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.