



HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY

STUDENT BOOK

▶ **8th Grade** | Unit 1

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY 801

Europe Comes to America (1492–1620)

INTRODUCTION | **3**

1. QUEST AND CONQUEST **5**

EUROPE AWAKENS | **6**

THE VOYAGES OF COLUMBUS | **9**

SPANISH CLAIMS AND CONQUESTS | **14**

SELF TEST 1 | **19**

2. THE CHASE **21**

ENGLISH EFFORTS | **21**

ENGLAND AND THE NETHERLANDS | **25**

FRENCH EXPLORATION | **26**

SELF TEST 2 | **31**

3. THE FIRST COLONIES **35**

SPANISH | **36**

FRENCH AND DUTCH | **37**

ENGLISH | **40**

SELF TEST 3 | **48**



LIFEPAC Test is located in the center of the booklet. Please remove before starting the unit.

Author:

Theresa Buskey, B.A., J.D.

Editor:

Alan Christopherson, M.S.

Westover Studios Design Team:

Phillip Pettet, Creative Lead

Teresa Davis, DTP Lead

Nick Castro

Andi Graham

Jerry Wingo



804 N. 2nd Ave. E.

Rock Rapids, IA 51246-1759

© MCMXCIX by Alpha Omega Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. LIFEPAK is a registered trademark of Alpha Omega Publications, Inc.

All trademarks and/or service marks referenced in this material are the property of their respective owners. Alpha Omega Publications, Inc. makes no claim of ownership to any trademarks and/or service marks other than their own and their affiliates, and makes no claim of affiliation to any companies whose trademarks may be listed in this material, other than their own.

Europe Comes to America (1492–1620)

Introduction

Man first began to explore and occupy this planet after the division of the languages at Babel (Genesis 11:1-9). Waves of immigrants spread out in all directions and continued to spread for generations as wars and the need for land drove them further. North America was eventually discovered by Asian people who crossed the Bering Strait from Russia thousands of years ago. They migrated south, leaving some settlers in each new place, adapting to each new area as they progressed.

However, the cultural history of the United States did not come from the many tribes of Native American Indians who were the first occupants of the land. Instead, the character, languages, customs, history, and philosophy of our country came almost exclusively from the second major wave of immigration. That group came from Europe, beginning in about 1500.

Even though the migration after Babel had spread mankind all over the world, no one knew much about the world as a whole in the 1400s. It was the curious, adventurous, and mostly greedy Europeans who eventually explored and mapped the planet. They did this during the Age of Exploration beginning in the 1400s and continuing through the 1700s. Because of this, much of the history of the world is told from a European perspective. It was the Europeans who made it *world* history. This is especially true for the United States of America.

The history of America must begin in Europe. Many of the people in this country trace their lineage back to the countries of that continent. The language and culture that we all share, no matter what our origins, came from there as well. Our primary religion, Christianity, is the religion of Europe. Europe was the dominant force in the formation of this country and its culture. It is, therefore, where this LIFE PAC® begins the story of America.

Objectives

Read these objectives. The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFE PAC. When you have finished this LIFE PAC, you should be able to:

1. Describe the events in the Old World which brought the rebirth of trade.
2. Explain the part Prince Henry played in beginning exploration and match his explorers with their discoveries.
3. Describe the theories and explorations of Columbus.
4. Match Spanish, English, French, and Dutch explorers with their discoveries.
5. Describe the European colonies established in America.

1. QUEST AND CONQUEST

The United States is part of what is called *Western Civilization*, the people and cultures that originated in Western Europe. These people share a Greco-Roman, Judeo-Christian culture. Their history is rooted in the ancient Greek culture as it was absorbed and adapted by the Roman Empire which fell in about AD 500. The philosophy and ideas of those two

pagan cultures were changed by the religion of Christianity which itself came out of the Jewish culture. The nations of Western Civilization all share ties to these four cultural ancestors. The history of our particular country starts at the point Western Civilization began its exploration of the world, the exploration that led to the settlement of America.

SECTION OBJECTIVES

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

1. Describe the events in the Old World which brought the rebirth of trade.
2. Explain the part Prince Henry played in beginning exploration, and match his explorers with their discoveries.
3. Describe the theories and explorations of Columbus.
4. Match Spanish explorers with their discoveries.
5. Describe the European colonies established in America.

VOCABULARY

Study these words to enhance your learning success in this section.

anarchy (an' är kē). The absence of a system of government and law.

circumnavigate (sér' kum nav' e gāt). To sail around.

institution (in' stu tü' shun). A club, society, or any organization established for some special purpose.

monopoly (mu nop' u lē). Complete control of an article or service.

viceroy (vīs' roi). A person who rules a country or province, acting as the king's or queen's representative.

Note: All vocabulary words in this LIFEPAAC appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are not sure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

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

Europe Awakens

The collapse of the Roman Empire in AD 476 destroyed the central government of Europe. What followed was hundreds of years of **anarchy**, lawlessness, and poverty known as the Medieval Age. Trade was minimal, cities were small, education was rare, and power was in the hands of heavily armed knights who were often little better than thugs. The Roman Catholic Church was the one **institution** that grew during this time. Its influence and power spread as people sought spiritual comfort in a harsh and cruel world. It was a request of the Church that led to the reawakening, the Renaissance, of Europe.

Crusades. In the early AD 1000s, the Holy Land, where Jesus had lived and died, was conquered by a Muslim people known as the Seljuk Turks. They were a threat to the Christian Byzantine Empire of the Middle East and the many Western pilgrims who came to visit Jerusalem each year. The Byzantine emperor asked the Pope, the head of the Catholic Church, for help to defeat the Turks in AD 1095. The Pope made an impassioned appeal to the Catholics of Europe to fight the Muslims and free the Holy Land. Thousands of knights and peasants responded to the call. Thus began the Crusades that would so change Europe.

The Crusades were a series of campaigns occurring over a little more than two hundred years. They were a military failure but a cultural success. The Turks kept the Holy Land, but Europe came into contact with the trade and more advanced scientific knowledge of Asia and North Africa. The Crusaders discovered spices, silk, perfume, and other luxuries from the Far East (China and India) in the markets of the Holy Land. They took these home, and the samples quickly encouraged a demand for more. Spices which preserved and flavored the European diet were especially coveted.

Due to the Crusades, trade between Europe and Asia began to grow, as did Europe's



| A Medieval Crusader

knowledge of ancient philosophy, mathematics, astronomy, and geography. The increasing trade and knowledge led to better ships and improved education. Cities grew around markets, and government power expanded to protect trade profits. Moreover, the Crusades sparked the curiosity of Europe about the rest of the world. That spark was fanned into a flame by the travels of Marco Polo in the 1200s.

Marco Polo. Marco Polo was raised as a merchant in Venice, Italy. He left in 1271 at the age of seventeen to travel to China with his father and uncle. It was a difficult, dangerous journey that took three years. When they arrived, they were graciously welcomed by the Chinese emperor, Kublai Khan, who had met Marco's father on an earlier trip.

The Polos stayed in China for twenty years. Marco gained the emperor's confidence and was sent on many imperial missions within the country. He had ample opportunities to observe the beauty, riches, power, and organization of the Chinese Empire. He learned about

gunpowder, printing, coal, and paper money, all of which were unknown in Europe.

The Polos returned to Europe in 1295. The emperor sent them back laden with riches from his country. The porcelain, silk, ivory, jewels, and other luxuries confirmed their stories about the wealth of the eastern lands. In 1298, Marco finished and published a book about his travels. His book, called *Description of the World*, was copied and read all over Europe.

Marco Polo's book was probably one of the most influential non-religious books in history. The riches he described lured the adventurers of Europe. The demand for eastern goods and the curiosity about far away places influenced the Europeans to begin other explorations of their own. The increasingly powerful governments of Europe began to sponsor expeditions to map the world and establish trade. Europe was poised to discover the world.



Answer these questions.

1.1 What are the four cultural ancestors of Western Civilization?

- a. _____ b. _____
c. _____ d. _____

1.2 Where did the first occupants of North America come from? _____

1.3 What two major events caused Europeans to become interested in the Far East?

- a. _____ b. _____

1.4 How did the Crusades change Europe? _____

Complete these sentences.

1.5 The fall of the Roman Empire in the year _____ was followed by a time of anarchy called the _____ Age.

1.6 The one institution that grew in power in the centuries after the fall of Rome was the _____

_____.

1.7 The Holy Land was captured by the _____ in about 1000.

1.8 Marco Polo visited _____ in the late 1200s.



| Overland Trade Routes to Asia, the Known World is Highlighted.

The spices and goods of the Far East brought in rich profits for the merchants of Europe as the trade grew into the 1400s. However, there were several problems. The trade between Europe and the Far East was difficult and expensive. Goods had to travel long routes over both land and sea. The land on the trade routes was controlled by Muslims who charged high tolls for safe crossing. Moreover, all the trade converged in the Italian cities on the Mediterranean Sea. These cities had a **monopoly** on the eastern trade that the northern countries deeply resented.

Many of the nations of Europe were becoming better organized and more powerful by the 1400s. These nations, including Portugal, Spain, France, England, and the Netherlands, wanted their own secure trade routes to the Far East. However, they were inhibited by how little they knew about the world. Europeans knew only of Europe, North Africa and southern Asia in the 1400s. Superstition and fear prohibited their gaining knowledge about the rest of the world.

Henry the Navigator (1394-1460). Prince Henry the Navigator was a younger son of King John I of Portugal. He was an excellent organizer with a strong interest in mathematics and

astronomy, the sciences of navigation. In 1415 Henry was among the leaders of a Portuguese army that captured the town of Ceuta in North Africa. This brought him into contact with the trade in gold and salt across the Sahara Desert. Henry became interested in discovering the source of the gold down the unknown African coast. He also realized he might be able to find a way to Asia around Africa, cutting off both the Italian cities and the Muslim middlemen in trading with the Far East.

In 1419 Henry became the governor of the southernmost province of Portugal. He began to gather the best navigators, shipbuilders, mapmakers, instrument designers and sailors in Europe. Then, using their skills, he sponsored voyages along the coast of Africa. Each ship was encouraged to sail further than the one before it. By the time of Henry's death in 1460, they had reached as far south as modern-day Sierra Leone. Henry himself never went on the trips, but his work increased Europe's knowledge of navigation, ship building and geography.

Portugal continued Henry's program after his death. The ships brought back gold and slaves which made the voyages profitable. In 1488 a Portuguese captain by the name

of Bartholomeu Diaz sailed around the Cape of Good Hope on the southern end of Africa. Ten years later, Vasco da Gama succeeded in sailing a fleet around Africa to India and back. This brought Portugal a secure, direct trade

route with the Far East. The monopoly of the Italian cities was broken, the price of eastern goods declined, and Portugal reaped a huge profit that other countries envied and tried to duplicate.



Answer these questions.

1.9 What were three major problems with the Far Eastern trade in the 1400s?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

1.10 What two things did Henry the Navigator hope to accomplish by sailing along the coast of Africa?

- a. _____
- b. _____

Write true if the statement is true. If it is false, write false and change one or two words to make it true.

1.11 _____ Henry the Navigator was a prince of Spain.

1.12 _____ By the time of Henry's death, his ships had reached as far south as modern day Sierra Leone.

1.13 _____ Henry increased Europe's knowledge of navigation, ship building and alchemy.

1.14 _____ Bartholomeu Diaz sailed around Cape of Good Hope in 1488.

1.15 _____ Bartholomeu Diaz sailed a fleet around Africa to India and back in 1498.

1.16 _____ The Portuguese route around Africa broke the Italian monopoly on the Far Eastern trade.

The Voyages of Columbus

For many generations, Spain had been a divided land, split between several Catholic and Muslim nations. The Catholic nations had been slowly uniting, and by the end of the 1400s the final two, Aragon and Castile, had become one by a marriage between their monarchs. The two, Ferdinand and Isabella, united their armies

and conquered the last of the Muslim strongholds in Spain. The monarchs were then free to contend with their Iberian rival, Portugal, for trade with the east. Since Portugal had almost completed its route around Africa, Spain turned to an alternative offered by an Italian sailor named Christopher Columbus.

Christopher Columbus (whose name means “Christ bearer”) was born in Genoa, Italy in 1451. He was an ambitious, experienced sailor with an innovative idea. The educated people of his day knew the world was round. It had been proven by the ancient Greeks, and Columbus wanted to take advantage of this. He proposed to reach the Indies (the islands south of China) by sailing west from Europe. The problem was that he underestimated the size of the earth by about 25%, and he thought Asia extended further east than it really does. However, he had ambition, foresight, persistence, and a belief that God had chosen him to fulfill this dream.

Columbus had been interested in sailing from an early age. Genoa was a bustling Mediterranean seaport with plenty of opportunities for a young man to learn seafaring skills. Columbus also learned to read and write Latin, the language of educated Europe. He became a sailor in his early adult years. He also worked for a time at his brother’s shop in Lisbon, Portugal selling charts and navigational instruments. Portugal was, at the time, opening the trade route around Africa and was the leading European nation in the navigational arts.

When Columbus sought aid to test his idea of sailing west to the Indies, he naturally applied to the king of Portugal. Columbus’ estimate of the distance between Europe and Asia was disputed by many experts. The experts were correct; Columbus underestimated the distance by more than half! Yet, it was his stubborn belief in the accuracy of his figures that led to propose his alternative. The king of Portugal, however, believed the experts and was unwilling to accept the extravagant demands Columbus made for himself. The enterprise was refused in 1482.

Columbus tried to interest the rulers of England and France, but both declined. He then petitioned the joint monarchs of Spain, Isabella and Ferdinand. Isabella was interested but was



| Christopher Columbus

unwilling to pursue the expedition while her country was engaged in a war to reconquer Muslim lands in Spain. She set up a team of experts to study the idea.

The last Muslim stronghold in Spain, Granada, was captured in 1492. After Columbus’ friends at court used their influence on his behalf, the Spanish monarchs finally agreed to finance his voyage. He was given what he demanded, the title of Admiral, the right to govern the lands he found, and one-tenth of any riches he brought back.

Columbus set sail on August 3, 1492, with three small ships, the *Niña*, the *Pinta*, and the *Santa Maria* with ninety men. The trip was frightening for the superstitious sailors who had never been out of sight of land for so long. It was five long weeks after they left the Canary Islands off Africa until an island was sighted on October 12, 1492. Columbus landed and claimed the island for Spain, calling it San Salvador.



| The *Niña*, *Pinta*, and *Santa Maria*



Complete these sentences.

- 1.17** Christopher Columbus was born in _____, Italy.
- 1.18** Columbus proposed to reach the Far East by sailing _____ from Europe.
- 1.19** Columbus underestimated the distance between Europe and Asia by more than _____.
- 1.20** Columbus' proposal was rejected by _____, _____, and _____, before it was accepted by Spain.
- 1.21** _____ and _____ were the Spanish monarchs who sponsored Columbus.
- 1.22** Spain sponsored Columbus after their army captured the last _____ stronghold of _____ in 1492.
- 1.23** Columbus' three ships were the _____, the _____ and the _____.

**Answer this question.**

1.24 Why did the king of Portugal reject Columbus' proposal? _____

Columbus was convinced that he was in the islands of the Indies. He even called the copper-skinned natives “Indians,” a name that stuck even after the mistake was discovered. The islands of the Caribbean where he landed were eventually named the West Indies to distinguish them from the East Indies of Asia.

Columbus spent about three months exploring the beautiful islands. He found only virgin lands, small villages, and a few gold trinkets. The *Santa Maria* was wrecked on the island of Hispaniola in December. This convinced Columbus that it was time to return and report what he had found. He captured a few of the natives and obtained some gold to take with him. Thirty-eight men were left behind on Hispaniola to search for more gold until his return. They were housed in a fort made from the lumber of the *Santa Maria*.

Columbus returned safely to Spain in March of 1493 to a hero's welcome. The king and queen greeted him with great honor when he arrived at court. He was confirmed in the privileges he had been promised and plans were made for another voyage. The Spanish monarchs wanted to secure their claim on these islands which they hoped to use as a base for trade with Asia.

Later Voyages. Columbus sailed again in September of 1493 with 17 ships and over a thousand men. Most were going to get rich quick, but a few were priests sent to convert the Indians. The men Columbus had left behind were all dead by the time he arrived. They were probably killed by the Indians, whom they had mistreated. Columbus established a new settlement on Hispaniola, named Isabela, the first successful European colony in America.

Problems quickly began to develop. Columbus was unable to find the mainland of China or the islands of Japan which he expected were nearby. The colonists did not find instant riches and began to resent Columbus' autocratic ways. The peaceful Indians rebelled against the Spanish attempts to enslave them and force them to find gold. Despite this, Columbus returned to Spain and secured the continued support of the monarchs.

During his third voyage, in 1498, Columbus reached the coast of Central America, but still did not find the great cities he was expecting. In the meantime, complaints about his management of the Spanish colonies reached the ears of the king and queen of Spain. They sent a commissioner to investigate. The officer arrested Columbus and his brother and sent them back to Spain in chains. The king and queen ordered him freed as soon as the story of his arrest reached them. However, they were now unwilling to allow Columbus to govern the new lands. He was permitted to return in another attempt to locate China.

Columbus left on his last voyage in May of 1502. He was forbidden to land at Hispaniola except if he needed supplies. He explored the coast of Honduras, Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Panama looking for passage through these lands to China. He was forced to abandon his ships after they became unseaworthy. He and his crew were marooned for a year on the island of Jamaica waiting for help. Finally, ships were sent to rescue him, and he arrived safely back in Spain in November of 1504.

Columbus died less than two years later, a disappointed and bitter man. The king (Isabella

had died) refused to restore his authority over the lands he had discovered. Many other people were now exploring and settling the lands he felt belonged to him. He did not even receive the honor of having the new continents named after him. That accolade went to Amerigo Vespucci who was a part of explorations of the “New World” beginning in 1497. (The editor of a geography book in 1507 suggested the name America, believing Vespucci had discovered it, and the name stuck). Columbus, on the other hand, died still believing he had found a new route to the Far East. He was a failure in one sense. He had not found a way to Asia and he had lost control of what he did find. Columbus was certainly one of the most successful failures in the history of mankind.

We also know now that Columbus was not the first European to reach America. That honor goes to Viking explorers under the leadership of Leif Ericson. The Vikings of Greenland (a part of Denmark) tried to start a colony in Newfoundland, Canada about the year AD 1000.



| Viking Ships

The colony failed and Europe never became aware of the continent’s existence. It was Columbus’ failed attempt to reach Asia that led to permanent contact between Europe and the Americas. Therefore, as far as Western Civilization is concerned, Columbus *did* discover America.



Answer these questions.

1.25 Where was the first successful European colony founded and by whom?

a. _____

b. _____

1.26 How many voyages did Columbus make to America? _____

1.27 Did Columbus ever reach the continent of North America? (Check your facts carefully.)

1.28 Who were the continents of the New World named after?

1.29 What did Columbus wrongly believe until his death about the lands he had discovered?

SELF TEST 1

Match the following (each answer, 3 points).

- | | | | | |
|--------------|-------|--|----|--------------------|
| 1.01 | _____ | First to cross the Isthmus of Panama | a. | Hernando de Soto |
| 1.02 | _____ | Explored Florida searching for the Fountain of Youth | b. | Francisco Coronado |
| 1.03 | _____ | Led the first circumnavigation of the world | c. | Francisco Pizarro |
| 1.04 | _____ | Led a fleet to Asia around Africa and back again | d. | Nunez de Balboa |
| 1.05 | _____ | Conquered the Inca Indians | e. | Ponce de León |
| 1.06 | _____ | Conquered the Aztec Indians | f. | Vasco da Gama |
| 1.07 | _____ | Lived in China in the 1200s and wrote a famous book about it | g. | Hernando Cortes |
| 1.08 | _____ | Viking leader of the first Europeans in America | h. | Leif Ericson |
| 1.09 | _____ | Explored the American southwest looking for cities of gold | i. | Marco Polo |
| 1.010 | _____ | First to see the Mississippi River | j. | Ferdinand Magellan |

Answer these questions (each answer, 4 points).

1.011 What was the Treaty of Tordesillas and what did it do? _____

1.012 What were the Crusades and what effect did they have on Europe? _____

1.013 What were the major problems in trading with the Far East in 1400? _____

1.014 Who was Henry the Navigator and what did he accomplish? _____

1.015 What are the four cultural ancestors of Western Civilization?
a. _____ b. _____
c. _____ d. _____

Check the statements that are true of Christopher Columbus (each answer, 3 points).

- 1.016 _____ He was very ambitious, claiming great rewards for his work.
- 1.017 _____ He thought the world was smaller than it really is.
- 1.018 _____ He knew he had discovered an unknown land between Europe and Asia.
- 1.019 _____ He was a well-educated Italian sailor from Genoa.
- 1.020 _____ Portugal was also interested in sponsoring him.
- 1.021 _____ He was the only person who believed the world was round.
- 1.022 _____ Ferdinand and Isabella agreed to the voyage only after the defeat of Granada.
- 1.023 _____ His ships were the *Victoria*, the *Santa Maria*, and the *Hispaniola*.
- 1.024 _____ He established the first successful European settlement in America.
- 1.025 _____ He never landed in North America.
- 1.026 _____ He made four voyages to the New World.
- 1.027 _____ He named the new continents after his son, Amerigo.
- 1.028 _____ He died a happy man, rich in honors and power.
- 1.029 _____ At one point, he was sent back to Spain in chains.

Write true or false in the blank (each answer, 2 points).

- 1.030 _____ Columbus' mistake was good for Spain.
- 1.031 _____ The very first occupants of the Americas came by boat from Africa.
- 1.032 _____ The United States is part of Western Civilization.
- 1.033 _____ The Europeans of 1400 knew only about Europe, North Africa, and part of Asia.

 80 / 100	SCORE _____	TEACHER _____	initials	date
---	--------------------	----------------------	----------	------



HIS0801 - May '14 Printing

ISBN 978-0-7403-0028-8



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

800-622-3070
www.aop.com