

EXPLORING THE PAST



AMERICAN HISTORY
VOLUME 1

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Chapter One

THE NEW WORLD

TIMELINE

Columbus begins his voyage,
arrives in the New World

1492

Pilgrims come to Plymouth

1620

1607

Virginia is founded by British settlers

1625

Population of English
Colonies around 2,000

Lesson 1: Discovery of a New World



Ancient map of Ptolemy

A. The Search for a Passage to the Far East

This image is a map produced by an Ancient Roman named _____ (c. 100-178). Ptolemy's map and his ideas of what the world looked like was unknown to the western world until the year _____ when it was translated from Greek to Latin. As it became public, others revised the map based on the travels of Marco Polo (1245-1324), _____. He travelled to _____ and _____.



Marco Polo, an Italian merchant and writer

Ptolemy's map looked very different from the way we now know the world truly is. One needs to consider:

- People had no idea of the true size of the _____.
- They were not aware of the existence of two continents, _____ and _____.



One of Marco Polo's journeys took twenty-four years. This was because he stayed in China for a very long time. The information he recorded and published astounded the Europeans of his time.

The people of Europe in the 15th century greatly valued silk, spices, perfumes, and other goods that could be obtained only in the Far East, in the lands of _____, _____, and other far away countries.



 **Put an X on North America and South America, which were unknown to the world at that time.**

 **Circle: Europe, India and China**

Notice how long the land route between Europe and the Far East is. In addition, the vast _____ lay between Europe and the Far East. The people who lived along the trade routes were _____, in contrast to the European world, which was Christian. The Muslim traders along the routes would tax goods and cause an additional great expense to the people purchasing them in _____.

B. Christopher Columbus

An Italian man named _____ thought that perhaps there was a shorter way to reach these countries. Columbus and other people had realized that, contrary to widespread belief, the world was not flat but round. If he could sail west, he would discover a sea route to the Far East and bypass the lands that lay between _____ and _____.

Columbus thought that this would not only be a shorter journey, but a way to avoid the expense of paying the extra taxes as well.



Christopher Columbus

Lesson 1: Review

People of Interest

Identify the people listed below:

Ptolemy	
Christopher Columbus	

Answer the following questions using full sentences.

1. In what way did the discovery of Ptolemy's map change scientists' and explorers' perception of the world?

2. What caused Columbus to sail west in search of a sea route to the East?

Lesson 2: The Voyage

A. The Patrons

Columbus's voyage needed a _____, or investor to pay for the trip. He was able to convince _____ and _____ of Spain to finance his trip. Patron is a person who supports with money, gifts, efforts, or endorsement of an artist, writer, museum, cause, charity, institution, or special event.

In _____, Columbus set sail with three boats, _____. Columbus's goal was to discover a sea route to India and China. Little did Columbus realize that what he would find would be much more valuable than a sea route; he would discover the _____.



A depiction of Columbus's journey across the Atlantic

B. The Journey

Before he set out Columbus had no idea how long his journey would take. He had told the King and Queen of Spain that he predicted a four-week journey. It was not until _____ of 1492, four months later, that land was finally sighted.



The sailors on the ships were impatient and complained about the length of journey. Columbus encouraged them by promising them the riches they would receive when they arrived.

Columbus was sure he had reached the shores of Asia, and was disembarking on the outlying islands of India. What he did not realize was that he reached the outlying island of what would become known as America. Because of this mistake, Columbus called the native people who inhabited this island _____.

Columbus made _____ voyages to the New World altogether, each time discovering new areas. However, he never did discover a sea route to the East. After his voyage, many other _____ also sought to discover a sea route to the East. Consequently, they would discover more and more areas of the Americas. America's rich resources would become a major source of _____ in Europe. In addition, it would become a place for people to settle and populate the land.



"And they are also fitted to be ruled and to be set to work, to cultivate the land and to do all else that may be necessary, and you may build towns and teach them to go clothed and adopt our customs."
- Christopher Columbus's observation of the people he called Indians

Columbus's Mistake: Columbus thought he reached the Far East. How did his mistake change the history of the world?

Lesson 2: Review

Key Terms

Define each term using complete sentences.

Indians	
Patron	

People of Interest

Identify the people listed below.

King Ferdinand & Queen Isabella	
------------------------------------	--

Answer the following question using full sentences.

1. Columbus misnamed the natives of America “Indians” because he thought he had reached India. The name has remained synonymous with Native Americans, the people who inhabited America before the arrival of Europeans. In modern times, Native Americans prefer to be called Native Americans rather than Indians. Why would Native Americans prefer that title? Why would it matter to them what they are called?

Columbus Sets Sail

Below is a primary source from the journal of Christopher Columbus. It is a partial translated copy of the first entry in Columbus's journal.

PRIMARY SOURCE

A primary source is a source which was created at the time of the event. Examples of primary sources are journals, letters, diaries, drawings and artifacts.



As you read the entry, circle any words you do not understand, and underline any phrases that are not clear to you.

"Hereupon I left the city of Granada¹ on Saturday, the twelfth day of May, 1492, and proceeded to Palos, a seaport, where I armed three vessels, very fit for such an enterprise², and having provided myself with abundance of stores and seamen, I set sail from the port, on Friday, the third of August, half an hour before sunrise, and steered for the Canary Islands³ of your Highnesses which are in the said ocean, thence to take my departure and proceed till I arrived at the Indies, and perform the embassy of your Highnesses to the Princes there, and discharge the orders given me. For this purpose I determined to keep an account of the voyage, and to write down punctually every thing we performed or saw from day to day, as will hereafter appear. Moreover, Sovereign⁴ Princes, besides describing every night the occurrences of the day, and every day those of the preceding night, I intend to draw up a nautical⁵ chart, which shall contain the several parts of the ocean and land in their proper situations; and also to compose a book to represent the whole by picture with latitudes and longitudes, on all which accounts it behooves me to abstain from my sleep, and make many trials in navigation, which things will demand much labor."

1. Who wrote the journal entry above?

2. What was the purpose of this writing?

3. How did Columbus prepare for the journey?

¹ **Granada:** A city in southern Spain.

² **Enterprise:** A difficult project.

³ **Canary Islands:** A series of islands which are located at the southernmost part of Spain.

⁴ **Sovereign:** Supreme ruler.

⁵ **Nautical:** Pertaining to sea

CHAPTER 1: THE NEW WORLD

4. Quote the phrase that gives evidence to Columbus’s intention to travel to the Indies, not to find a New World.

5. What other records did Columbus intend to present to the Queen in addition to this journal?

6. What makes this journal a primary source?

SECONDARY SOURCE

A secondary source is a source which was written years after the event occurred. They usually are scholarly works, which are supported by primary sources of the time. The secondary source then analyzes and interprets the evidence provided by primary sources of the time. Examples of secondary sources are essays, textbooks, documents and history books.

“On August 3, 1492, Italian explorer Christopher Columbus started his voyage across the Atlantic Ocean. With a crew of 90 men and three ships—the Niña, Pinta, and Santa Maria—he left from Palos de la Frontera, Spain. Columbus reasoned that since the world is round, he could sail west to reach “the east” (the lucrative lands of India and China). That reasoning was actually sound, but the Earth is much larger than Columbus thought—large enough for him to run into two enormous continents (the “New World” of the Americas) mostly unknown to Europeans.”

- Caryl-Sue, National Geographic Resource Library, “Columbus Sets Sail”

1. What information from Columbus’s journey does the secondary source have that is supported by the primary source?

2. What other information does the secondary source contain which was only known because it was written after the event?



All sources, both primary and secondary, may contain a bias or prejudice in favor of one thing, person, or group compared with another. Therefore, one should be aware of who wrote the source and the purpose of his writing. For example, the discovery of the New World may have been viewed favorably when written from the Spanish point of view while negatively by the Native American point of view.

The advantage of a primary source is that it was written when the event happened, so certain details are included which otherwise could have been forgotten. This allows for greater accuracy and more information.

The advantage of a secondary source is that it has the broader historical perspective that the author of the primary source does not.

Lesson 3: Native Americans



A map of the various regions of North America



- Semi-arid Steppe
- Humid Subtropical
- Marine West Coast
- Mediterranean
- Humid Continental (warm summer)
- Humid Continental (cool summer)
- Highland (alpine)
- Tropical Wet/Dry Season
- Midlatitude Desert

A map of the various climate zones of North America

Map Skills

Compare the map of the regions of Northern Native Americans to the climate map. How did the different climate zones affect how the different tribes lived?

CHAPTER 1: THE NEW WORLD



Pueblo, dwelling of Southwest tribes
Credit: Luca Galuzzi - www.galuzzi.it, under Creative Commons License



Teepee, dwelling of Great Plains tribes



Long House of the Iroquois. (Bureau of Ethnology.)

Longhouse, dwelling of Northeastern tribes



What do these dwellings tell you about the environment these tribes lived in?

A. The Bering Land Bridge

Who were the people Christopher Columbus called Indians? How did they end up living in this distant land so far away from the rest of the world's population?

There are many _____ offered how ancient people came to America. A theory is a _____¹ that cannot be proven. The most popular theory is that ancient people crossed the _____. The Bering Land Bridge is now a _____, or narrow passage of water, called _____. It separates _____ and _____. Scientists believe that it was once frozen and allowed people to go from Asia to America.



The Bering Strait



The Bering Strait is fifty-five miles at its narrowest point. How long would it take someone to walk across the strait if it was frozen?



Hunter-gatherers traveled many miles while hunting game

B. Hunter- Gatherers

In ancient times, people were _____. Hunter Gatherers are people who obtained their food by hunting wild animals and gathering edible plants found in nature. They did not dwell in one place, but were _____, or people who drift from place to place. The early people of America searching for food.

¹ **Hypothesis:** Suggestions based on reasonable evidence.

Some people remained behind in different regions and settled there, while others continued wandering. Some travelled as far as _____ (Mexico and Central America) and _____. The different climate, geography, and resources of each area caused each Native American group to develop differently.



In some remote areas of the world, there are still people who are hunter-gatherers.

Lesson 3: Review

Key Terms

Define each term using complete sentences.

Agriculture	
Hunter- Gatherers	
Hypothesis	
Nomad	
Strait	
Theory	

Places to Know

Bering Land Bridge	
Bering Strait	
Meso-America	

Answer the following question using complete sentences.

1. What caused people to spread across the continents of North America and South America?
