



LIFE·PAC®

# History & Geography



Alpha Omega Publications®

# HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY 501 A NEW WORLD

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# A NEW WORLD

This year you will learn the story, the history, of our nation, the United States of America. You will learn how it was created, how it survived, what people led it and what it has accomplished in the world. It is an amazing story of a nation led by the hand of God. It is also your story. God created you to be an American and to do your part in the history of your nation. When you grow up you will become a voting citizen, a government employee, or maybe even an elected official. Learn the history of your nation so you can better understand your place in America.

The origin of something is its beginning or source. This LIFEPAC® will teach you about the origins of the United States of America. It will teach you about the men who came from Europe, explored this land, and stayed to build their lives here. You will learn about how they formed thirteen colonies under the control of Great Britain. When Britain began to rule unfairly, the colonies formed their own nation, the United States.

## OBJECTIVES

**Read these objectives.** The objectives tell you what you should be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFEPAC.

When you have finished this LIFEPAC, you should be able to:

1. Name the explorers who were important in American history and what they explored.
2. Name the nations that claimed land in America and what they claimed.
3. Describe how each of the British colonies were founded and by whom.
4. Describe what the British colonies were like before the Revolution.
5. Describe the French and Indian War and why it changed Britain's thinking about its American colonies.
6. Describe the conflicts with Britain that led the Americans to revolt.
7. Describe the beginning of the Revolutionary War and the birth of the United States of America.

## VOCABULARY

**Study these new words.** Learning the meanings of these words is a good study habit and will improve your understanding of this LIFEPAC.

**acre** (ā' kər). A unit used to measure area, especially the size of land for farming; It is equal to 160 square rods. There are 640 acres in a square mile.

**ambush** (am' bʊsh). A surprise attack on an approaching enemy from a hiding place

**boycott** (boi' kɒt). To join together against and agree not to buy from, sell to, or associate with a person, business or nation

**community** (kə myü' nə tē). A group of people living together or sharing common interests

**evangelist** (i van' jə ləst). A person who preaches the gospel to win people to Christ

**frontier** (frun tir'). The last edge of settled country, where the wild countryside begins

**governor** (gʊv' ər nə). An official appointed or elected to rule a province or colony

**independence** (in' di pen' dəns). A freedom from the control, support, influence, or help of others

**jury** (jūr ē). A group of citizens chosen to hear evidence in a case brought before a court of law; it, not the judge, decides the case based on the evidence

**militia** (mə lish' ə). An army of citizens who are not regular soldiers but who are trained for war or any other emergency

**monopoly** (mə nop' ə lē). The complete control of a product or service

**nobleman** (nō' bəl mən). A man who has high social standing by birth, rank, or title

**petition** (pə tish' ən). A written request to someone in authority for some right or privilege often signed by many people

**refuge** (ref' yūj). Shelter or protection from danger or trouble

**republic** (ri pub' lik). A government in which the citizens elect representatives to manage the government which is usually headed by a president

**Scandinavia** (skan' də nā vē ə). A region in northwestern Europe that includes Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and sometimes Finland and Iceland

**Note:** These words appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used in this LIFEPAC. If you are unsure of the meaning when you are reading, review the definition.

**Pronunciation Key:** hat, āge, cāre, fār; let, ēqual, tērm; it, ĭce; hot, ōpen, ôrder; oil; out; cup, pūt, rüle; child; long; thin; /Th/ for then; /zh/ for measure; /ə/ represents /a/ in about, /e/ in taken, /i/ in pencil /o/ in lemon, and /u/ in circus.

## I. EUROPEAN EXPLORERS

The culture of the United States and most of its people came from Europe. You read last year about the European sailors who explored our earth and mapped it. In this section, you will learn about those who did this work in North America, our continent.

Four nations explored and claimed land in what is today the United States. They were: Spain, France, the Netherlands, and England. Each nation claimed a portion of land and started colonies there to protect it.

Eventually, England would take over both the Dutch and the French claims. The Spanish colonies would be taken by the United States years later.

This section will teach you about these nations and their explorers. You will learn what parts of America they claimed and how they settled it. This was the very beginning of the events that changed America from a wilderness, which was home to scattered Native American tribes, into a powerful, united nation.

**Review these objectives.** When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. Name the explorers who were important in American history and what they explored.
2. Name the nations that claimed land in America and what they claimed.

**Restudy these words.**

nobleman

Scandinavia

## The Discovery of North America

**Native Americans.** The first people to discover America did so long before the Europeans began to explore. They were people from Asia who moved east from Babel, after God confused the languages. (Genesis 11:1-9). After many years of spreading east, some of these people crossed the Bering Sea on the ice or on a piece of land that is no longer there. These people settled the continents of North and South America. They became the many Indian or Native American tribes that still exist today. The Iroquois, Cherokee, Navajo, Apache, and Sioux people are some of the descendants of these first settlers.

**Vikings.** The Vikings were great sailors and pirates from **Scandinavia**. From about A.D. 700 to 1100 they raided all over Europe to steal treasures and take slaves. Their long wooden boats were fast and sturdy. They were able to travel throughout Europe and even into the vast Atlantic Ocean.

These Vikings explored the islands west of Europe. They colonized (sent people to live on) the island of Iceland northwest of



**THE VIKING ROUTE TO AMERICA**

Europe in about A.D. 870. From Iceland, they discovered the island of Greenland further west. A man named Eric the Red led people to colonize that island in about A.D. 985. One ship's crew while trying to reach Greenland sailed too far, and became the very first Europeans to see North America.

Eric the Red's son, Lief Ericson, led the first voyage to explore this new land in about A.D. 1000. He and his men probably landed in what is now Canada. They stayed one winter. Other Vikings followed them and tried to colonize the new lands. However, all the colonies were eventually abandoned, possibly because of attacks by the Indians. Icelandic *sagas* (stories) recorded Lief Ericson's journey, but the rest of Europe knew nothing about it. It would be almost 500 years before Europeans returned to America.

**Trade.** In the year 1400, the people of Europe knew very little about the world. They knew about Europe, the northern part of Africa and most of Asia (except for the far north). Antarctica and Australia were unknown. America was forgotten, except in the sagas of Iceland. However, the Europeans wanted to know more for a very important reason, spices!

Spices for food were very valuable in Europe in 1400. They were often worth their weight in gold. They came from the

### About Dates:

We date things by whether they happened before or after the birth of Jesus.

Something that happened before His birth is dated B.C. (**B**efore **C**hrist).

Something that happened after His birth is dated A.D. (*Anno Domini*—Latin for "In the Year of Our Lord").

So, David became king of Israel in about 1000 B.C. (a thousand years before Jesus was born). Lief Ericson landed in America in about A.D. 1000 (a thousand years after Jesus was born).

B.C. is written after the date, but A.D. is written in front of it. If there are no letters with a date, it is A.D.



***DIAZ AND DA GAMA ROUTES TO INDIA***

southeastern part of Asia (called the Far East or Spice Islands). The trade routes to get the spices from the Far East to Europe involved traveling over land and sea. The trips took a long time and were very expensive.

Europeans began to look for an all-water route to Asia in about 1400. Such a route would allow them to avoid the dangerous and expensive land crossings. They would be safer from thieves who attacked the caravans. They could send their own ships, fill them with spices and return on the open sea without having to pay tolls to anyone. Such a route would bring great wealth to the men and nations that used it.

Henry the Navigator, a Portuguese prince, began the exploration of the earth to find a water route to Asia. As you learned in LIFEPAK 401, he planned very carefully. He set up a school of navigation in his homeland to train sea captains and sailors. He organized voyages along the coast of Africa to explore, map, and search for a water route to Asia.

Prince Henry's ships began sailing down the west coast of Africa in about 1430. Each ship went further than the last one before returning to Portugal. In 1488, a Portuguese

ship under the command of Bartholomeu Diaz sailed around the Cape of Good Hope, the bottom of Africa. Just ten years later, another Portuguese captain, Vasco da Gama, sailed around Africa to India and back to Portugal. A water route to the Far East had been found!

The new route brought changes to Europe. Spices became cheaper and more plentiful. Portugal and its merchants grew rich from the trade with the Far East. Portugal protected its new wealth by setting up forts along the coast of Africa to make sure other nations did not trade along "their" route. Other nations had already begun to search for their own route east.

Since most educated people knew the world was a sphere, several thought of sailing west, around the world to reach Asia. But, no one was certain how far west a ship would have to sail to get there. Ships usually sailed along coastlines. Sailing out into the open ocean, without any promise of land nearby was a frightening thought. Moreover, no one knew what dangers or monsters lay out away from land. It would take a brave and determined man to face such a great unknown.