comes to mind or a definition upon hearing the words “monument,” “sculpture,” or “statue.”
  2. Have students look up definitions for “monument” and “memorial.” How are they different? How are they the same?
  3. Give students **Document 1-A-1**, an excerpt from “American Antiquities Act of 1906” [Discuss as needed the definition of “Act.”] Have students look for the answer to this question: “What does this act, passed by Congress in 1906, allow the president to do?”
  4. Have students turn to **Document 1-A-2**. This is an example of a president using authority granted by the American Antiquities Act to set aside land for a monument. Find and highlight the monument that a president is authorizing. Who does the proclamation say requested the monument? What will the monument commemorate or who will it remember?

### Extension Activities

- A. What national monuments does your state have? How many monuments have presidents proclaimed? Students can review the Wikipedia “List of National Monuments of the United States” or the National Park Service list: [www.nps.gov/history/archeology/sites/antiquities/MonumentsList.htm](http://www.nps.gov/history/archeology/sites/antiquities/MonumentsList.htm). The first lists monuments by the state they are in and the second by the date they were created.
- B. Have students choose one monument and research: (1) What event and/or person(s) is being memorialized? (2) Which (individual or group) asked the president to set aside the monument?

After the class gets an idea as to how many monuments there are, explain that these are only national monuments. States, counties, cities, and private individuals and companies may also erect monuments.

If you are using **Unit Project Two** with your class, this is a good place to introduce the project.

- C. Discuss: (a) What kinds of people and events should we remember? (b) Can everyone be remembered with a monument? Where would we put all of them? (c) What other ways can we remember people and events? (d) How do you think you will want to be remembered?

## Activity Two: Historical Evidence

### *Background: Primary Sources*

- A. Ask students: “How do we know something in the past happened?” If they answer from their history books, then ask “How did the authors of the history books know what happened?” Record answers on a class list titled “Evidence of the Past.”
- B. How will someone 100 years from now know that you and your family existed and what you did in your daily life? Record class answers under an “Evidence of Daily Life” list. [Optional: Use the worksheet “Historical Evidence in Your Daily Life,” **Handout 1-B.**]
- C. Historians are like detectives of the past. They look for clues that something happened by finding evidence. For example, historical clues are like the evidence and testimonies in a trial. Evidence can be people’s “voices” through letters, journals, and other writings. (Once it became possible to record voices, vocal evidence might also be recorded.) Evidence can also be visual (such as photographs, movies, other video or DVD recordings, sketches, other art) or physical (artifacts like dishes, clothing, furniture, tools, equipment, other archaeological finds). Discuss with students how different periods of history might produce different types of evidence and can offer many clues as to the time period being discussed.
- D. Sometimes historians must also rely on stories passed down over time, especially if societies did not have a written language or the environment was not conducive to producing written texts. Has a grandparent or another older relative ever told them a story about their past? If they repeat that story to their children and grandchildren, that is evidence of the past as well.

### *Part One: Looking for Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo*

#### **Document Background**

One important source that reveals much about the personal and professional life of Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo comes from the surviving documents of the “Merits and Services of Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo.” A “Merits and Services” trial (or hearing) was a very common litigation process during this period, and many legal suits were put forth by surviving relatives in order to reclaim land, gain personal titles of nobility, and/or seek royal favors. The Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo “Merits and Services” trial was initiated by the family of the explorer in the 1560s in Santiago, Guatemala in order to seek these tributes from the Spanish Crown. Initiated by Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo’s son, who had the same name, he gathered people to testify who had either been eyewitnesses to Cabrillo’s explorations and settling of Mexico and Central America or were family friends and acquaintances.

The reenactment trial which follows is based on a translation of the original hearings. In the original, each witness’s answers appear altogether in the way a modern-day deposition would be conducted. Two “folios” or pages of the original document that describe

the questions are missing, so for the reenactment, the questions are surmised from the answers the witnesses gave.

- A. In **Document 1-A-2**, students looked at the Presidential Proclamation setting aside “a national monument to commemorate the discovery of California by Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo, on the 28th day of September, 1542.” Tell students: “We will now be our own historians and look at how the ‘Order of Panama’ decided that Cabrillo was the “discoverer” of California.
- B. To begin their work as historians, share with students the background of the document “The Merits and Services of Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo” as a reading or out loud (**Document 1-C-1**). Let students know they will be reenacting the part of the court proceedings that dealt with Cabrillo’s life before his voyage to what is now California.
- C. Explain and assign the roles for the trial (**Document 1-C-2**). Students who do not have roles will serve on a jury panel and will be responsible for taking notes and filling out the “Jury Verdict Form” (**Handout 1-D**). You may also want to assign the role of “Judge.” This person would moderate the procedures with the court clerk and be the one to announce the verdict.
- D. After performing the reenactment, bring the class together to summarize what they learned about Cabrillo’s life. What facts about Cabrillo’s life did the jury decide were established by the trial? Did they think the witnesses were trustworthy? Why or why not?

### **Part Two: Visual Sources**

What did Cabrillo look like? Without photographs, is there any way we would be able to tell or guess how he looked?

- A. Did anyone in the trial describe his appearance? What about things he had with him (horses, crossbow)? Have students return to their copies of the testimony and highlight any objects described.
- B. As they review the trial document, show them that sometimes he is referred to as Juan Rodríguez and sometimes as Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo. Some historians believe that “Cabrillo” was a sort of nickname added because there were others with the name Juan Rodríguez. If it was a nickname, it might have meant “little goat” derived from “cabra.” Why would someone have the nickname “little goat?” Perhaps his physical appearance? Or his personality? Cabrillo was a crossbowman and one common crossbow used a lever called a “goat’s foot.” Could that have played a role with his name?

#### **Math Connection:**

Have students look up when the camera was invented. If Cabrillo was with Hernán Cortes in 1519, how many years would it be before the invention of the camera?

#### **Vocabulary Connection:**

Have students look up and define the word “goat-ee.”

- C. Without photographs, how might we learn about Cabrillo’s appearance? [*sketches, paintings, verbal descriptions of his looks*].
- D. While we do not have any paintings or sketches of Cabrillo himself, there are some paintings and art created by the Spanish as well as indigenous people that show Spanish soldiers. How might these visuals help us guess how Cabrillo looked? Use the following background to explain what visual evidence is available.

### Background

A compilation of paintings, engravings, and sketches of the Americas was published in 1590—fifty years after Cabrillo’s voyage. By the late-sixteenth century, the world had been circumnavigated three times, publishing was the norm, and a wealth of new science was widely available. Despite these innovations, many European kings outlawed images of exploration, conquest, and settlement in order to maintain expansionist goals without revealing to competitors the vast resources available in the newly explored regions. Some historians believe that the mystery of what the Americas looked like was also meant to control those interested in investing, settling, or traveling. The result of this visual gap meant that while exploration was giving way to conquest and settlement, many in Europe remained unaware of how the New World actually looked. For our Cabrillo research, it also means that few contemporary European artworks exist that might give visual clues. Later artists did create retrospective paintings of the conquest and settlement period.

One source of visual representation that did emerge out of Cabrillo’s time was those produced by the indigenous peoples. While Europeans were not visually recording their encounters, the locals were. Aztecs were already creating *codices*—or visual books, before the Europeans arrived. These pre-Columbia *codices* (singular *codex*) were largely made of pictures. Their main purpose was to illustrate local culture. Once the Spanish arrived, several *codices* were created, and therefore show the Spanish arrival from the perspective of those being dominated and pacified. Although there are very few surviving pre-conquest *codices*, the *tlacuilo* (*codex painter*) tradition continued during the European conquest. Therefore, scholars now have access to a body of around 500 colonial-era *codices*.

- E. After explaining available visual sources as per the above background, review the questions on **Handout 1-E** with the class. Using the handout as a guide, students should look at the images in **Document 1-F** (native perceptions of Spanish soldiers) and the images in **Document 1-G** (Spanish paintings of conquest) soldiers are wearing. Are there any other details in the artwork that reveal how a soldier like Cabrillo might look?
- F. Once they have made notes, have students create their own drawing or painting of how they think Cabrillo looked. They can draw him as a head and shoulders portrait or in action doing one of the activities they learned about in the written evidence. If students are doing **Unit Project One**, they should add their drawing to their projects.

### Extension Activity

After students have made their own drawing of Cabrillo, show students **Document Set 1-G**—images created of Cabrillo by various artists. How accurate do they think these images are? How do these images compare with the ones they drew?

### Part Three: Verifying Sources

Explain to students that during the “trial” they were reviewing verbal testimony from witnesses regarding what each knew about Cabrillo. Another kind of evidence historians consider is written evidence. In this section, students will look at several other selections of written sources containing Cabrillo’s name, compare the information to the trial testimony, and as a class list anything new they learned about Cabrillo.

- A. **Handout 1-H** contains background information for the excerpts. Depending on the reading level of your groups, review and share the background information with the students or hand it out and read the backgrounds as a class.
- B. Divide the students into groups and give each group a copy (or copies) of the “Document Analysis Worksheet,” **Handout 1-I**. Review the worksheet questions with the class, then give each group one of the document excerpts: **Document Set 1-J** (Groups One-Seven), **Document 1-K** (Group Eight), or **Document 1-L** (Group Nine).
- C. Bonus question: Does the evidence match or conflict with any of the trial testimony? If so, have them note this at the end of their document excerpt.
- D. Have individuals or groups report on the evidence in their excerpt(s).
- E. If students are doing **Unit Project One**, instruct them to add the new evidence the class gathered about Cabrillo to their projects.
- F. If students are doing **Unit Project Two**, they should begin to gather documentary and visual evidence about the person or event that they are memorializing.

## American Antiquities Act of 1906

16 USC 431-433

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled

...

Sec. 2. That the President of the United States is hereby authorized, in his discretion, to declare by public proclamation historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated upon the lands owned or controlled by the Government of the United States to be national monuments, and may reserve as a part thereof parcels of land, [limited to] the smallest area compatible with proper care and management of the objects to be protected. . . .

*Approved, June 8, 1906*

**antiquities**

*artifacts (objects) surviving from the past*

**act**

*a law*

**enact**

*put a law into effect*

**discretion**

*freedom to decide*

**proclamation**

*official announcement*

**landmark**

*important historical place or building*

**situated**

*located*

**parcel**

*small section of land*

**compatible**

*able to exist together*

**BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**  
**A PROCLAMATION**

[No. 1255-Oct. 14, 1913-38 Stat. 1965]

WHEREAS, by section 2 of an Act of Congress approved June 8, 1906 (34 Stat. 225), the President was authorized *"in his discretion, to declare by public proclamation historic landmarks . . . that are situated upon the lands owned or controlled by the Government of the United States to be national monuments . . ."*

AND WHEREAS, when Cabrillo sailed into San Diego Bay on the 28th day of September, 1542, Point Loma was the first land sighted; and The Order of Panama, an organization composed of representative citizens of Southern California, has applied for permission to construct a heroic statue of Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo, the discoverer of California, on Point Loma which lies within the military reservation of Fort Rosecrans, California, and has requested that a suitable site be set apart for such monument.

Now THEREFORE, I, Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States of America, under authority of the said Act of Congress do hereby reserve as a site for the said monument, the following described parcel of land situated on Point Loma within the limits of the military reservation of Fort Rosecrans, California, and do hereby declare and proclaim the same to be a national monument to commemorate the discovery of California by Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo, on the 28th day of September, 1542, viz: Beginning at a monument 53 ft. from Southeast corner of the Old Lighthouse . . . IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

DONE at the City of Washington this fourteenth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and thirteen . . .

By the President: WOODROW WILSON

W. J. BRYAN, Secretary of State

### Proclamation Worksheet

1. Fill in the blanks [NOTE: 'Whereas' means 'because of one thing, then another.']:

Because an Act of Congress of June 8 1906 allowed the President to declare an historic \_\_\_\_\_ and because Cabrillo

---

---

---

the Order of Panama wants to set aside land and construct

---

---

---

2. Where do they want to set aside land?

---

---

3. Who approved their request?

---

4. On what date was it approved?

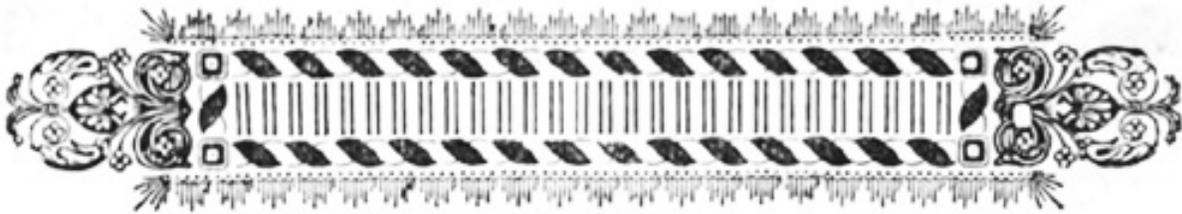
---

<b>Historical Evidence in Your Daily Life</b>	
Did you create any records of your activities (a diary, notes to yourself, a letter to a friend or relative, an e-mail message, a phone message)?	
Would traces of your activities appear in records someone else created (a friend's diary, notes, or calendar entry; a letter or e-mail from a friend or relative)?	
Would traces of your activities appear in school records? in business records (did you write a check or use a charge card)? in the school or local newspaper? in government records (did you get your driver's license or go to traffic court)?	
Would anyone be able to offer testimony (or oral history) about your activities (who and why)?	
<p><b>Other Types of Historical Evidence</b>  <i>Other aspects of the historical record are not records at all, but may still offer evidence about our lives. Traces you left behind in your daily activities might include:</i></p>	
The trash you have thrown away	
Material objects you use every day (coins, paper money, stamps, computers)	
Objects in the place you live (especially in your own bedroom)	
Items in your locker at school	

## Merits and Services of Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo

### Background Information

One important source that reveals much about the personal and professional life of Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo comes from the surviving documents of the “Merits and Services of Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo.” A “Merits and Services” trial (or hearing) was a very common litigation process during this period, and many legal suits were put forth by surviving relatives in order to reclaim land, restore personal titles of nobility, and/or to seek royal favors. The Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo trial was initiated by the family of the explorer in the 1560s in Santiago, Guatemala in order to seek these tributes from the Spanish king. Initiated by Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo’s son, who had the same name, he collected people to testify who were either eyewitnesses to Cabrillo’s explorations and settling of Mexico and Central America or were family friends and acquaintances.



## The Merits and Services Hearing for Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo

### **Court**

LUIS SÁNCHEZ, Court Secretary [Narrator]

JUAN DE ARGUIJO, Main Attorney for Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo (son)

LOPE DE VILLALOBOS, Attorney for Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo (son)

JUAN AGUILAR, Attorney for Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo (son)

### **Witnesses**

REVEREND SEÑOR BISHOP DON FRANCISCO MARROQUÍN

PEDRO DE OVIDE

CRISTÓBAL SALVATIERRA

FRANCISCO SÁNCHEZ

LUIS GONZÁLEZ

GONZALO ORTIZ

LÁZARO DE CARDENAS

FRANCISCO DE VARGAS

JUAN DEL PINAR

FRANCISCO DE TORRES

ALVARO DE PAZ

### **TRIAL HEARING, PART ONE**

SÁNCHEZ

This is the city of Santiago de Guatemala. It is the 9th of February and the year is 1560. The judges of the court and royalty are in session to determine lawsuits. What petition do you bring?

ARGUIJO

My client, Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo and his party wish to establish the accomplishments of Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo, and have evidence to petition a special reward in honor of Cabrillo.

SÁNCHEZ

Presented the said petition and the power of attorney, the lords of the trial will order that this should be as it was petitioned.

ARGUIJO

Speaking for my client, Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo, son of Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo, the party members will test their witnesses with specialized questions. This way we can be sure of Cabrillo's accomplishments and their legitimacy.

SÁNCHEZ

Witnesses. Please introduce yourselves before answering the first question. Who will begin the questioning?

VILLALOBOS

I will, sir.

SÁNCHEZ

Very well Señor de Villalobos. Please begin.

VILLALOBOS

After introducing yourself, will each witness please answer: Do you know of the said Juan Rodríguez, also known as Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo, who came to this region with Don Pánfilo de Narváez and do you know his son, Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo?

MARROQUÍN

I am the Reverend Señor Bishop Don Francisco Marroquín of Guatemala and of His Majesty's Counsel. I knew Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo who is now deceased and gone to his glory, for more than thirty years in this place and I have known Juan Rodríguez, the son, since his birth.

VILLALOBOS

Next witness please

OVIDE

I am Pedro de Ovide, citizen of this city of Santiago. I knew the elder Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo and know the younger Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo.

VILLALOBOS

The next witness is Cristóbal Salvatierra

SALVATIERRA

I am Cristóbal Salvatierra, citizen of this city. I knew the elder Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo and I know the younger Juan Rodríguez.

VILLALOBOS

The next witness is Francisco Sánchez. Please state your name, place of origin, and whether or not you knew Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo and his son.

SÁNCHEZ

My name is Francisco Sánchez, I am a citizen of this city, and I had known Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo since the conquest of Mexico, and I have also known the said Juan Rodríguez, his son, since his birth in this city.

VILLALOBOS

The next witness is Luis González.

GONZÁLEZ

I am Luis González, citizen of the town of San Miguel and owner of ferryboats in this province.

VILLALOBOS

And did you have knowledge of Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo or his son?

GONZÁLEZ

Yes. I knew the said Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo, admiral under His Majesty of the fleet that Governor Pedro de Alvarado built in this province, and I also know the said Juan Rodríguez, his son, since he was a child.

VILLALOBOS

The next witness is Gonzalo Ortiz.

ORTIZ

My name is Gonzalo Ortiz, a citizen of this city and I knew the said Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo, the elder, and know the said Juan Rodríguez, his son, since his birth.

VILLALOBOS

The next witness will be Lázaro de Cardenas.

CARDENAS

My name is Lázaro de Cardenas and I am constable of this city.

VILLALOBOS

And did you know Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo or his son?

CARDENAS

I knew the said Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo and I know the younger said Juan Rodríguez.

VILLALOBOS

The next witness we will hear from is Francisco de Vargas. Please state your name, place of origin, and your knowledge of the Cabrillo elder and his son.

VARGAS

My name is Francisco de Vargas, I am a citizen of this city, and, yes, I knew the Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo, and have known Juan Rodríguez, his son, for many years in this place.

VILLALOBOS

The next witness will be Juan del Pinar.

PINAR

I am Juan del Pinar and I am citizen of this city.

VILLALOBOS

And sir . . . did you know either Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo, the elder or his son?

PINAR

I knew the elder, Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo, in the conquest of New Spain, which was 36 or 37 years ago, more or less, and in the conquest of this province of Guatemala.

VILLALOBOS

The next witness will state his full name, origin of city, and whether or not he knew the said Jose Rodríguez Cabrillo or his son.

TORRES

My name is Francisco de Torres, and I am citizen of the Villa de San Miguel. I knew Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo for more or less 28 or 29 years, and I have known his son, Juan Rodríguez, since his birth.

VILLALOBOS

And lastly, we will now hear from Alvaro de Paz.

PAZ

I am Alvaro de Paz and I come from the city of Santiago. I knew Juan Rodríguez the elder, and I know the younger as well.

SÁNCHEZ

Who will ask the next question of our panel?

AGUILAR

I will, sir.

SÁNCHEZ

Very well. Please proceed

AGUILAR

I would like each of you to answer: Was Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo one of the first conquerors, founders, and discoverers of the provinces of Mexico and those that were with Captain Hernández Cortés up to the point when the Mexico City natives surrendered to His Majesty? Did Juan Rodríguez serve His Majesty well, enduring wounds, personal hardship, and dangers as a result of the conquest?

MARROQUÍN

It is true what you ask and is public and generally known that Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo, the elder, was one of the first conquerors of New Spain and of these provinces of Guatemala.

OVIDE

I know that the said Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo, the elder, traveled to New Spain with Pánfilo de Narváez's fleet more or less 39 years ago. I know this because I saw him and came in the same fleet and at his own expense like all the rest, or at least, like some of them. I did not know if he was wounded.

SALVATIERRA

I have heard it said as the question states.

SÁNCHEZ

I can say that I don't know with which captain he came to the New World, but I heard it said that he came with Pánfilo de Narváez's fleet, and I knew him there in the conquest and pacification of Mexico. I don't remember if he came out wounded. As I recall, 12 men were wounded.

GONZÁLEZ

I am unable to answer this question, since I am more or less 45.

ORTIZ

I cannot discuss this specially, since I am over 60 years old, and that God supports the truth.

CARDENAS

I, too, cannot discuss this specially, since I am close to 50 years old.

VARGAS

I am unable to answer this question.

PINAR

I was with him in the conquest and pacification of Mexico, he was there the entire time, but I can't recall if he was wounded.

TORRES

Sir, I am not concerned with this question for I am 65 years old, more or less.

PAZ

I will not discuss this specially since I am over 50 years old, but God supports the truth.

VILLALOBOS

Señor Paz. Can you please just answer the question as to whether or not you know that the said Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo was with the first conquerors, founders, and discoverers of the provinces of Mexico, and those which were found with Captain Hernán Cortés during the conquest and the discovery of the lagoon of Mexico City, and the circling and taking of the city and surrounding lagoon where the Indians killed more than six Christian Spanish, and where danger and hardship endured.

PAZ

Yes, it was as contained in the question. It is public and generally known in this land, and, as such, I heard it said about Governor Pedro de Alvarado and other persons and citizens and conquerors of New Spain.

SÁNCHEZ

Who will ask the next question of our panel?

ARGUIJO

I will, sir.

SÁNCHEZ

Very well. Please proceed

ARGUIJO

Did Juan Rodríguez join Captain Francisco de Orozco in the conquest of Oaxaca and its natives, enduring many hardships and dangers? Did he go back with Pedro de Alvarado after the conquest?

MARROQUÍN

It is true and is public and generally known; he was a good and loyal servant of His Majesty.

OVIDE

I know because I saw Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo serve under Francisco de Orozco, as in the question that is declared, very well, and as a loyal subject and servant of His Majesty whom returned to Mexico and traveled with Governor Pedro de Alvarado to Guatemalan provinces.

SALVATIERRA

It is true; I know it because I come from the city of Mexico where they saw Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo serving there. However, I also saw Cabrillo return to where Marquis de Valle was.

SÁNCHEZ

Yes, I know it to be true.

ARGUIJO

Sir, can you please be more specific? How do you know it to be true?

SÁNCHEZ

I know it to be true, because I happened know Juan Rodríguez in Oaxaca, in the said conquest and pacification of Mexico. I also witnessed the said Juan Rodríguez return with the governor and the troops.

GONZÁLEZ

I am unable to answer this question with any authority.

ORTIZ

I, too, am unable to answer this question with any authority.

CARDENAS

Sir, me too. I am unable to answer the question with any authority.

VARGAS

I am unable to answer the question with any authority as well.

PINAR

I knew him in the conquest and pacification of New Spain and Mexico where I saw the said Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo suffer many hardships with Governor Pedro de Alvarado until the conquest ended.

TORRES

Sir, I am more or less 65 years old. Therefore I do not remember.

PAZ

I cannot answer this question with proper authority.

SÁNCHEZ

Is that the last answer of this round? Very well. Let us take a recess and resume questioning with Señor de Villalobos.



**TRIAL HEARING, PART TWO**

SÁNCHEZ

This is the city of Santiago de Guatemala in the year of 1560. The judges of the court and royalty are in back in session to hear the petition of Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo, the younger. Señor de Villalobos, please resume the questions.

VILLALOBOS

Good afternoon. Would each witness please answer if you can: Did Juan Rodríguez come with Pedro de Alvarado to Guatemala and serve there at his own expense, enduring many hardships and dangers on foot and on horse, until it was conquered, pacified, and settled?

MARROQUÍN

I am sorry, but I am unable to answer this question with proper authority.

OVIDE

I know this to be true.

VILLALOBOS

Señor Ovide, please provide more details to this response.

OVIDE

I know this to be true, because I witnessed the said Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo with Governor Pedro de Alvarado approach the Guatemalan provinces. I also saw the hardships he faced while serving in these provinces.

SALVATIERRA

I remember Cabrillo coming into the provinces with Governor Pedro de Alvarado; and as a faithful servant of His Majesty, he conquered them and established peace.

SÁNCHEZ

I saw it as it happened; Cabrillo came with the governor, conquered and purified the Guatemalan provinces.

GONZÁLEZ

I cannot answer this question confidently, for I am 45 years old and cannot recall these events.

ORTIZ

It is a public fact that Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo served on foot and horseback on His Majesty's behalf.

CARDENAS

I cannot answer this question; I am 50 years of age and cannot recall these events.

VARGAS

I am sorry but I cannot answer this question with legitimate authority.

PINAR

Like the rest of us, Cabrillo proved himself to be a loyal servant of His Majesty as we fought together in the campaign for the Guatemalan provinces.

TORRES

I cannot answer this; 65 years of walking this earth has dulled my memories.

PAZ

God supports the truth; I am 50 years of age so I will not discuss the general questions.

AGUILAR

Did Cabrillo serve His Majesty by settling and serving in the province of Guatemala until all of the natives were pacified?

MARROQUÍN

It is known amongst the public that Juan Rodríguez was one of the first conquerors of New Spain and the Guatemalan provinces, and without a doubt served His Majesty with utmost loyalty.

OVIDE

I saw with my own eyes Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo serve in Guatemala until the province was overrun and the natives were pacified.

SALVATIERRA

My answer is the same as the previous questions . . . yes.

SÁNCHEZ

I served in the Guatemalan campaign alongside Cabrillo and witnessed his service up until the pacification of the natives, which required an invasion of the city of Guatemala, Chiapa, San Salvador, and San Miguel.

GONZÁLEZ

Next question please, I cannot provide personal insight on this one.

ORTIZ

My time on this earth may be ancient, but I recall Cabrillo's faithful service to His Majesty in this conquest until the provinces were stressed with hardship and illness, and natives gave themselves up.

CARDENAS

I'm sorry but I don't recall any memories regarding this question.

VARGAS

I cannot answer this question with authority.

PINAR

As the question from before, I affirm that it is as the question states.

TORRES

When I came to this province of Guatemala, I saw that he had the Indians of Coban and Comitlancejo serving in Coban and Tezututlan. Many conquerors of Mexico had Indians serving there and Juan Rodríguez was praised as a good servant of His Majesty in the war and out of the war.

PAZ

This is amongst the people! Shortly after the conquest, I found Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo happily married to Beatriz de Ortega. This of course, was done after a successful campaign all in the name of His Majesty.

SÁNCHEZ

Thank you witnesses. [*Turning to attorneys*] Do you have further questions for the panel?

ARGUIJO

Yes we do. Thank you for your patience. I will ask the next question of the panel.

Was Cabrillo considered a good person and a good Christian? Did Cabrillo have a good reputation, especially with governors and other leaders?

MARROQUÍN

It is in the public's knowledge that Cabrillo served His Majesty and his country exceptionally well.

OVIDE

I know that he was a good person.

ARGUIJO

Can you elaborate?

OVIDE

He was a public person. I always saw that he was considered a good person and a good Christian by everyone, including conquerors and governors.

SALVATIERRA

I always witnessed Juan Rodríguez as esteemed as the governors, conquistadors, and as the captains were. His publicity came from his name, not his rank.

SÁNCHEZ

At the time that I knew Juan Rodríguez he was an honorable person as well as a good Christian. He conducted himself well with everyone, and was renowned amongst the people.

GONZÁLEZ

Once again Señor de Arguijo, I cannot answer this.

ORTIZ

I saw this happen with my own eyes and I know that his name was commonly esteemed as such as a person.

CARDENAS

I cannot answer this question señor, pardon.

VARGAS

Viceroy Antonio de Mendoza and Governor Pedro de Alvarado always held Juan Rodríguez in great repute. They ordered a fleet built for the discovery of the island of Maluco, China, and the coast of Tierra Firme and Cabrillo was known on that fleet as an admiral of the sea. I know . . . because I was on this journey.

PINAR

I have never heard anything to the contrary of the question's statement.

TORRES

I knew him in the province until Juan Rodríguez died, up to that point and after, there was not a soul that considered Cabrillo dishonest nor a dishonorable Christian. He died while faithfully in the service of His Majesty.

PAZ

Thirty years ago, Juan Rodríguez was held in honor by Governor Pedro de Alvarado and Jorge de Alvarado. He was considered by everyone to be a loyal and faithful Christian.

ARGUIJO

Thank you. Sir, we will take a break now. Señor de Villalobos will resume the questioning when we meet again.



**TRIAL HEARING, PART THREE**

SÁNCHEZ

This is the city of Santiago de Guatemala in the year of 1560. The judges of the court and royalty are in back in session to hear the petition of Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo, the younger. Señor de Villalobos, please resume the questions.

VILLALOBOS

As a payment for his services, what land grants did Governor Pedro de Alvarado give Juan Rodríguez? What Indians did Alvarado put under the control of Juan Rodríguez? Please also tell if you have seen the documents.

MARROQUÍN

As the question states, Cabrillo did receive payment. Governor Pedro de Alvarado gave him the Indians that served him in exchange for his services.

OVIDE

Governor Pedro de Alvarado did give decrees of ownership to Juan Rodríguez because of the service that he provided towards capturing Xicalapa, Umitlan Xocotenango, and Coban. However I have never seen those documents. He also may have received a decree for the Indians of Tacuba or Xumaytepeque.

SALVATIERRA

I heard that for his services, Juan Rodríguez entrusted him to Xapala, Comitlan, and Xocotenango land settlements. Unlike Ovide, I have see these documents, and I have heard from others the rest of the question as it is said.

SÁNCHEZ

As I recall Governor Pedro de Alvarado decreed that the lands of Xicalapa, Comitlan, and Xocotenango were to be handed to Rodríguez.

GONZÁLEZ

I cannot answer this.

ORTIZ

Because of his outstanding contributions to the conquest and his merits during his service, Governor de Alvarado gave him the land grants of Xicalapa, Comitlan, Xocotenango, and Coban. After receiving these decrees, he sailed to New Spain with the fleet where he was named admiral, proving that the land decrees were legitimate.

CARDENAS

Fifty years of experiences, and I can't seem to recall any thoughts regarding this experience.

VARGAS

Cabrillo had Indians of Xicalapa and Comitlan and he did use them. I saw the land decree—it was issued by Governor Pedro de Alvarado. I have also seen the decrees to the lands of Xocotenango, Coban, and Xumaytepeque.

PINAR

I don't have much to add, other than the fact that I knew he had Indians of Comitlan, Xicalapa, and half of Coban, which were all used for something.

TORRES

I cannot answer this. My age is fogging my memories.

PAZ

At the time that I came here, I saw Juan Rodríguez owning the towns of Xicalapa and Comitlan. He showed me the decree for the land of Coban. Several years after, Juan Rodríguez stood alongside Governor Alvarado, and in front of his fleet as admiral. Alvarado knew that Sebastian de Marmol, a citizen who possessed the cities of Xumaytepeque and Tacuba, was dead so he gave the decrees to Juan Rodríguez. However, when the decrees came, Lieutenant Don Francisco took the decrees for himself.

SÁNCHEZ

Attorneys, do you have further questions?

AGUILAR

Yes. Thank you. We need to establish one more fact during this session. What role did Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo have with Governor Alvarado's fleet of ships? Where did he live while he worked with the fleet? Did he keep his land grants?

MARROQUÍN

It is true. Juan Rodríguez went on the discovery as admiral of the fleet. In the port of Navidad (Colima of New Spain) the Governor gave him the Indians of Tacubaya and Onacatepeque.

OVIDE

I remained in the city of Guatemala and it is a publicly well-known fact.

SALVATIERRA

I witnessed myself as Cabrillo was named admiral of the sea and begin to order his personal fleet.

SÁNCHEZ

I've heard as the questions states, for the answer to this question is well-known among the people.

GONZÁLEZ

I was in the port of Guatulco and saw Governor Pedro de Alvarado's navy enter. I went on the ship San Miguel as the pilot and Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo's ship had the flag of an admiral. I obeyed him and respected him as admiral and the pilot of his ship told me that he also obeyed and respected him as admiral. He said that it was Cabrillo's ship. So, everyone on the sea obeyed and respected him as admiral.

ORTIZ

I know that Juan Rodríguez sailed to the province of Guatemala with Governor Pedro de Alvarado, and that he was named admiral of the fleet that would be on the said discovery journey.

CARDENAS

I sailed from the province of Guatemala with the said Governor Pedro de Alvarado and saw Cabrillo as admiral.

VARGAS

More or less 25 years ago, I saw Cabrillo in Iztapa in charge of building the fleet and he was with the fleet for overhauling in the shipyard at Quevaltique. Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo went as admiral of that fleet. I heard that he built his own ship and everyone respected him as admiral because of that.

PINAR

I know that Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo was at the discovery with Governor Pedro de Alvarado. I heard that he was Admiral. I also heard that he served at his own cost until the time of his death.

TORRES

Everyone knows about this!

PAZ

I saw him. I saw Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo with the governor in the fleet as Admiral when I was working there. I was responsible to give Juan Rodríguez all his supplies and I saw firsthand that he worked hard.

**Jury Verdict Form - Part I**

Name of Witness	Age	Occupation (if stated)	Knew Rodríguez the elder?	Knew Rodríguez the younger?	Did Cabrillo fight with Cortés in Mexico?	Did Cabrillo endure hardships in Mexico?	Was Cabrillo wounded in Mexico?	Did Cabrillo go with Orozco to conquer Oaxaca?	Did Cabrillo come back to Mexico with Alvarado?
MARROQUÍN									
OVIDE									
SALVATIERRA									
SÁNCHEZ									
GONZÁLEZ									
ORTIZ									
CARDENAS									
VARGAS									
PINAR									
TORRES									
PAZ									

**Jury Verdict Form - Part II**

Name of Witness	Age	Did Cabrillo accompany Alvarado to Guatemala?	Was Cabrillo one of the settlers of Guatemala?	Did Cabrillo serve on foot and horse-back while in Guatemala?	Did Cabrillo endure hardships while in Guatemala?	Was Cabrillo in Guatemala until the natives were pacified?	What was the name of Cabrillo's wife?	Did Cabrillo serve His Majesty and country well?	Was Cabrillo an honorable man?
MARROQUÍN									
OVIDE									
SALVATIERRA									
SÁNCHEZ									
GONZÁLEZ									
ORTIZ									
CARDENAS									
VARGAS									
PINAR									
TORRES									
PAZ									

**Jury Verdict Form - Part III**

Name of Witness	Age	As payment of service, what land grants did Alvarado give to Cabrillo?	What group of Indians did Alvarado put under Cabrillo's control?	Were you an eyewitness to any documents that show Cabrillo's land?	How many land grants did Alvarado give to Cabrillo?	What role did Cabrillo have with Alvarado's fleet of ships?	Were you an eyewitness to documents showing Cabrillo's role with the fleet of ships?	Where did Cabrillo live during this time?	Was Cabrillo able to hold on to his land grants?
MARROQUÍN									
OVIDE									
SALVATIERRA									
SÁNCHEZ									
GONZÁLEZ									
ORTIZ									
CARDENAS									
VARGAS									
PINAR									
TORRES									
PAZ									

## Visual Sources Background

A compilation of paintings, engravings, and sketches of the Americas was published in 1590—fifty years after Cabrillo’s voyage. By the late-sixteenth century, the world had been circumnavigated three times, publishing was the norm, and a wealth of new science was widely available. Despite these innovations, many European kings outlawed images of exploration, conquest, and settlement in order to maintain expansionist goals without revealing to competitors the vast resources available in the newly explored regions. That meant that if anyone did create images of the New World, they were not allowed to publish or share it.

Some historians believe that the mystery of what the Americas looked like was also meant to control those interested in investing, settling, or traveling. The result of this visual gap meant that while exploration was giving way to conquest and settlement, many in Europe remained unaware of how the New World actually looked. For our Cabrillo research, it also means that few contemporary European artworks exist that might give visual clues to Cabrillo’s appearance. However, later artists did create retrospective paintings of the conquest and settlement period.

One source of visual representation that did emerge out of Cabrillo’s time was those produced by the indigenous peoples. While the Europeans were not visually recording their encounters, the locals were. Aztecs were already creating *codices*—or visual books, before the Europeans arrived. These pre-Columbia *codices* (singular *codex*) were largely made of pictures. Their main purpose was to illustrate local culture. Once the Spanish arrived, several *codices* were created, and therefore show the Spanish arrival from the perspective of those being dominated and pacified. Although there are very few surviving pre-conquest *codices*, the *tlacuilo* (*codex painter*) tradition continued during the European conquest. Therefore, scholars now have access to a body of around 500 colonial-era *codices*.

## Image Analysis Worksheet

### ***Observation***

To gather evidence about how Cabrillo might have looked, review each of the illustrations and note how the Spanish look in the image, what they are wearing, any objects being carried or used, and activities being performed.

	Observations
Clothing	
Facial Appearance	
Objects	
Activities	

### Secondary Analysis – Inference

Based upon your observations, answer the following questions:

1. Are there similarities in the Spanish soldiers' clothing among the images?
2. Do the soldiers in the images look similar to one another? Do they have any facial features in common?
3. What types of weapons are being used?
4. Do you think that the artists who drew the Spanish soldiers did so in a realistic way?

### **Draw Cabrillo!**

Using information from the class discussion about the documents and your observation of the paintings, create your own drawing of Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo.

### Native Depictions of Spanish Conquest



Cortés arrives in Tenochtitlán with more Spaniards and allies [Chapter 22 of the *Florentine Codex*, image 80]



Cortés arrives in Tenochtitlán with more Spaniards and allies [Chapter 22 of the *Florentine Codex*, image 82]



Spaniards reach Tepetzotlán [Chapter 26 of the *Florentine Codex*, image 103]

## Native Depictions of Spanish Conquest



This illustration comes from the *Florentine Codex* [1590] depicts Hernán Cortés and his men reaching the coast of Veracruz on April 21, 1519.

## The Capture of Tenochtitlán



The caption reads: Conquista de Mexico por Cortés

This painting was made in the late 1600s—over 100 years after the event.

Jay I. Kislak Collection, Rare Book and Special Collections Division, Library of Congress (096.00.00)

## The Capture of Tenochtitlán

### Detail



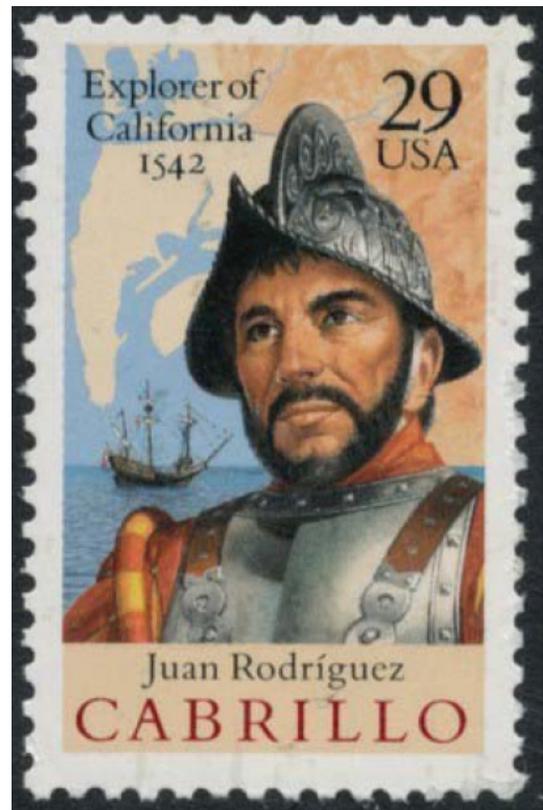
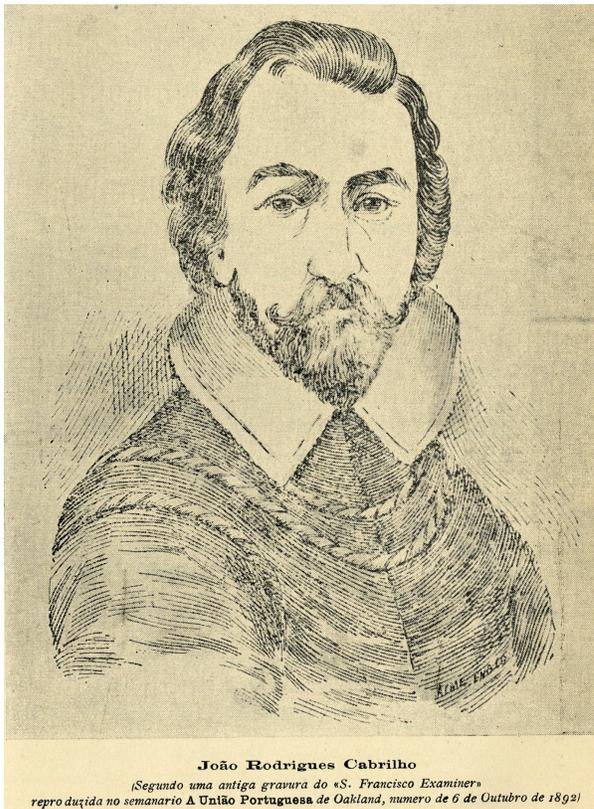


**Retrato de Hernán Cortés  
(Portrait of Hernán Cortés)**

This portrait was made over 150 years after the death of Hernán Cortés

Source: *Retratos de Españoles Ilustres* (Real Imprenta de Madrid, 1791)

## Images of Cabrillo

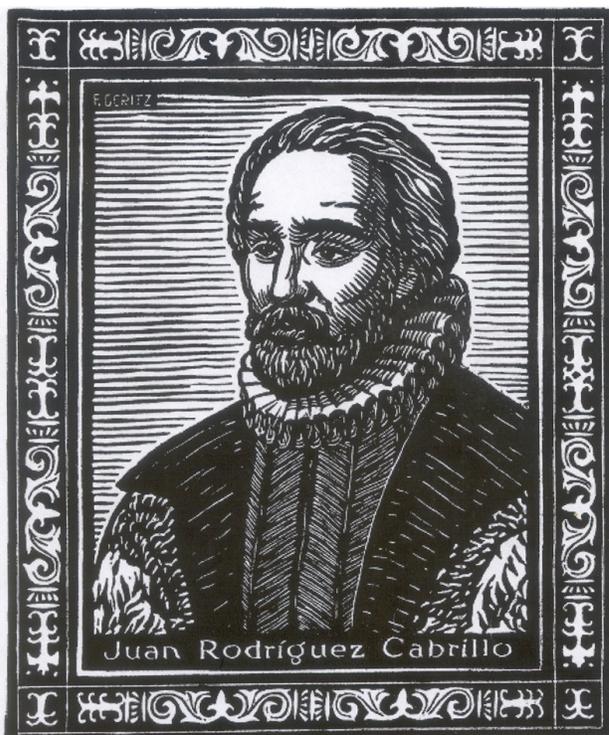


**Upper Left:** Drawing of “João Rodrigues Cabrilho” from the October 6th, 1892 *San Francisco Examiner*. Appears in Euclides Goulart Da Costa, *Portugal Descobridor: Apontamentos Respeitantes A Descoberta Da California* (Lisboa, Portugal: 1828).

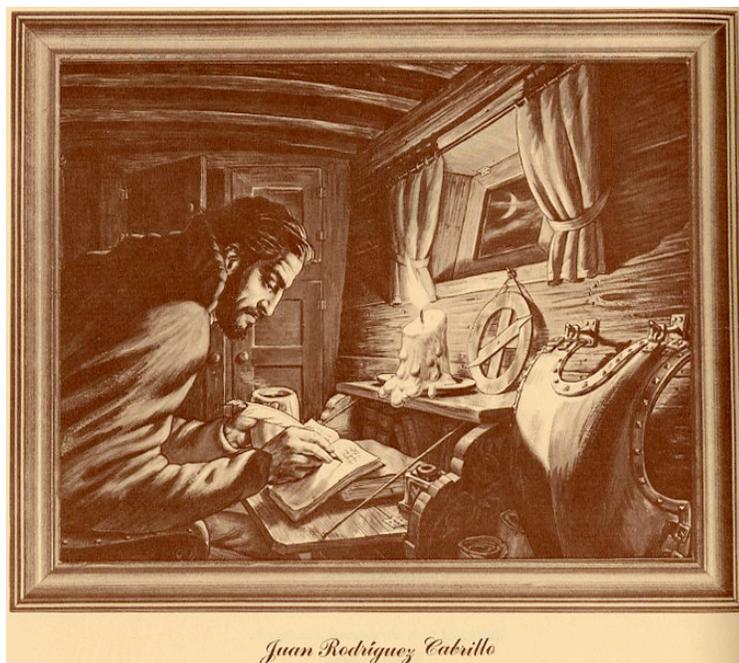
**Upper Right:** The United States Postal Service released this stamp commemorating Juan Rodríguez Cabrilho in 1992 as part of National Hispanic Heritage Month.

**Lower Left:** “João Cabrilho,” Celestino Soares, *California and the Portuguese* (Lisbon, Portugal: SPN Books, 1939).

## Images of Cabrillo



Franz Gerlitz (illustrator), "Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo." In Phil Townsend Hanna, *Spanish Conquistadors of the Pacific West* (Los Angeles: Automobile Club of Southern California, 1933), p. 21.



**"Joan Rodríguez Cabrillo,"** from the original painting by Robert Geise.

In James R. Moriarity, trans., *Cabrillo's Log, 1542-1543: A Voyage of Discovery: A Summary by Juan Páez* (San Diego: Cabrillo Historical Association, 1968). From the series: *The Western Explorer* ; v.5, no.2-3.

**Document Set 1-J Background**

*Libro Viejo de la Fundación de Guatemala (Old Book of the Foundation of Guatemala)*

Of the eight original “books” of town records for Santiago, Guatemala, only three are still in existence: the first, the fourth, and the seventh. These records were handwritten, so historians have to go to the archive in Spain to see them or wait until someone transcribes them into a typed manuscript for publication. The first book was copied and published in 1991. The following are some of the excerpts from these town records that include the name “Juan Rodríguez.” Like all these records, the original is in Spanish.

**Document 1-K Background**

*True History of the Conquest of New Spain (Historia Verdadera de La Conquista de Nueva España)* by Bernal Díaz del Castillo

Bernal Díaz del Castillo was a contemporary of Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo, and is credited with having written the most detailed firsthand account of the Spanish conquest. In his writing, Díaz would often include the nicknames attributed to the explorers as a way to identify family professions, physical characteristics, or personality traits. Díaz would not often explain the reasons for the nicknames, but it appears to be a common style of writing to incorporate this information into the narrative. Díaz was an investor in the expeditions, and accompanied Cortés. This excerpt comes from his accounts of the Cortés conquests in Mexico.

**Document 1-L Background**

*Record of What Happened in Guatemala*

In 1541 a great earthquake and eruption of the volcano Jojocta destroyed the city of Santiago de Caballeros, then the capital of Guatemala. The “Record of What Happened in Guatemala” represents a written secular source of Spanish colonial literature. It is signed Juan Rodríguez. Though he was not present in the city during its destruction, he came soon after and heard testimony from survivors. Subsequently, the report was sent to Spanish officials. This account shows Juan Rodríguez as literate (meaning he could read and write) as well as verifying his presence as a town member. In addition to his signature, the use of “cross-bow” to measure distance shows that the author was familiar with that weapon. Other documents show that Cabrillo was a crossbowman.

## Document Analysis Worksheet

1. Type of Document:
2. Date of the Document:
3. Author (or creator) of the document:
4. Document information:
  - A. Who was this document written to or for?
  - B. Highlight any times the names "Juan Rodríguez" or "Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo" appears in the document. BONUS: Highlight any names that match names of participants in the "Merits and Services" trial.
  - C. List any information the document gives us about Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo. Include any information about other names you identified from the trial.
  - D. Was the writer an eyewitness of the event? How do you know?
  - E. Do you think the writer had any opinions about Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo that might have changed what they wrote?
  - F. Write a question to the author which is left unanswered by the document.

This worksheet is an adaptation of one designed and developed by the staff of the Education Branch, Office of Public Programs, National Archives, Washington, DC 20408

**GROUP ONE**

***Old Book of the Foundation of Guatemala***

**English**

Friday 12 of August [1524]

That same day the men mentioned [*mayors and city officials*] received those contained on the other part of this copy as citizens of this city:

/first column/

Gaspar de Polanco; Alonso Cano; . . . Juan Rodríguez; Cristóbal Rodríguez; . . .

**Spanish**

Viernes XII de agosto [1524]

Este dicho día los dichos señores [*aclades y regidores desta ciudad de Santiago*] recibieron por vecinos de esta ciudad a los contenidos en la copia de esta otra parte contenidos:

/primera columna/

Gaspar de Polanco; Alonso Cano; . . . Juan Rodríguez; Cristóbal Rodríguez; . . .

Carmelo Sáenz de Santa María, *Libro Viejo de la Fundación de Guatemala* (Guatemala: Academia de Geografía e Historia de Guatemala, 1991), 9-10. Translation by Marian Olivas.

## GROUP TWO

### *Old Book of the Foundation of Guatemala*

#### English

Town Meeting of 23 of August, 1526

. . . that same day and month and year, these gentlemen [*mayors and town officials*] decided in this town meeting and ordered that it be announced publicly in this city that all the people who will want to be citizens of this city of Santiago, today and tomorrow all day, should come to sit in front of the notary public of the town hall; and that they will be given and shown their lots [*land*] in the place of this city. This was called out by Diego Diaz, town crier. Then the following men requested lots said that they be given property adjacent to this city. . . .

Pedro de Alvarado. Baltasar de Mendoza. Hernando de Alvarado. Francisco de Arévalo. . . . The general captain; Baltasar de Mendoza, mayor; Gonzalo Dovalle; Hernando de Alvarado, town councilman; Francisco de Arévalo, town councilman; Gregorio de Alvarado, town bailiff; . . . Juan Vásquez; Juan Rodríguez; . . . Zubizarreta; Monroy; Franco; Juan Martín; Gaspar Arias; Cristóbal Salvatierra; Juan Moreno; Diego Díaz; . . . .

#### Spanish

Cabildo de XXIII de agosto de MDXXVI años.

. . . Este dicho día e mes e año susodichos, los dichos señores [*alcaldes e regidores*] estando en el dicho cabildo, acordaron e mandaron que fuese pregonado públicamente en esta ciudad que todas las personas que quisieren ser vecinos de esta ciudad de Santiago, hoy y mañana en todo el día, se vengán a sentar delante del escribano del cabildo; y que les serán dados y señalados sus solares en el sitio desta ciudad, lo cual se apregonó por voz de Diego Díaz, pregonero. E luego los dichos señores dijeron que ellos pedían vecindades en la dicha ciudad.

Pedro de Alvarado. Baltasar de Mendoza. Hernando de Alvarado. Francisco de Arévalo. . . . El señor capitán general; Baltasar de Mendoza, alcalde; Gonzalo Dovalle; Hernando de Alvarado, regidor; Francisco de Arévalo, regidor; Gregorio de Alvarado, alguacil mayor; . . . Juan Vásquez; Juan Rodríguez; . . . Zubizarreta; Monroy; Franco; Juan Martín; Gaspar Arias; Cristóbal Salvatierra; Juan Moreno; Diego Díaz; . . . .

Carmelo Sáenz de Santa María, *Libro Viejo de la Fundación de Guatemala* (Guatemala: Academia de Geografía e Historia de Guatemala, 1991), 19-20. Translation by Marian Olivas.

**GROUP THREE*****Old Book of the Foundation of Guatemala*****English** (*A town meeting about moving the site of the city Santiago.*)

In the valley of Almolonga, that is in this province of Guatemala, on the twenty-first day of November, 1526, the following gathered in a town meeting: the very noble Sr. Jorge de Alvarado lieutenant and chief commander in these parts, and other noblemen. . . .

After that, in the same valley, on the 26th day of the month (of November) of this year (1526) . . . town officials, ordered and decided that they would receive and take citizens for this [*new location of the*] city, to whom they would give the lots and land grants, which they would then write down. It would not matter what land they had already received in this [*old location of the*] city. Then the men of the town council indicated that they wanted to be citizens [*of the new city site*], and requested citizenship. The others who signed on are the following.

In the name of Diego de Rojas, Gonzalo Dovalle requested citizenship. The priest Father Juan Godínez, Holguín, Reguera, Juan Páez; Francisco Hemández, Juan Vázquez, Juan Rodríguez. . . .

**Spanish** (*Pasó un cabildo para discutir mover el sitio de la ciudad de Santiago.*)

En el valle de Almolonga, que es en esta provincia de Guatemala, a veynte [sic] e un dias de Noviembre de MDXXVII años, entraron en cabildo el muy noble señor Jorge de Alvarado teniente e capitán general destas partes, y otros nobles. . . .

Después de lo susodicho, en el dicho valle, a veinte e seis días del dicho mes (de noviembre) del dicho año, estando en su cabildo los dichos señores . . . ordenaron e acordaron que se recibiesen e tomasen vecinos para esta dicha ciudad, a quienes se darían sus solares e caballerías, los cuales se sentasen por escrito, sin perjuicio de las otras vecindades antes recibidas en esta dicha ciudad.

E luego los dichos señores dijeron que ellos querían ser vecinos e pedían vecindad, e los demás que se sentaron (*i.*) por vecinos son los siguientes. En nombre de Diego de Rojas, pidió vecindad Gonzalo Dovalle. El padre Juan Godínez, Holguín, Reguera, Juan Páez; Francisco Hemández, Juan Vázquez, Juan Rodríguez. . . .

Carmelo Sáenz de Santa María, *Libro Viejo de la Fundación de Guatemala* (Guatemala: Academia de Geografía e Historia de Guatemala, 1991), 32-33; 40-41. Translation by Marian Olivas.

## GROUP FOUR

### *Old Book of the Foundation of Guatemala*

#### English

In the city of Santiago, the same day, March 18 of the same year (1528), these gentlemen, lieutenant governor, and mayors and town officers from the previous year, being together in their town hall, received as citizens of this city the following people, notwithstanding the settlements they have already made in this city, which were established when the province was first formed in the time of Pedro de Alvarado.

Pedro de Cueto, Gonzalo Dovalle, Diego de Rojas, Antonio Diosdado, Francisco Sánchez, Hernando de Chávez, Juan Durán, Francisco de Porras, Juan Páez, Gaspar Alemán, Pedro Núñez, Blas López, Diego Díaz, Dardón, Polanco, Monroy.

Acuña, Francisco Hernández, Francisco de Oliveros, Hernando de Espinosa, Juan Rodríguez, Alonso de Loarca, Alonso Sánchez.

To some of these . . . they gave the plots of land that were indicated on the town design.

#### Spanish

En esta ciudad de Santiago, el dicho día, diez y ocho de marzo del dicho año (1528), los dichos señores, teniente de gobernador, e alcaldes e regidores del año pasado, estando juntos en su cabildo, recibieron por vecino desta dicha ciudad a las personas siguientes, sin perjuicio de las vecindades que se han hecho en esta ciudad, después de //a/ que se fundó en esta provincia en tiempo de Pedro de Alvarado.

Pedro de Cueto, Gonzalo Dovalle, Diego de Rojas, Antonio Diosdado, Francisco Sánchez, Hernando de Chávez, Juan Durán, Francisco de Porras, Juan Páez, Gaspar Alemán, Pedro Núñez, Blas López, Diego Díaz, Dardón, Polanco, Monroy.

Acuña, Francisco Hernández, Francisco de Oliveros, Hernando de Espinosa, Juan Rodríguez, Alonso de Loarca, Alonso Sánchez.

A alguno de los cuales . . . dieron los solares que en la traza tenían señalados. . . .

Carmelo Sáenz de Santa María, *Libro Viejo de la Fundación de Guatemala* (Guatemala: Academia de Geografía e Historia de Guatemala, 1991), 42. Translation by Marian Olivas.

**GROUP FIVE*****Old Book of the Foundation of Guatemala*****English**

In the city of Santiago on March 18, 1528, being together in their town council, the very noble Señor Jorge de Alvarado, General Captain and Lieutenant of these provinces and the noble Sirs Gonzalo Dovalle, ordinary Mayor of said city and Juan Pérez Dardón and town council members Hernando de Alvarado and Pedro de Cueto, and Jorge de Acuña; certain citizens of this city, asked that the town council and leaders would in their mercy, in addition to land they already requested, give them land that they showed them, especially the following:

. . . Juan Rodríguez, additional land in this valley; on the border of the land belonging to Salvatierra and that of Cristóbal Rodríguez.

**Spanish**

En la ciudad de Santiago a 18 de marzo de 1528, estando juntos en su cabildo, el muy noble señor Jorge de Alvarado, capitán general e teniente destas provincias, y los nobles señores Gonzalo Dovalle, alcalde ordinario desta dicha ciudad y Juan Pérez Dardón y Hernando de Alvarado y Pedro de Cueto, y Jorge de Acuña, regidores della; ciertos vecinos de la dicha ciudad, presentaron ciertas peticiones por las cuales, además de la vecindad e solar que pedían, pidieron a los dichos señores, les hiciesen merced de darles ciertas tierras, en ellas contadas e señaladas, especialmente las siguientes:

. . . Juan Rodríguez, otra tierra en este valle; en linde de tierra de Salvatierra, y de Cristóbal Rodríguez.

Carmelo Sáenz de Santa María, *Libro Viejo de la Fundación de Guatemala* (Guatemala: Academia de Geografía e Historia de Guatemala, 1991), 49-50. Translation by Marian Olivas.

**GROUP SIX**

***Old Book of the Foundation of Guatemala***

**English**

Town hall meeting taking place 18 days into the month of January, 1529.

. . . On this day Juan Rodríguez submitted information and a petition. In the petition he asks that he be given the plot of land indicated in return for his service, with the condition that if time is lacking that the title be complete within five years.

**Spanish**

Cabildo hecho en diez e ocho días del mes de Enero de MDXXIX años.

Este dicho día metió Juan Rodríguez una información y petición, en que pide se le manden dar su solar e tierra que tiene señalado por servido, e sus mercedes se lo mandaron dar e título dello, con aditamento que si algun tiempo falta, que lo cumpla en lo de los cinco años.

Carmelo Sáenz de Santa María, *Libro Viejo de la Fundación de Guatemala* (Guatemala: Academia de Geografía e Historia de Guatemala, 1991), 67; 69. Translation by Marian Olivas.

**GROUP SEVEN*****Old Book of the Foundation of Guatemala*****English**

On Wednesday, twenty and two days of the month of April, year of thousand and five hundred and twenty and eight years, in the presence of me Juan de Páez . . . public notary public and of the town hall of this city of Santiago, that is in the province of Guatemala [sic], by its Majesty.

*Where the valley opens up to the city*

. . . To García de Salinas another piece of land with the river bordering it, 250 steps and 700 of length; on its border is land of Hernando de Chávez, and on the other border, Juan Rodríguez.

To Juan Rodríguez another plot of land there bordering the river, 350 steps and 800 of length; the land bordering it includes the land of García de Salinas, and on the other side, land of Diego Sánchez de Ortega.

**Spanish**

En miércoles, veinte y dos días del mes de abril, año de mil e quinientos e veinte y ocho años, en presencia de mí Juan de Páez . . . escribano público y del cabildo desta ciudad de Santiago, que es en la provincia de Guatemala [sic], por su majestad.

*De la boca del valle para la ciudad*

. . . A García de Salinas se midió otro pedazo de tierra en que hay, de frente al río, 250 pasos e 700 de largo; que ha por linderos, de la una parte, tierra de Hernando de Chávez, e de la otra parte, Juan Rodríguez.

A Juan Rodríguez se midió otro pedazo de tierra, que hay, de frente al río, 350 pasos e 800 de largo; que ha por linderos, de la una parte, García de Salinas, e de la otra parte, tierra de Diego Sánchez de Ortega.

Carmelo Sáenz de Santa María, *Libro Viejo de la Fundación de Guatemala* (Guatemala: Academia de Geografía e Historia de Guatemala, 1991), 182-83; 187-88. Translation by Marian Olivas.

**GROUP EIGHT**

***True History of the Conquest of New Spain (Historia Verdadera de La Conquista de Nueva España) by Bernal Díaz del Castillo***

Then Cortés sent to Villa Rica for much of the iron and the bolts of the ships which we had destroyed, and for anchors, sails and rigging and for cables and tow and all the other materials for building ships, and he ordered all the blacksmiths to come, and one Hernando de Aguilar who was half a blacksmith and helped in the forging. Cortés sent a certain Santa Cruz as Captain to Villa Rica with orders to bring all the material I have mentioned. He brought everything, even to the cauldrons for melting the pitch, and all the things that they had taken out of the ships, and transported them with the help of more than a thousand Indians, for all the towns of those provinces were enemies of the Mexicans [Aztecs], and at once gave men to carry the loads. Then as we had no pitch with which to caulk the launches, and the Indians did not know how to extract it, Cortés ordered four sailors who understood the work to go and make pitch in some fine pine woods near Huexotzingo.<sup>1</sup>

[crossed out in the original] I remember that the one that was in charge of this and went with them as the captain was one Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo who was a good soldier in the Mexican campaigns and afterwards was an honored Guatamalen resident and he was captain and admiral of thirteen ships belonging to Pedro de Alvarado and served His Majesty very well in all that he offered and he died in His royal service.<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup>Bernal Díaz del Castillo, A. P. Maudslay, trans. *The Discovery and Conquest of Mexico: Bernal Diaz del Castillo, Conquistador* (New York: Da Capo Press, 2003), 337.

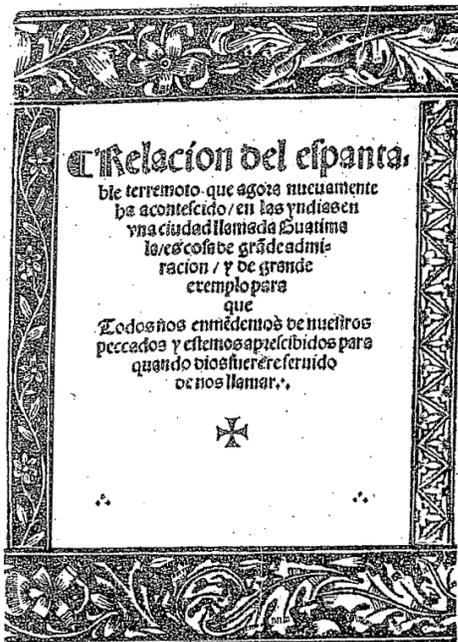
<sup>2</sup>Genaro García, ed. *Historia Verdadera de la Conquista de la Nueva España*, Bernal Díaz del Castillo (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2010), 475. Translation by Marian Olivas.

## GROUP NINE

## Record of What Happened in Guatemala

Saturday, the tenth of September in the year 1541, at 2 o'clock in the morning. Account of the terrible earthquake that has happened in the Indies in a city called Guatemala; . . . At two o'clock in the morning there was a very great torrent of water which was the height of the volcano which stands over the city of Guatemala. It was so unexpected that there was no time to avoid the deaths and the injuries which resulted. The earthquake was so great that it carried rocks and trees ahead of the water. Those of us who saw it stopped—astonished. The torrent entered into the house of the governor, Pedro de Alvarado, who has recently gone to his glory, and filled all the walls and roof as if it had been shot with a cross-bow. . . .

The city remained so destroyed, maltreated and wasted, and the people so terrified that everyone wished to leave it and to depopulate it so that it would remain lost forever . . . Until now there has been no problem except that the landed gentry have come here relating their woes as a result of what has happened.



Now they have made an agreement to make a big farm in the country where we all can live together until the time that we begin to build the city. There is no man who wishes to return to his home even though a few of them remain. It is a pity to see so many and such good homes have been lost, but the Cathedral and the bishop's houses are preserved. Next to those of Mexico, there had never been better ones nor costlier in these parts.

Juan Rodríguez, notary

Bernice Beagles, "Record of What Happened in Guatemala," *Western Explorer: Journal of the Cabrillo Historical Association* 5 (September 1967): 20-23.

