



LIFE·PAC®

History & Geography



Alpha Omega Publications®

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY 510 THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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Alpha Omega Publications®

804 N. 2nd Ave. E., Rock Rapids, IA 51246-1759

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THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

This LIFE PAC® is a review of the history of the United States of America. This LIFE PAC will retell the most important points you have studied over the last year. It will help you to see all of American history in one sweep.

Because this is a review, it does not give many details or explanations. If you need more detailed information, refer to the original LIFE PAC or an encyclopedia. The same is true of any words you do not recognize. Look them up in a dictionary.

OBJECTIVE

Read this objective. The objective tells you what you should be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFE PAC.

When you have finished this LIFE PAC, you should be able to give a general overview of American history, recognizing important people, inventions, wars, and events.



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

I. BEGINNING AMERICA

This section will review the origins of the United States. It will discuss the European explorers who mapped and named our land. It will also retell the stories of how the original thirteen colonies were founded. This section will then

discuss why Britain and the colonies came into conflict. This conflict over taxes and laws led the American colonists to declare their independence and create the nation called the United States of America.

Review the objective. When you have finished this section, you should be able to:

Give a general overview of American history, recognizing important people, inventions, wars, and events.

Origins of the United States

Discovery of North America. North America was first settled by people from Asia who crossed the Bering Sea long before the Europeans began to explore. These people were the ancestors of the many Native Americans who still live here today.

The first Europeans to come to America were Vikings from Greenland. Led by Leif Ericson, the Vikings sailed to Canada around A.D. 1000. They were not able to colonize the land, and the story of their discovery never reached most of Europe.

In the 1400s, Europeans began to explore and map the world. They were looking for an all-water route to Asia because they wanted spices which were very popular and profitable in Europe. By 1498 Portugal had found the first route by going around Africa. The idea came from Henry the Navigator, a prince of Portugal, who set up a school to train sailors in the 1400s.

Christopher Columbus, an Italian sea captain, believed he could reach Asia by sailing west, around the world. He thought Asia was much closer to Europe than it really is, and he did not know America was in the way. He convinced the rulers of Spain, King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella, to sponsor his voyage.

Columbus sailed in 1492 with three ships: the *Niña*, the *Pinta*, and the *Santa*

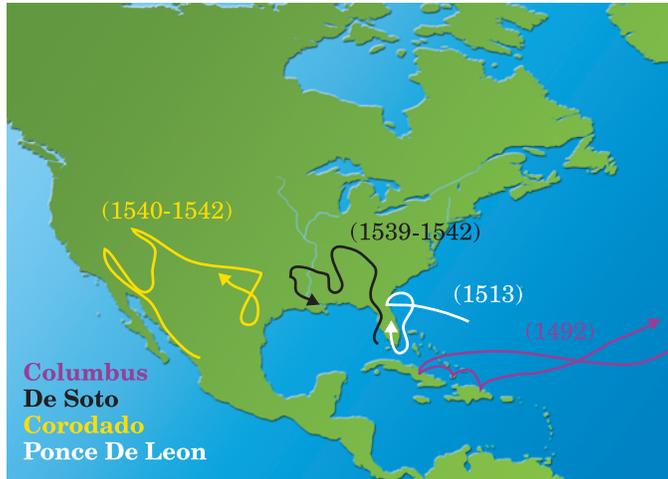
Maria. He landed that year on an island in the “West Indies” (so named to tell them from the East Indies in Asia). Columbus named the island San Salvador. He believed he had landed in Asia, but he could not find any wealthy cities and finally returned to Spain.

He went to America three more times. He founded the very first European colony in America, Isabela, on the island of Hispaniola. He never did learn the truth, that he had found the New World and not Asia.

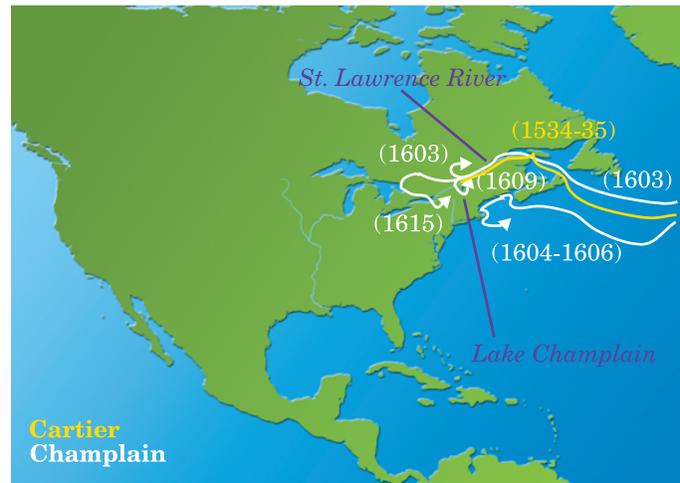
Spanish explorers. Spain sent men to colonize and conquer the lands Columbus had found. *Conquistadors* began to map the land as they hunted for gold. Slowly, they learned more about the land and realized it was not Asia. This was confirmed when Spain sponsored Magellan on the first voyage around the world in 1519. Only one of his five ships survived the voyage, and Magellan was killed in the Philippines. However, the voyage proved that the world was a sphere and America was far from Asia.

Other Spanish explorers were the first Europeans to reach parts of what is now the United States. Ponce de León explored and named Florida while looking for the fountain of youth. Hernando De Soto found the Mississippi River when he investigated the land north and west of Florida.

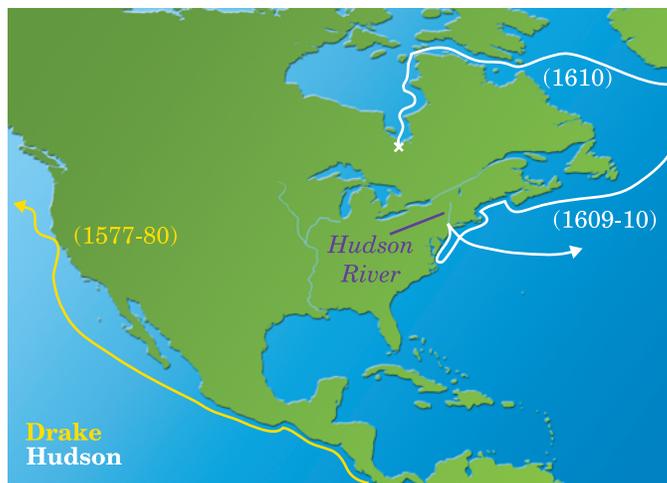
SPANISH EXPLORERS



THE FRENCH EXPLORERS



DUTCH AND ENGLISH EXPLORERS



Francisco Coronado went searching for seven cities of gold north of Mexico. Instead, he found the Grand Canyon and land that would one day be Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas. Spain also founded the first colony in the U.S., the city of St. Augustine in Florida.

New France. The French king wanted gold and to find the Northwest Passage through North America to Asia. In about 1530, he sent Jacques Cartier to explore the gulf west of the Grand Banks, the fishing area near Canada. Cartier found and named the St. Lawrence River. He explored it as far as what is now Montreal.

Samuel de Champlain started the first French colony in 1608 at Quebec. He also explored the rest of the St. Lawrence, parts of Lake Ontario, Lake Huron, and upstate New York where he found the large lake now called Lake Champlain. He became known as the “father of New France” for his work.

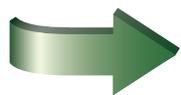
New France spread as the colonists searched for new areas to trade for furs. Furs were very valuable in Europe, and the French traded with the Indians for them. They set up forts along the rivers to protect their country, holding large amounts of land with very few people.

After spreading along the St. Lawrence and the Great Lakes, New France pushed

south along the Mississippi River. Two Frenchmen, Jacques Marquette and Louis Jolliet, explored the river as far south as Arkansas in 1673. Sieur de La Salle followed it to its mouth on the Gulf of Mexico in 1682. He claimed all of the land drained by the river for France, all of the center part of what is now the U.S.

New Netherlands. In 1609 Henry Hudson explored the Hudson River in New York for the Dutch. The Dutch West India Company started a colony there to farm and trade for furs. They bought Manhattan island and started a city there. The British took over the colony in 1664 and renamed it New York.

English Exploration. Several English explorers also made claims for their nation. John Cabot found the Grand Banks and explored along the northeast coast of the continent soon after Columbus sailed. Beginning in 1577, Sir Francis Drake explored the coast of California on a trip he made around the world, raiding Spanish towns. Henry Hudson sailed for England and explored northern Canada looking for the Northwest Passage in 1610. Hudson Bay, where he was left behind by his men, was named after him. This gave England a claim to the U.S. east coast and Canada around the borders of New France.



Name the explorer.

- 1.1 Led the first voyage around the world: _____
- 1.2 Explored and named the St. Lawrence River: _____
- 1.3 Explored New York for the Netherlands and northern Canada for England:

- 1.4 Discovered America by sailing west to reach Asia for Spain:

- 1.5 First European to reach America, Viking: _____