

Short Lessons in U.S. History

STUDENT BOOK
FOURTH EDITION

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E. Richard Churchill
Linda R. Churchill

J. WESTON
WALCH
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A NEW LAND IS REACHED AND SETTLED (1003–1733)



TIME LINE

EVENTS ELSEWHERE	DATE	EVENTS IN AMERICA
	1492	Columbus was first European to arrive in West Indies
	1497	Cabot claimed part of eastern coast of Canada for England
	1513	Ponce de León claimed Florida for Spain
<i>Reformation began</i>	1517	
<i>Magellan began his sail around the world</i>	1519	Cortés conquered Mexico
	1534	Cartier explored St. Lawrence River
	1540–41	Coronado explored the Southwest De Soto was the first European to reach the Mississippi River
	1565	City of St. Augustine established
<i>England defeated Spanish Armada</i>	1588	
<i>Elizabeth I died</i>	1603	Champlain began exploration of Quebec
	1607	Jamestown, first English colony, established
	1609	Santa Fe established
	1619	English women and slaves came to Virginia People voted for representatives
	1620	Plymouth Colony established
	1623	Dutch settled New Amsterdam
	1630	Massachusetts Bay Colony established
	1664	English took New Amsterdam
	1681	Pennsylvania established

ACTIVATING PRIOR KNOWLEDGE

Watch for answers to these questions as you read.

- Why did explorers search for new routes and new lands?
- Which European nations claimed land in the New World?
- How successful were the early settlers in the New World?
- How important was religion in the new colonies?

INTRODUCTION

About 1,000 years ago, the first European sailors, Norsemen, explored the coast of what is now Newfoundland. They stayed only a short while. For the next 500 years, Europeans did not return to North America. Then on October 12, 1492, Christopher Columbus landed in the West Indies. This was a world new to Europeans.

During the 250 years that followed, explorers and settlers from many European nations came to this **New World**. Most of them came looking for freedom or wealth—or both. Some found what they were hunting for. Many failed. Some went home to Europe. Many died in the wild new land. A great many people stayed on and made their homes in the new land.

New World—the name European explorers gave to North America

THE EXPLORERS BEGIN TO ARRIVE

Over a thousand years ago, a Viking ship sailed from Iceland toward Greenland. Due to fog and a change in wind, the Vikings missed Greenland. Instead, they reached the part of North America now known as Newfoundland. Seventeen years later, Leif the Lucky sailed from Greenland in search of the land his

ASTROLABE AND MAGNETIC COMPASS

Early European explorers depended on two devices to help them **navigate** across uncharted seas. These aids were the astrolabe and the magnetic compass.

The Chinese may have been the first people to use the **magnetic compass**. By the 1100s, it was being used by sailors in the Mediterranean Sea as well as by Chinese navigators.

The first magnetic compasses were simple but effective. They were just pieces of magnetized iron that were placed on a layer of cork. The cork floated on a bowl of water.

By the time of Columbus, the use of the magnetic compass had improved. Sailors knew that magnetic north was not true north and were able to adjust for the difference. They also used the compass card, which gave 32 **directions** or points of the

compass. For instance, the compass card used north, north by east, north-northeast, northeast by north, northeast, northeast by east, and so on around the 360 degrees of the compass.

The **astrolabe** was an instrument used by ancient astronomers. Sailors took up its use when they realized it would help them navigate. The astrolabe was used to measure the angle of stars above the horizon.

The astrolabe was a metal disk that hung from a frame so the disk was always upright or vertical. It had sights through which the navigator looked at a star. A series of markings helped measure the star's elevation.

Using the compass for direction and the astrolabe for location, sailors had a good idea how far they had traveled and where they were.

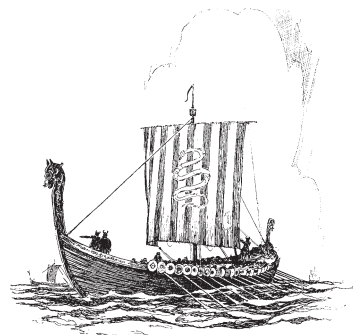
navigate—to direct the course of a ship

magnetic compass—a navigational tool that uses a magnetic pointer to show which way north lies

direction—on a map, north, south, east, or west

astrolabe—an instrument once used by sailors to tell where they were

friends had seen earlier. It was the year 1003 when Leif and 35 other men and women stepped off their ship. Within a short time, scouts had found good fishing, tall grass, and wild grapevines. The Vikings were so pleased with the new land that they built houses and stayed for the winter. When spring came, they sailed back to Greenland.



The next European visitor arrived in North America almost 500 years later. That visitor, Christopher Columbus, was not expecting to sight land when he did. Even after he and his crew landed, he had no real idea where they were. He thought they were in India. It is likely Columbus had never heard of the strange new land Leif the Lucky had discovered. The Vikings' explorations were unknown to most of the world.

In order to understand the great interest in exploration at the time of Columbus, we need to know a few things about Europe in 1492.

In Europe, the Renaissance was just beginning. The people of Europe were trading with the people of China and the Indies. Europeans were beginning to wonder about the rest of the world.

Traders from cities along the Mediterranean Sea traveled to the eastern edge of the Mediterranean. There, they met **caravans** that had carried spices, fine cloth, and rare jewels all the way from the Indian Ocean. The traders loaded these things onto their ships and brought them back home.

Cities in Italy such as Venice and Genoa were becoming rich because of all this trading. Naturally, other nations were jealous and wanted some of the business for themselves. For this reason, both Spain and Portugal became interested in finding a fast and easy way to sail to China and the Indies.

trader—someone whose business is buying and selling goods

caravan—a group of merchants who travel together

PRINCE HENRY'S NAVIGATION SCHOOL

Prince Henry of Portugal wanted his nation to make money from trading with China and other Asian nations. At the time, most of this **trade** was controlled by cities in Italy.

In order to give Portuguese sailors an advantage, Prince Henry set up a school where ships' **navigators** would be trained. He felt that learning navigation and geography would enable them to locate new routes to the Far East.

It was Prince Henry's idea that ships could sail south around Africa. He got the best books and **maps** available and began to train his navigators and sea captains. Henry's sailors went farther and farther south along the African coast. By the time Prince Henry died in 1460, his ships had sailed south of the **equator**.

trade—the exchange of money, goods, and services

navigator—a crew member who plans the ship's course

map—a flat drawing or chart of part of the earth's surface

equator—an imaginary line that circles the earth at its widest point (halfway between the poles), dividing it into two hemispheres

In 1487, a sailor from Portugal named Bartholomeu Dias sailed around the southern tip of Africa. Eleven years later, Vasco da Gama followed the path of Dias but continued across the Indian Ocean and reached India. Portugal then had a way to reach India and China by water. This made the shipping of **goods** much cheaper than the old way of first using a ship, then a caravan, and then a ship again to reach Europe.

goods—things that can be bought, sold, or traded, such as food items, clothing, tools, and crafts

CRITICAL THINKING

Caravans brought goods from China and Southeast Asia to the Mediterranean Sea. Why did European nations want to find all-water routes to the East?

But back to Columbus. In 1492, Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand of Spain had just been married. Their marriage helped join all of Spain into one nation. When Columbus arrived with his idea of reaching the Indies by sailing west, he came at the right time. Italy was getting rich, and Portugal was close to being a big trading nation. Spain wanted a share in the trade as well, so Columbus was given three ships, and his historic voyage began.



Christopher Columbus

On August 3, 1492, the three tiny ships left Palos, Spain. Using only a compass and the stars as a guide, Columbus sailed west. As the ships sailed farther and farther from land, the crew liked the voyage less and less. Huge ocean waves seemed ready to swallow the small ships. But finally, on October 12, land was sighted.

The land was not the Indies, as Columbus had hoped, and he did not return to Spain with great riches. Even though he made three more trips and started a settlement, he never did find spices, precious jewels, or other fine things. But he did encounter a world unknown to Europe, and he did claim a large amount of land for Spain.

Columbus's great voyage was as fantastic to the people of his time as space travel is to us today. Actually, Columbus's voyage was far more daring than today's moon shots. Columbus had no team of scientists to help him on his way. He was truly on his own.

CRITICAL THINKING

If you had lived during the time of Columbus, would you have been willing to go with him on his first voyage? Give several reasons why you would or would not have wanted to sail with him.

After Columbus, Europeans knew the New World was there. People from many nations were willing to explore it, and they claimed land for their home countries in Europe.