

## Negative Impact of European Exploration in North America

- Alabama Indians were exposed to and suffered from epidemics, and deaths.
- They were exposed to contagious diseases.
- They had not been exposed to many illnesses before European Exploration began.
- Native Americans' "traditional medical practices" increased their death rates.
  
- When Hernando de Soto came through Alabama, he and his men "plundered and pillaged."
- They left a "trail of death and destruction in their wake."

### Hernando de Soto and Chief Tuscaloosa

- In 1540, de Soto entered Chief Tuscaloosa's town, Atahachi.
- Chief Tuscaloosa was taken hostage by de Soto and his men.
- De Soto demanded food, laborers, and women.
- Chief Tuscaloosa told him these things would be waiting for him in Mabila.
- Mabila was several days' travel away.
- When de Soto arrived at Mabila, it was protected and was most likely a trap.
- A battle broke out and de Soto's men killed thousands of Indians.
- Far less Spaniards were killed, only 22.

Bridges, Edwin C. Alabama The Making of an American State.  
Tuscaloosa, Alabama: The University of Alabama Press. 2016.