



*Coronado traveled from Spanish territory in Mexico to the southwestern United States in search of riches. He found none but claimed the area for Spain.*

# 1540

## Coronado's Conquest of the Pueblo Indians

Word of the discovery of the first of the Seven Cities reached the Viceroy of New Spain, Antonio de Mendoza, in Mexico. He decided to **conquer** the pueblo for Spain. He asked Francisco de Coronado to be the leader. Coronado reached the Zuni Pueblo in 1540. He and his men soon found out that this pueblo did not have the riches that they hoped to find. They took what they could from the Zuni. They then claimed this pueblo and 80 more for Spain.

# 1598

## Spanish Treatment of Pueblo Indians

The Spaniards lived among the Pueblo peoples. At first they depended on the food that was grown in the Pueblo peoples' gardens. This sometimes left the Pueblo Indians without enough to eat. Many Pueblo peoples were forced to become servants in Spanish homes. Sometimes the Spaniards would cut off one foot of young adult males as a way to control them.

The Spanish priests tried to **convert** the Pueblo peoples to Christianity. They pressured the Pueblo Indians by hanging, whipping, or putting them in prison. Most Pueblo people did not want to be Christians. They wanted to worship in their own traditions.

The Spaniards also brought smallpox to the pueblo. This very serious disease causes a rash and high fever and spreads easily. It was an illness that the Pueblo

Indians had never had before. Smallpox swept through the pueblos killing hundreds of people. Sometimes whole villages were wiped out.



*A modern graveyard at Taos Pueblo*