

**THE
PERIOD
OF
DISCOVERY**

SECTION 1 ~ LESSON 1

People of North America



MARICOPA WOMAN
FROM ARIZONA

How did the first people get to North America?

Hundreds of years ago, there were many people living in North America. We do not know exactly how these people got to North America, but we do know that they were descendants of Noah after the Flood. Perhaps there was a land bridge connecting Asia and Alaska, but it is more likely that they sailed here in boats. After the flood, Noah's son Japheth had sons who were sailors and ship builders (read Genesis 10:4). How these people came to North America will probably never be known, but by the time the Europeans arrived in the late 1490s, there were many tribes in North and South America.

What the natives looked like. They had high cheek bones and dark eyes and hair. The name Indian was what Columbus called the natives because he thought he had landed in the country of India. This mistake has lasted a long time, and the natives are still called Indians some times.

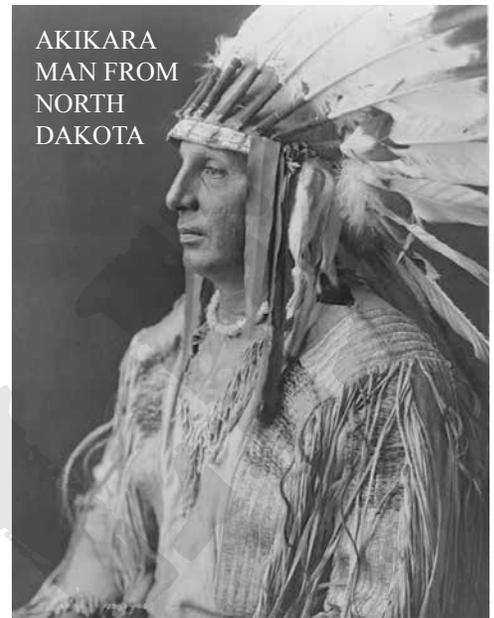
How the natives lived. The people of North America lived off the land. They hunted wild animals, like the buffalo and deer for meat and for their skins, which they used for clothing.

Villages, houses, and boats. Each tribe had its own customs of how it lived. Some of them lived in big houses made of poles and covered with bark, others lived in tepees made with poles and skins of animals, and others lived in houses made from dried mud. They made canoes out of birch bark or by cutting out part of a log.

When the white man came. Life for the natives changed a lot when people from Europe came. The people of North America often helped the newcomers by giving them food, but as time went on the two groups began to fight with each other.

Food. Many of the foods we enjoy today were used long ago by the natives of North America. Corn, pumpkins, squash, beans, watermelons, and sunflowers all grew in North America. A common crop in South America was the potato.

Natives of America. We don't know for sure how the people who lived in America got here. Some people think there was a land bridge that connected Asia and Alaska. We know that the Bible teaches that after the flood Noah's sons and their families went out and filled the earth. In Genesis 10:4 we are told that Japheth had sons who were men of the sea, meaning that they were sailors and ship builders. It is possible that some of them or their grandchildren traveled to the continent of North America by ship. In the ninth century, a group of Vikings under Leif (lēf) the Lucky came to North America and made a settlement, but they were attacked later by the natives and they returned to their homeland. Just how much connection there was between the Americas and Europe, Africa, and Asia in the ancient times is unknown.



AKIKARA
MAN FROM
NORTH
DAKOTA

Characteristics. In the past, the natives of North America have been called red men, but their skin color is not red but rather brown in color. They had long black hair, dark eyes, high cheek bones, and were usually tall and thin. Life was hard for the natives, and they spent most of their time trying to hunt or gather enough food to survive. Wearing moccasins on their feet, they learned to move through the forest without making a sound.

From childhood, Indians learned about the ways of birds and animals, so that they might be successful in hunting and fishing. Boys learned to fight and take care of themselves. Girls were taught to cook, make clothes, and harvest the crops.



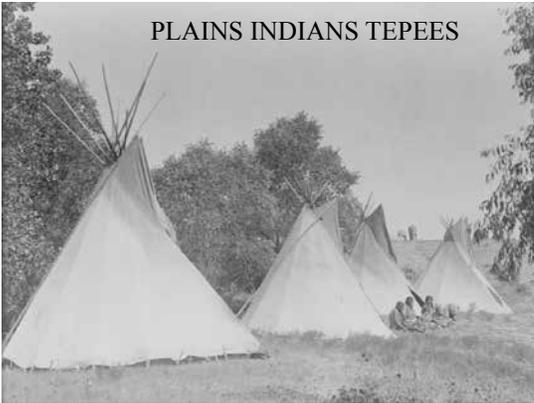
SERPENT MOUND
IN OHIO

The natives of North America were kind to friends and strangers; they would even share their last bit of food with someone who came to their house. But to their enemies, they were cruel. Sometimes captives were harshly treated, but other times they would be adopted into the tribe to take the place of a brother or son who had been killed.

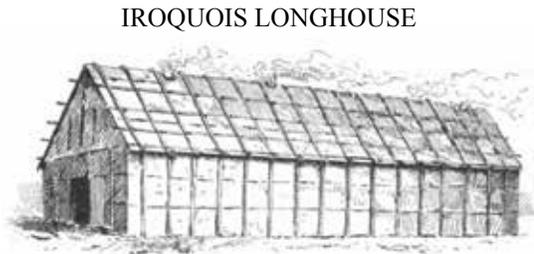


MOUNDS IN ALABAMA

Mounds. Long before the Europeans came, a few tribes in North America built large mounds of earth. Some of these must have taken a long time to build. It is thought that the round mounds were used for a burial place, but some of them are made to look like animals, including birds, turtles, and alligators. The famous Great Serpent Mound in Ohio looks like a snake about to eat an egg. There are thousands of mounds throughout the Mississippi (mis' ə sip' ē) basin.



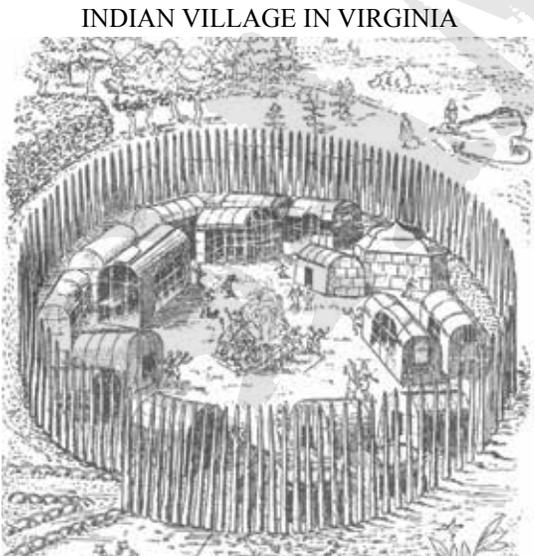
PLAINS INDIANS TEPEES



IROQUOIS LONGHOUSE



MANDAN EARTHEN LODGE
NORTH DAKOTA



INDIAN VILLAGE IN VIRGINIA

Villages and houses. Sometimes the Indians built villages near each other. Having fresh water was necessary, so they lived close to rivers or lakes. Hundreds of large American cities and towns were built on Indian villages, and many still have the same names. Some examples are Seattle, Tacoma, Spokane, Oklahoma City, Topeka, Chicago, Milwaukee, Oshkosh, Kalamazoo, Saginaw, and Chattanooga. There were also large hunting grounds where no one lived.

Some Indians lived in houses that could easily be moved. The plains Indians lived in tepees made from poles and animal hides. Those who lived in wooded areas made large lodges that would house many families; these were called longhouses. Wigwams were a single-dwelling house made of poles covered in birch bark. In the southwest, houses were built from mud and clay.

Food, tools, and clothing. At most of the villages east of the Mississippi, the natives grew corn, pumpkins, squashes, beans, watermelons, sunflowers, and tobacco. They ate wild fruits, nuts, roots, and wild rice. The forests had many wild animals that they hunted for food.

They made arrowheads, spearheads, axes, knives, and other tools and weapons from stone and copper. Some made pottery, and all knew how to weave baskets. The Indian canoes, made either from the bark of birch or elm trees, were light and handsome boats. Some of their boats were logs with the inside burned out with fire; these were called dugouts.

Clothing was made from animal skins and decorated with beads. Wampum was a string of beads made from shells; the Indians used these as money. Another form of dressing up that the Indians used was to paint themselves with colored earth or dyes made from plants. They painted their faces and bodies black, red, green, and white. Each marking had a special meaning that showed what tribe they belonged to, if they were sad or happy, or if they were going to war. Feathers

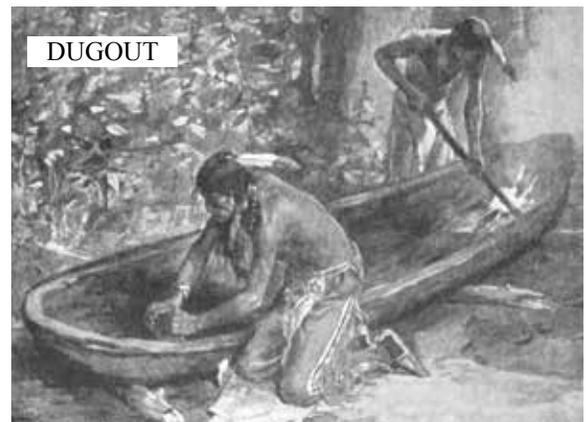
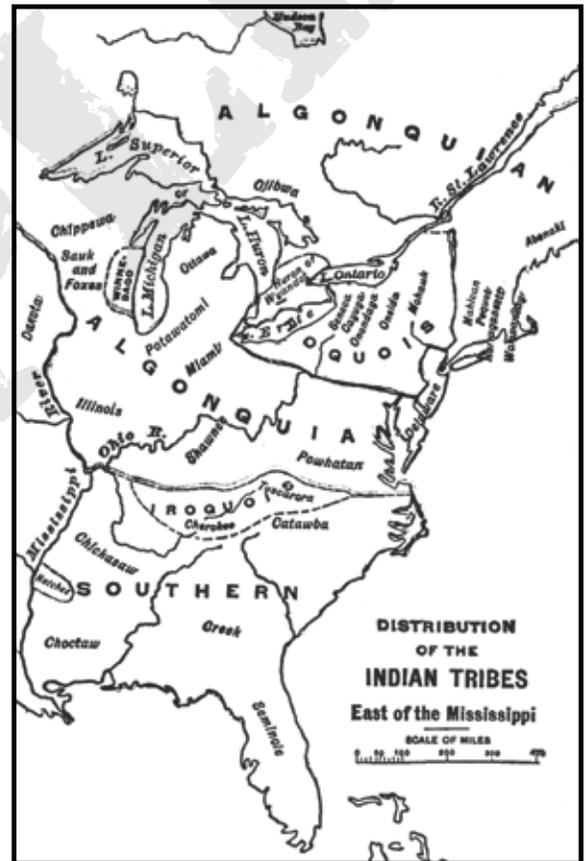
were also very popular in America. They were used for drying their hands, and a warrior would wear them in his headband to show how many enemies he had killed.



The Indian in war. The most valuable weapon used by the Indians was the bow and arrow. Arrowheads were made from stones, and the Indians mastered their use to perfection. They also used spears, tomahawks, and clubs in battle. Life for the natives of America was hard. There was constant warfare between different tribes. When game was scarce they often fought over hunting grounds. From the time boys were little, they were taught how

to become brave warriors. To become a brave, a boy had to take a scalp from an enemy. This meant he had to cut off the round piece of skin and hair towards the top of the head. Moving quietly through the forest allowed braves to make swift attacks upon their enemies. They did not fight in the open, but sought protection behind trees, rocks, and whatever else they could find.

What the Indians taught the Europeans. The natives taught Europeans how to raise and use tobacco. This plant became one of the most profitable crops of the New World. Corn saved the lives of many people who settled in North America. The Indians taught the Europeans how to grow this valuable crop. But probably the most important food the Indians ate was the potato. This vegetable was completely unknown in Europe, but it soon became very popular. The Indians showed settlers where to find roots, nuts, and fruits, how to gather and cook wild rice, and the way to prepare hominy and parched corn. Many of the herbs of the forests were useful for healing, and the Indians taught the white man how to use them. Traveling by water had been mastered by the Indians, and their swift canoes and dugouts were adopted by Europeans.



Questions

1. Are there any towns, rivers, or other landmarks in your state that have Indian names? What are they?
2. What are some words that came from the Native Americans? Looking at a map of the U. S. is a good place to start.
3. What did the white man learn from the Indian?
4. What are some foods that the Indians used that we still eat today?

Writing Topics

1. Pretend you are an Iroquois and write what you thought when the first white men arrived in your area.
2. Make up a story explaining why the Indians made mounds, especially the ones shaped like animals.

Geography

Using the map in this lesson, find the Iroquois, Algonquin, and Creek territories.

Make a Tepee

Use brooms or mops as the poles for the tepee. Use a string or yarn to tie them together at the top. Put a white sheet over the poles and use some safety pins to hold the sheet together in the front. An old sheet works great for this. Leave an opening in the front for a door and a small flap open at the top for the smoke from the pretend fire to escape through. Drawing Indian figures and symbols on the sheet with markers is a lot of fun. Here is a list of books that have pictures in them. You will find pictures which will be a great creativity booster.

Atlas of Indians of North America by Gilbert Legay

This book has a wealth of knowledge in it. There is a color picture and description for each tribe in North America. It's interesting to see all the different costumes of different tribes.

Calendars of Native Americans by Lynn George

How did the people of America keep track of time? This short book shares the story of Native Americans' advanced system of timekeeping. It's very interesting!

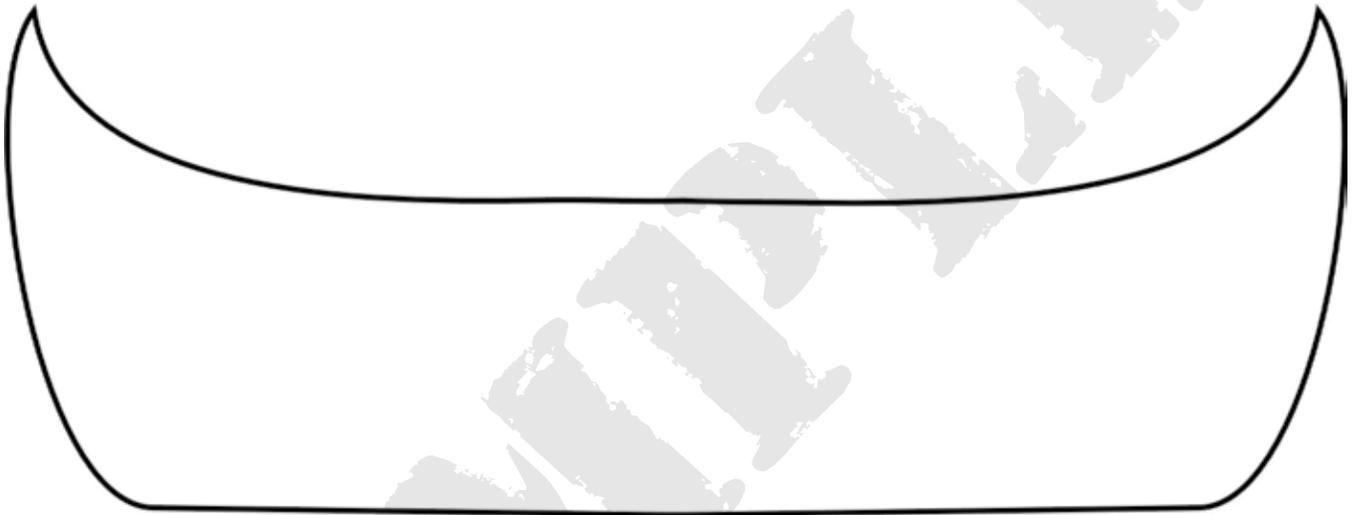


Life in a Pueblo by Amanda Bishop and Bobbie Kalman

This colorful book shows what it was like to live in a pueblo village before Europeans arrived. This is a good resource to have on hand when learning about Pueblo life.

Make a Canoe

Use the pattern below as a guide to cutting out the canoe. Place the bottom on the fold and cut it out of brown construction paper. The canoe may be colored or decorated with Indian drawings. Tape or hand stitch the sides shut. Place a toothpick on the inside of the canoe to push the sides out.



Other Ideas

Do you have ideas of how to make Indian things? How could you make a feather from a piece of paper? What could you use to make a bow and arrow? Use your imagination and have fun with it! You could also make a canoe with playing dough (see recipe in Section 1 ~ Lesson 2).



Memory Verse

Psalm 24:1. Write this verse on a 3 x 5 card and memorize it during the week. Be prepared to recite it during lesson 5.

SECTION 1 ~ LESSON 2

Heroes of the Past

The Story of Leif Erikson

by Albert F. Blaisdell, 1922

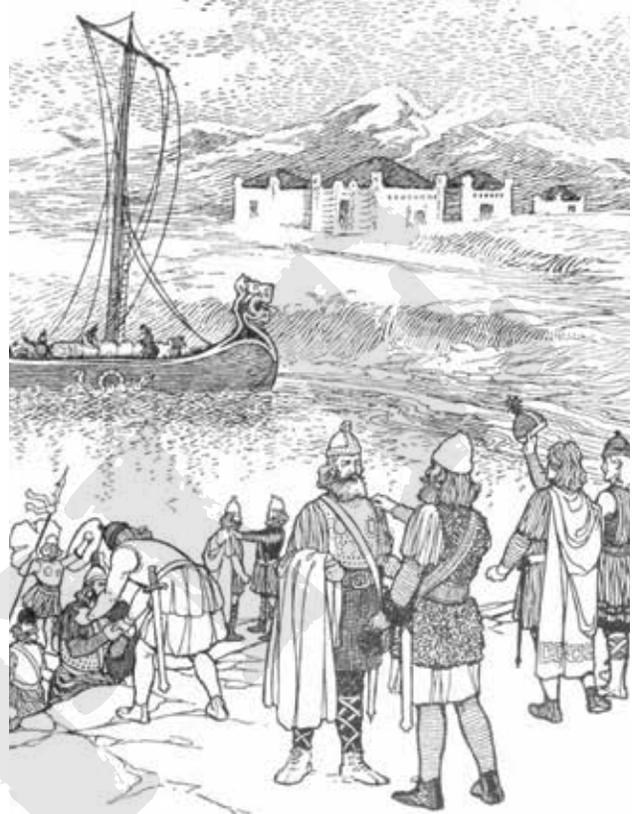
Many years ago, there lived on the shores of the North Sea a wild and fearless people called Vikings, or sea rovers. They were tall and strong, with blue eyes and yellow hair.

The Vikings were pirates. They wore helmets and coats of mail and fought with spears, swords, and knives. The ships of the Vikings were no larger than fishing boats. They were low in the middle and high at the bow and the stern. On the bow was carved the head of a sea monster or dragon. The ships had both sails and oars.

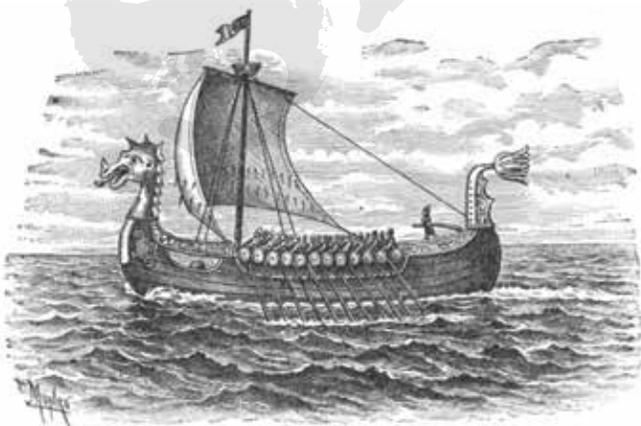
The Vikings could handle their ships as well as a soldier could handle a horse. They laughed at the winds and the waves. The Vikings sailed along the coast of Europe, fighting and taking things from people.

After a time, some of them settled in England and from there made their way into Scotland and Ireland. Others settled in the northern part of France, near the mouth of the Seine (sen) River. In France they were called the Normans, a name that means Northmen, and their country was called Normandy.

A ship of the Vikings was once driven far off course by a storm, and was carried to the coast of Iceland. When the sailors got back home, they told of the strange new country. Soon afterwards some of the Vikings went and settled in the new land.



VIKINGS IN ICELAND



VIKINGS SHIP

In the colony was a Viking called Erik the Red. One day he killed a man and was exiled for three years. The chief took his men and sailed to the west, where he had heard there was another land. He found a rough, unwelcoming shore, with little to be seen but snow and ice.

“It will be good to give the country a good name,” said Erik, “if we would have others come and live here.” So he called it Greenland.



When Erik went back home, he persuaded a large number of the Vikings to go with him and settle in the new country. Erik's colony lasted for nearly five hundred years. Ruins of stone houses and a church are still to be seen there.

Sometime before 1000 A.D., Erik sent his son Leif (lǣf) Eriksson to Norway. Here Leif learned about Christ from the Norwegian King Olaf I. Leif became a Christian and returned to Greenland where he taught his people about Jesus. His mother Thjóðhild became a Christian and is thought to be responsible for building the first church in Greenland.

Soon after Erik the Red returned to Greenland, another Viking sailed from Iceland to join Erik's colony, but he was carried far to the south. He sailed for many days through a dense fog, seeing neither sun nor stars. At last he came to a level coast covered with thick woods,

which he did not explore. He was only too glad to sail back to Greenland.

When Leif heard the story of the new land, he got a ship ready and started to the south. This was about the year 1000 A.D. One morning, after many days' sail, he caught sight of land. Before him was a low, sandy coast. There were no snow-clad mountains or lofty crags, as on the shores of Greenland.

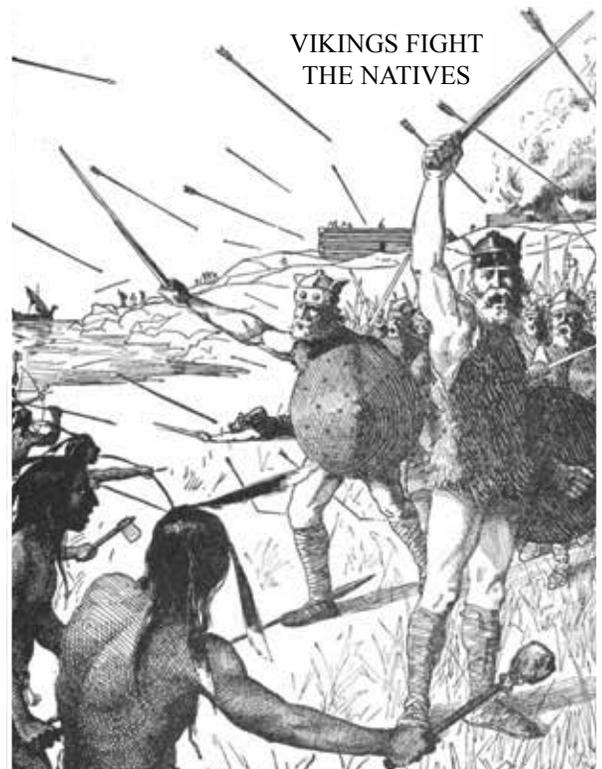
After building a house, Leif divided his men into two parts. "Half of you shall remain at home at the house, while the others explore the land. But do not go so far that you cannot return in the evening, and do not separate."

One evening a man of the searching party was missing. Leif was worried and set out with twelve men to find him. They had not gone a long way, when the man saw them and came toward them.

"Where have you been?" asked Leif. "What has happened?"

"I did not go far, and I have something new to tell. I have found vines and grapes."

"Is that true?"



“Surely it is true. I was brought up in a land where there were lots of vines and grapes.”

The next morning Leif said to his men, “We will now set about two things. We will gather grapes, and then we will cut vines and fell trees to load my ship.”

They did so. When spring came, they sailed away. Leif called the new country Vinland. This land was in Canada. The next year one of Leif’s brothers wished to go explore Vinland.

“You may take my ship,” Leif told him.

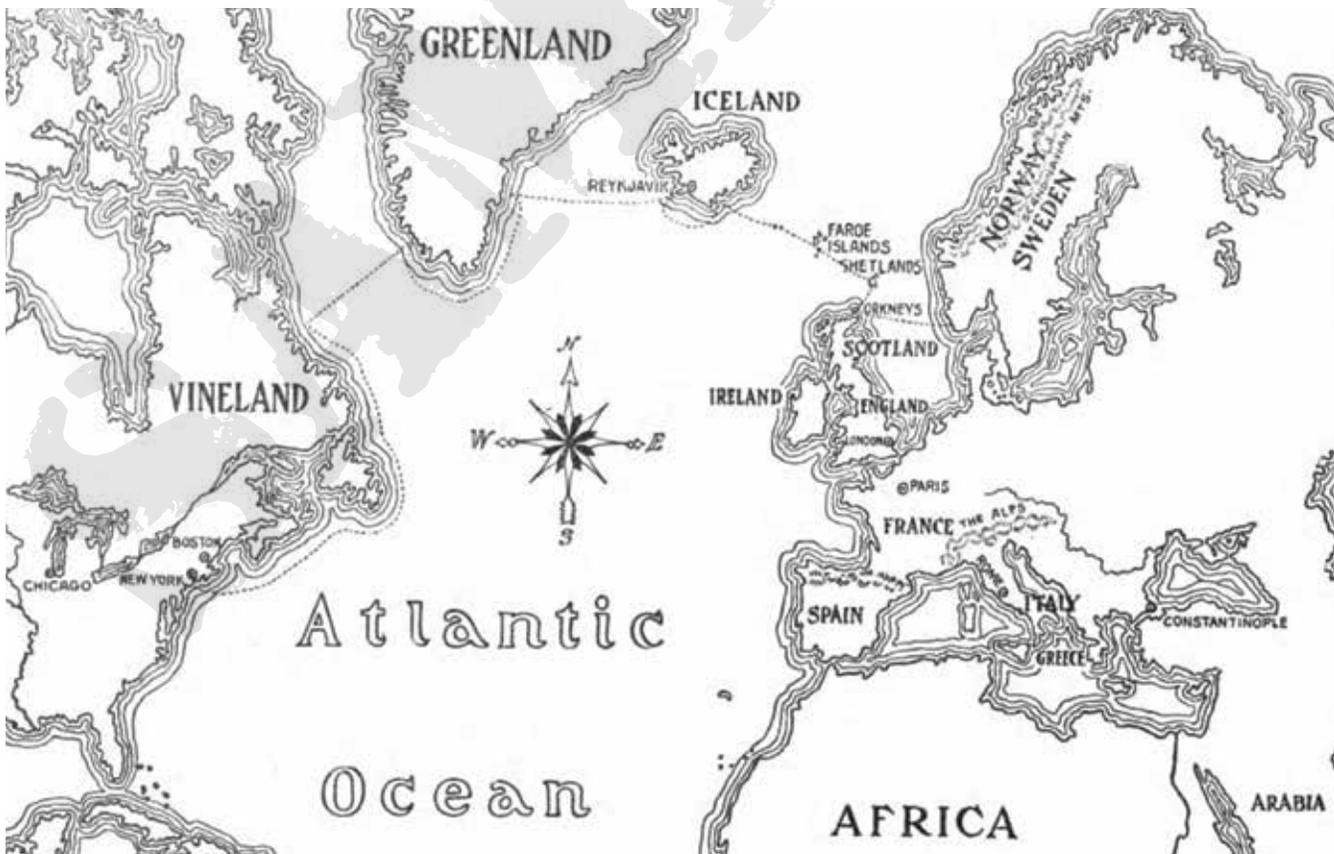
His brother spent about two years in the new country, but was killed by the natives. It is said that he was the first white man to be buried in America. For a few years after this, other Vikings came to settle in Vinland. But they were fought by the natives and sailed away. The Vikings now began to lose interest in the new country and soon forgot the brave deeds of their ancestors.



VIKINGS SHIPS

Geography

Use the map below to find Norway, Iceland, Greenland, and Vinland.



Make a Viking Ship

Make some playing dough (recipe below) and then make a Viking ship, shield, helmet, and any other Viking items you can think of out of the playing dough.

Playing Dough

1 cup flour

½ cup salt

2 tsp. cream of tartar

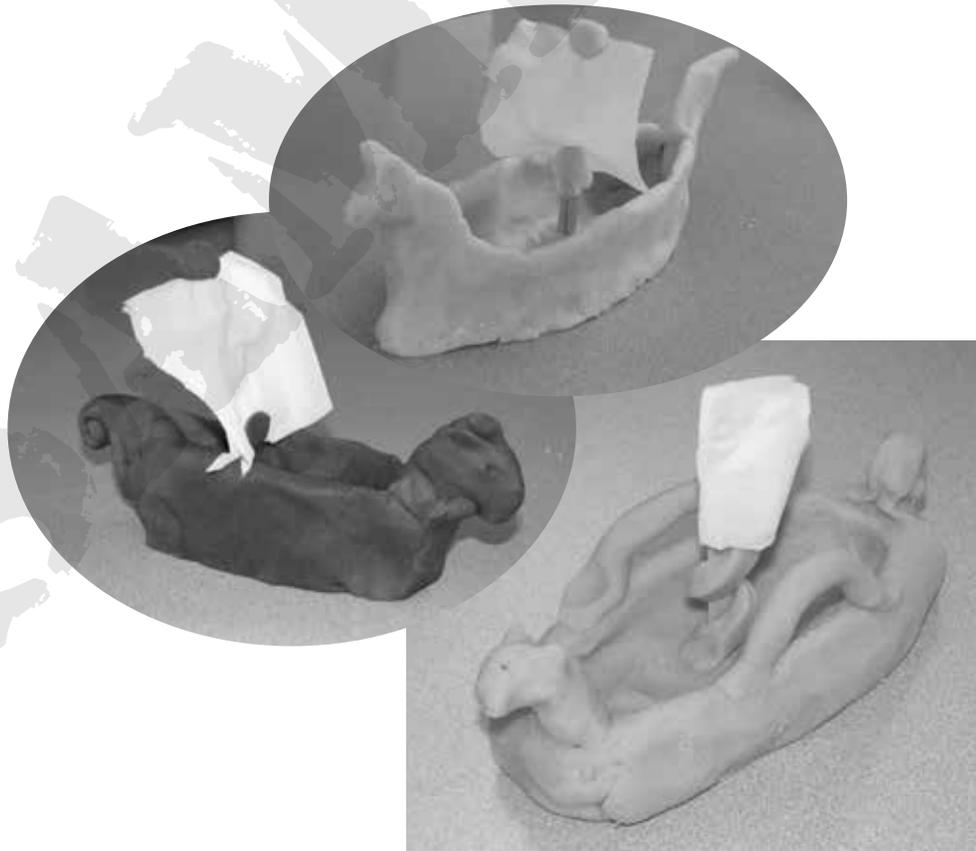
1 cup water

1 Tbsp. cooking oil

Food coloring

In a saucepan mix the dry ingredients. Add the wet ingredients and cook over medium heat for three minutes or until the mixture pulls away from the pan. Knead immediately. Store in an airtight container.

Here are some ideas of how to make Viking ships. A tissue may be used for the flag and a craft stick for the mast pole.



SECTION 1 ~ LESSON 3

The Story of Columbus, Part 1

Spices and trade. People have always loved to cook food that is made with spices. During the Middle Ages most of the spices were brought from Asia. The people also liked to buy silks, ivory, perfume, gems, and jewelry made from gold and silver. There were no airplanes, trains, or cars at this time. To get the riches of Asia to Europe, people called merchants had to go across long deserts on camels or horses. Traveling this way was dangerous and took a long time, but many people did it for hundreds of years. Then in 1453, the Muslims captured Constantinople (kän'stan tə nō' p'l) and the roads to Asia. Since the Spice Road was closed to European travelers, people began to think about how they could get the spices and other riches from Asia by sea instead of by land.



COLUMBUS AS A BOY

Sea travel is hard. Most sailors during this time did not know much about the sea. Europeans had not traveled very far and they feared that out in the “sea of darkness” they would be lost. Ships were fairly small. People knew that the earth was round, but they did not know how big it was. They thought that it was much smaller.

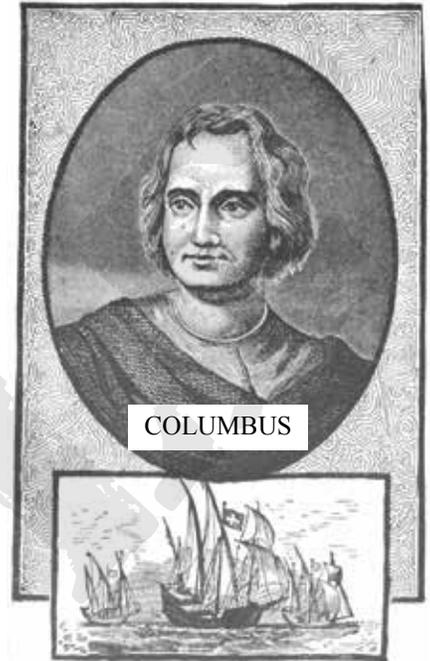
Some bold sailors and new discoveries. On the western part of Europe was a small country called Portugal. The sailors of this country started to sail into the unknown ocean. In 1488 some Portuguese sailors found the Cape of Good Hope. This showed the world that there was a way to Asia by going around the African continent. Yet Columbus thought there had to be a shorter way to India and the spices of the East.

Columbus. In 1451 a boy named Christopher Columbus was born in Genoa (jen'o a), Italy. His name means Christ-bearer. At a young age he longed to be a sailor. When he grew up, he went to Portugal (pôr' chə gəl) to be a part of the great exploration that was going on there. He longed to sail west to get to Asia, but he was poor. He asked the Portuguese king for money but he said no. Next Columbus went to Spain to ask King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella (iz ə bel' ə) to pay for his trip, but they were fighting a war and didn't have time to think about exploring unknown lands. Columbus had to wait many years.

Trade with the Orient is cut off. Since ancient times, the exotic spices from the Orient had been used by people of the Mediterranean (med i ter ra'ne an) Sea. These people also made money from selling Oriental spices, silks, gold and silver jewelry, perfumes, and gems to other countries. To get these things, merchants either traveled to India by the long desert road called The Spice Road, or they went over the Isthmus of Suez and then sailed to India. In 1453, the Muslims took over Constantinople (kän'stan tō nō' p'l) and the roads that were used by the European merchants. It was now impossible to get spices and other things from the Orient.

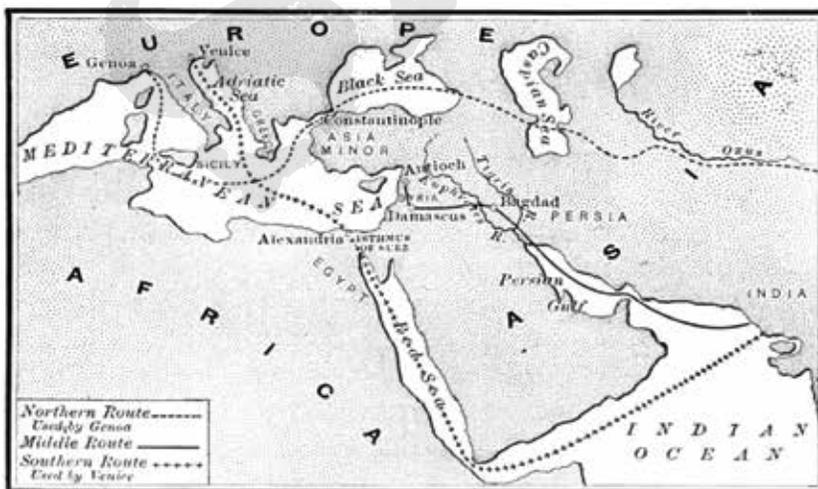
Sea travel is dangerous. People began thinking about other ways they could get to Asia. Perhaps they could sail to it. But this idea was hard to do because at this time no one knew much about sailing on the Atlantic Ocean. They knew that the earth was round, but they did not know how big it was. Most people thought it was much smaller than it actually is. Sailors feared that once carried out to sea by the current they would never be able to get back. It was a "sea of darkness" to them, and few were brave enough to attempt sailing into the unknown. Although their ships were well built, they were small.

New discoveries. Even with all the challenges of sea travel, a small country in Europe began making some amazing discoveries in the Atlantic Ocean. Portugal was ruled by Henry the Navigator during the early 1400s, and he made his country the leader in exploration. His sailors found the Azores, the Madeira Islands, the Canary Islands, and the Cape Verde Islands. Sailing south, the Portuguese learned much about the coastline of Africa. In 1487, a fleet of Portuguese sailors led by Bartholomew Dias found the Cape of Good Hope at the southern tip of Africa. This discovery showed the world that a route to Asia was possible. But some people still thought that there must be a shorter way to Asia, among them was



Christopher Columbus.

New inventions change the world. Several new inventions during this time led to many changes in the way people lived. The printing press made books available to the common people. Before this time, all books had to be handwritten. Few people could afford to buy books, but the printing press changed this. People began to think for themselves, especially when



MEDIEVAL TRADE ROUTES BETWEEN EUROPE AND ASIA

Bibles became available. Another invention that changed the world was the invention of gun powder. The weapons of the Middle Ages, such as bows, arrows, and swords were no match for gun powder. This new weapon was very dangerous, and it did not take long for people to see that whoever had it would be very powerful. An enemy would be easy to conquer with guns. Even the armor worn by soldiers changed during this time, because metal armor could not stop bullets.

Columbus of Genoa. In 1451, a boy named Christopher Columbus was born in Genoa, Italy. He loved to sit by the sea and hear the stories that sailors told of their adventures. When he was still a young boy, he learned about how the Muslims had stopped trade with the East. As a young man, he decided to become a mapmaker. Portugal was the best place for a clever man to have adventures and

to learn more about the sea, so Columbus moved to Lisbon (liz' bə n). He made maps and went on several voyages. Going as far south as the equator and as far north as Ireland, he learned much about the ocean.

Columbus planned to sail east by going west. Columbus began to think that a ship might reach the east by sailing west. Since he thought the earth was smaller than it is, he thought it would only take a few months to get to the Orient. The trip to India around the Cape of Good Hope took much longer. He also thought that he should live up to his name, which means Christ bearer. He longed to take the news of Christ to the people of the East.

Columbus tries to raise money. A voyage to the East would be very expensive, and Columbus was not a rich man. He decided to ask King John II of Portugal to give him money to pay for the trip. The king refused to give Columbus money for a trip that sounded dangerous and crazy. Next Columbus went



to Spain to ask King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella (iz ə bel' ə) for help. These two powerful people had united two kingdoms when they married; Ferdinand was the king of Aragon and Isabella was the queen of Castile and Leon. Since the rulers of Spain were busy fighting a war with the Muslims, they didn't have time to listen to Columbus' plan. But they said they might be interested when the war was over. Columbus decided to wait in Spain, but it took seven long years. He tried to get the kings of England and France interested in his voyage to the East, but they were too busy with wars and their own problems to help him. His plan did not seem like a good idea, and these kings were not interested in exploring.



SHIPS OF THE 1400s

Questions

1. In 1453 who captured Constantinople and cut off European trade with the Orient?
2. What year did Portuguese sailors sail around the Cape of Good Hope?
3. What does the name Christopher mean?
4. Who were some of the people that Columbus asked for money?

Writing Topics

1. Pretend you are a person at the Spanish court. Write what you think Columbus says to King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella.

Geography

Using the map in this lesson, find the Isthmus of Suez, Genoa, Italy, and India.

Examining Historical Art

Historical art is a great way to experience a certain era. Look at the picture and answer the questions below.

Christopher Columbus at the Royal Court of Spain, by Václav Brožík, 1884



1. Where is Queen Isabella?
2. Where is King Ferdinand?
3. Where is Columbus?
4. Where is the lady dressed like a nun?
5. Where is the man dressed in armor?
6. How many women are sitting near Isabella?