Read and Reflect: *A Brief Account of the Destruction of the Indians*

Complete this handout as you read the excerpt from Bartolomé de las Casas's *A Brief Account of the Destruction of the Indians*. Use a separate sheet of paper as needed.

1. How does Las Casas describe the native peoples of the New World?

2. Identify some of the cruelties that Las Casas says the Spaniards inflicted upon the native peoples.

3. Why do you think Las Casas describes the Spanish colonists as people who "pride themselves in the Name of Christians"?

4. Imagine that you are a missionary in one of the Spanish colonies that Las Casas names. How would you have responded if you had witnessed some of the things he describes?

(The quotation on this handout is from *A Brief Account of the Destruction of the Indians*, by Bartolomé de las Casas, at *www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/20321/pg20321.html*.)

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