

Source A: Bartolome de Las Casas, *The Destruction of the Indies*, 1542

A strong voice against the treatment of the natives under the encomienda system, the bishop of Chiapas, Bartolome de Las Casas, wrote, spoke and was an advocate for basic human rights. In this selection, Las Casas juxtaposes the native culture with the Spanish invaders and describes in detail the horrific treatment of the natives at the hands of the Europeans.

The Christians, with their horses and swords, began to slaughter and practice strange cruelty among them. They penetrated into the country and spared neither children nor the aged, nor pregnant women, nor those in child labour, all of whom they ran through the body and lacerated, as though they were assaulting so many lambs herded in their sheepfold. The Indians are our brothers, and Christ has given his life for them. Why, then, do we persecute them with such inhuman savagery when they do not deserve such treatment?

SOAPStone

Directions: Using the source provided, answer the following sourcing questions. Be sure to provide explicit evidence from the source to support your answers.

SOAP Stone	Sourcing Questions	Sourcing Answers	Evidence from source: What evidence from the source leads you to your answer?
Speaker	Who is the speaker? What do you know - important background information - about this person that may help you better understand his/her perspective?		
Occasion	What is the context in which the person is speaking? Identify the particular place and time to have a better understanding of context. What events might have influenced the speaker?		
Audience	Who is the intended audience? Who is the speaker directing their message to? How might the audience influence the way in which the speaker creates the message?		
Purpose	What is the main idea or message of the document?		
So What?	Why is this message significant, given the time in which it was written? Why should anyone care?		
Tone	What attitude is expressed by the author?		

Adapted from College Board.