

Exploring the Americas

Lesson 1 The Growth of Trade

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

Why do people trade?

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. *What advances in technology paved the way for European exploration?*
2. *Why was the Age of Exploration a major turning point in history?*

Terms to Know

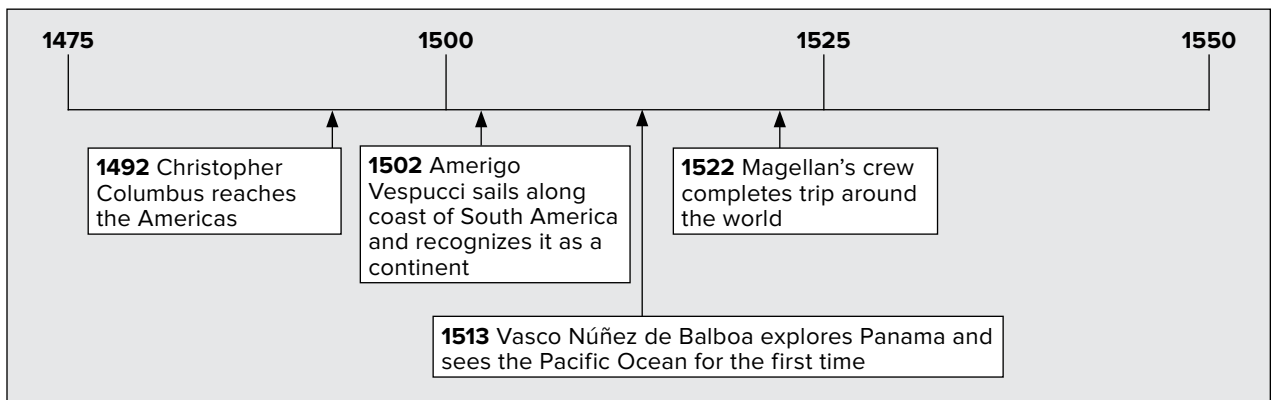
technology the use of scientific knowledge for practical purposes

compass navigation aid that shows the direction in which a person or vessel is traveling

strait a narrow water passage between larger bodies of water

circumnavigate to go around completely

When did it happen?



What do you know?

In the first column, answer the questions based on what you know before you study. After this lesson, complete the last column.

Now...		Later...
	Why did Columbus sail to the Americas?	
	Which explorer was able to circle the world?	
	What was the Columbian Exchange?	

Exploring the Americas

Lesson 1 The Growth of Trade, *Continued*

Searching for New Trade Routes

In the 1400s many countries in Europe wanted to find a sea route to the Indies. The Indies are islands southeast of Asia. These islands had valuable spices. At this time, people used spices to flavor food, as medicine, and to keep food from going bad.

The first country to find a new route was Portugal. Portuguese sailors traveled along the west coast of Africa. They went around the southern tip and then east toward Asia. Italian sailor, Christopher Columbus, tried a different way. He would sail west, across the Atlantic Ocean.

New **technology** would help Columbus make the long trip. Technology is science that can be used to solve everyday problems. New ships were faster, bigger, and safer. New tools for navigating, or finding the way, helped ships to sail long distances. The **compass** showed which direction was north. The astrolabe and quadrant measured the position of the sun and stars. These measurements helped sailors determine their location. All of these new tools, and better maps, made sea travel safer.

Exploring the World

Queen Isabella of Spain said she would pay for Columbus's trip. She did this for two reasons. First, Columbus had to promise to bring the religion of Christianity to any lands he found. Second, she knew that Spain would gain much new trade if Columbus found a new route to the Indies.

Columbus set out from Spain on August 3, 1492. He had three ships—the *Niña*, the *Pinta*, and the *Santa María*. The *Santa María* was the largest ship. Columbus was the captain of this ship. The three ships carried about 90 sailors. They had a six-month supply of food and water.

About two months after they set sail, Columbus's crew spotted land. It was October 12, 1492. The land was an island in what is today the Bahamas. Columbus went ashore. He claimed the island for Spain and named it San Salvador.

Columbus was sure he had reached the East Indies, the islands of Asia. Maps at this time did not show North or South America. They showed Europe, Asia, and Africa as one giant piece of land. Some explorers thought that the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans formed one big body of water. Columbus had landed in the Caribbean islands. Today, these islands are known as the West Indies. He explored the area for a few months. He called the people who lived there "Indians." This is because he thought he was in the East Indies.



Mark the Text

- Underline three new technologies that helped people travel long distances by water.



Reading Check

- Why were European countries interested in finding a new route to the East Indies?



Identifying

- Where did Columbus come ashore after spotting land?

Exploring the Americas

Lesson 1 The Growth of Trade, *Continued*

Drawing Conclusions

4. Why was Amerigo Vespucci's discovery important?

Making Inferences

5. How do you think Balboa's discovery might have changed the world's maps at the time?

Identifying

6. Underline the meaning of *circumnavigation*. Which explorer's crew was the first to circumnavigate the world?

When Columbus went back to Spain, the Spanish king and queen honored him. King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella said they would pay for more trips.

Columbus made three more trips to the Americas in 1493, 1498, and 1502. He explored more of the islands in the Caribbean. These included what are today Hispaniola, Cuba, and Jamaica. He sailed along the coasts of Central America and South America. He mapped the coast of Central America. He also claimed the new land for Spain and started settlements.

After Columbus, other people explored the Americas. In 1502 Amerigo Vespucci (veh • SPOO • chee) sailed along South America's coast. He was the first to call South America a continent. He realized it was not a part of Asia. European mapmakers began calling this new continent "America." This was in honor of Amerigo Vespucci.

Vasco Núñez de Balboa (bal • BOH • uh) explored Panama. He crossed Panama and found a large body of water to the west in 1513. It was the Pacific Ocean. He claimed the ocean and the lands along it for Spain.

In 1520 Ferdinand Magellan (muh • JEH • lun) made it to the southern tip of South America. He was a sailor from Portugal, who was working for Spain. He sailed through a **strait**, or narrow sea passage, into the Pacific Ocean. The waters were very calm. For that reason, he named the ocean the "Pacific." *Pacifico* in Spanish means "peaceful."

Magellan died on the journey. His crew kept sailing and reached Spain in 1522. They were the first known people to **circumnavigate** (suh • kuhm • NAV • ih • gayt), or sail around, the world.

Explorer	Achievements
Christopher Columbus	landed in the West Indies in 1492; made three more trips in 1493, 1498, and 1502 to explore other Caribbean islands and the coasts of Central and South America
Amerigo Vespucci	sailed the coast of South America and realized it was a continent; "America" named for him
Vasco Núñez de Balboa	explored Panama; was first European to see Pacific Ocean from the Americas
Ferdinand Magellan	his crew was first to circumnavigate the world

Exploring the Americas

Lesson 1 The Growth of Trade, *Continued*

Many items were traded on the trips between Europe and the Americas. People, plants, animals, and germs moved between Europe, Asia, and Africa and the Americas. Today, this is called the Columbian Exchange. It changed the lives of many people. For example, when the horse was brought from Europe, it changed the lives of the Native Americans who lived on the Great Plains.

The Columbian Exchange also had bad effects. Europeans brought illnesses that killed many people. Native Americans were not used to these germs and could not fight off the illnesses. Smallpox and other diseases spread quickly.



Glue Foldable here

Check for Understanding

List two reasons Spain chose to pay for Columbus's voyages

- _____
- _____

How did new technology help Columbus on his voyages?

? Finding Main Ideas

- Name one positive and one negative effect of the Columbian Exchange.

✓ Reading Check

- Why did Spain agree to pay for Columbus's voyage?

FOLDABLES®

- Place a one-tab Foldable along the dotted line to cover Check for Understanding. Create a memory map by writing *Columbus* in the middle of the tab and drawing four or more arrows. List words or phrases describing Christopher Columbus's voyages. Use the reverse side to write additional information. Use your Foldable to help answer Check for Understanding.