

# The Artios Home Companion Series

## Unit 1: Discoverers and Discoveries

### Teacher Overview

*“At the time of discovery, New World Europe was ready for just such an event in the world’s history. She was enjoying a short respite from the habitual toil of war. Spain had conquered the Moor and all but banished him from her borders after centuries of strife. The civil war in England, known as the War of the Roses, had ceased, and Henry VII was restoring peace to the English nation; even the Italian countries and France and Portugal were free from strife. During this period of political calm among the nations of Europe, there was a deep feeling of unrest, which, accelerated by the development of commerce with Asia and the islands of the eastern seas, the perfecting of the mariner’s compass, and the art of printing, manifested itself in the desire for discovery and conquest...”*

— William M. Davidson



Christopher Columbus Discovers  
the Americas for Spain.

### Reading and Assignments

In this unit, students will:

- Complete two lessons in which they will learn about **Columbus and the Discovery of America**, journaling and answering discussion questions as they read.
- Define vocabulary words.
- Read selected chapters from *The Pilgrim’s Progress*, journaling as they read.
- Visit [www.ArtiosHCS.com](http://www.ArtiosHCS.com) for additional resources.

### Key People and Events

Christopher Columbus, 1492-1504  
Prince Henry, the Navigator  
Bartholomew Diaz  
Vasco da Gama  
Ponce de Leon  
Balboa  
Cortez  
Magellan

### Vocabulary

**Lesson 1:**  
caravel  
vehement  
indomitable  
importuned  
forbearance  
alacrity  
transient

**Lesson 2:**  
askance  
avarice  
imbibed

## Leading Ideas

### **History is HIS Story.**

God's story of love, mercy, and redemption through Christ.

*He made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.*

— Ephesians 1:9-10

### **God's providential hand governs and times all events and provides for his Creation according to His plan and purposes.**

*The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us.*

— Acts 17:24-27

## Additional Material for Parent or Teacher:

- US History Overview: Jamestown to the Civil War  
<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/history/us-history/v/us-history-overview-1--jamestown-to-the-civil-war>
- Christopher Columbus – Bon Voyage  
<http://www.history.com/topics/christopher-columbus/videos#christopher-columbus-bon-voyage>
- The Real Story of Columbus (another view of the motivation behind the voyage of Christopher Columbus)  
<http://www.history.com/topics/christopher-columbus/videos#christopher-columbus-man-and-myth>
- Christopher Columbus Sets Sail  
<http://www.history.com/topics/christopher-columbus/videos#christopher-columbus-sets-sail>

# Literature and Composition

## Unit 1: Allegory and Literary Criticism

### *The Pilgrim's Progress*

by John Bunyan

Literature for Units 1 - 5

<http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bunyan/pilgrim.ii.html>

### Unit 1 – Assignments

- Read the assignment background information, then read *The Pilgrim's Progress*: from *The Author's Apology for This Book* through *Part I, Second Stage*.
- In your reading journal, track the allegorical elements found in the reading and begin making notes critiquing the poem as an allegory.

### Unit 1 – Assignment Background

#### Nature and Office of Criticism

Written from information gathered from  
*Elementary Guide to Literary Criticism*,  
by Franklin Painter

The study or reading of literature ordinarily has a threefold purpose:

- knowledge
- pleasure
- culture

When we read for knowledge, we choose works that will teach us about a particular topic. For example, reading historical fiction novels gives us a first-hand look at the life and times of people during a certain time period. This helps to enhance our knowledge of the day-to-day life of people in that time period and of how the political and social environment affected the citizens. As we read, we can tell the value of knowledge gained from the novel and form our own opinions of how well the author presented the material to us.

When we form an opinion of a piece of literature based on how well the piece served its purpose, we are criticizing this work. This critique is known as literary

criticism. “Literary criticism is almost as old as literature itself. No sooner had a writer produced a literary work, even in the most ancient times, than his contemporaries proceeded to express their judgments concerning it. Among the Greeks Plato and Aristotle were critics; Aristotle’s *Poetics* is still valuable for its discussion of fundamental principles. All criticism involves comparison. For every species of literature, there is an ideal form, content, and spirit, which serve the intelligent critic as a standard of judgment. This ideal is based on a realization of the recognized principles of literary art. These principles pertain to *dictions, structure, matter, and spirit or purpose.*”

Literary criticism has a distinct value for three classes of people:

- to the young student it gives a clear insight into literary form and cultivates his taste for literary excellence.

- to the author it is at once a stimulant and a wholesome restraint; it rewards him for what is good and chastises him for what is bad.
- to the public it is useful in pointing out what books are worth reading and in showing the principles by which a work is to be judged.

In criticizing it is important to recognize certain general influences in literature: *race*, *epoch*, and *surroundings*.

We cannot fully understand any work of literature, nor justly estimate its relative excellence, without an acquaintance with the national traits of the writer, the general character of the age in which he lived, and the physical and social conditions by which he was surrounded. It is therefore unjust to demand in writers of an uncultivated period the same delicacy of thought, feeling, and expression that is required in writers of an age of refinement and intelligence.

### **The Nature of Allegory**

The following is the text of a lecture delivered by Ian Johnston of Malaspina University-College (now Vancouver Island University) in November 1998.

When we say that *The Pilgrim's Progress* is an allegory (in fact, the most famous allegory in English literature) we are describing a certain form of literature which demands from the perceptive reader an awareness of what is going on and from the literary critic an appreciation for the challenges this allegorical form presents.

Simply put, an allegory is a fiction, almost invariably a story, which is designed, first and foremost, to illustrate a coherent doctrine which exists outside the fiction. Thus, the story and everything in it bear an immediate and point by point reference to a very specific aspect of the controlling doctrine which the fiction is illustrating. In that sense, allegories tend to be what we might call "philosophical" fictions, a term which means that they are to a large extent shaped and controlled by ideas or by a system of ideas which exists independently of the allegorical text.

This should be easy enough to understand, because in one way or another most of us are thoroughly familiar with allegories, fictions which exist primarily to illustrate ideas rather than to explore them independently. Many films which pit good heroes against nasty villains (e.g., traditional western movies, James Bond films) operate within a fairly obvious and

popular framework of belief. Even many sporting events present themselves in an allegorical context.

Allegories tend to be very popular because they are the simplest way to appeal to and to confirm the belief system of the audience. We like to see the good people win out and the bad ones punished, often in a very simple way, because that confirms the belief system we bring to the world (or which we would like to bring to the world). Often allegories are the least complicated and most pleasing ways to remind people of a particular belief system. Hence allegories have always been an important way of educating people, from childhood onwards, because they present important doctrinal or abstract ideas in the form of a pleasing fiction. And a large part of the popularity of *The Pilgrim's Progress* arises from the fact that it was the essential text in the raising of many Protestant children within the home.

Allegories need to be distinguished from symbolic stories. Both allegorical structures and symbolic structures derive their full meaning from something beyond the literal meaning of the word, event, image, or character in the fiction. That is, they both point to a range of meanings beyond themselves. The major difference is

that in allegories the reference point is clear and relatively unambiguous; whereas, with symbols the range of meaning is more ambiguous and uncertain.

For example, money in Chaucer's General Prologue and images of disease in *Hamlet* clearly exert a recurring symbolic influence throughout the works. But what they refer to is not immediately explicit, and, as readers, we need to interpret, argue about, and come (if possible) to some consensus about the range of possible meanings. By contrast, in *The Pilgrim's Progress* something like Christian's scrap of paper or the Slough of Despond refer explicitly to some important aspect of the overarching doctrine which is controlling the shape of the fiction and which every detail of the fiction is designed to illustrate. About such reference there is no ambiguity and no need for argument about a range of interpretative possibilities.

This point is particularly clear if we compare the characterization in Chaucer and Shakespeare with the characterization in Bunyan. The characters in the earlier two works are clearly (for the most part) complex, ambiguous, and arguable. There may be some (like the Knight and the Parson) who are ideal characters and serve to point to a clear Christian standard, but for the most part we cannot simply define the characters in these works according to

a simple and given frame of reference. In Bunyan, of course, the situation is quite the reverse. The characters in the work almost all serve exclusively to present unambiguously a certain principle in the doctrine; we do not have to argue about the significance of people like Ignorance, Talkative, Lord Hategood, Obstinate, Pliable, and so on. In a sense they are not characters; they are not even character types; they are the personifications of very explicit characteristics introduced into the fiction in order to illustrate a clear point. Their very names make this tendency obvious to the reader. In a sense, there is only one character in this story, Christian himself: the development of his spiritual understanding depends upon his ability to see the world in very simple terms.

In between clearly allegorical meaning and more ambiguous symbolic meaning stands a third category of literary reference called parable. In a parable, we seem to be working clearly within an allegorical framework in the sense that a very simple meaning seems to be indicated, but often the simple meaning turns out to be not so immediately obvious to figure out. The famous examples of this form, of course, are the parables of Jesus in the New Testament and, in modern times, the short stories of Franz Kafka.



## Lesson One

### History Overview and Assignments Discovery of the New World

Perhaps no single event in history surpasses in importance this first voyage of Columbus. It is true he did not discover the mainland of North America, but he opened up the way, thereby making its discovery an easy matter. The return of Columbus set the world on fire. The printing presses in every city of Europe spread the news broadcast throughout the continent.

*“The revelation of the amazing fact that there were lands beyond the great ocean, inhabited by strange races of human beings, roused to passionate eagerness the thirst for fresh discoveries...”*

— William M. Davidson



Christopher Columbus

#### Reading and Assignments

- Review the discussion questions and vocabulary, then read the article: *Finding a Continent*, pages 7-12.
- Narrate about today’s reading using the appropriate notebook page. Be sure to answer the discussion questions and include key people, events, and dates within the narration.
- As you read through today’s lesson, begin making a chart showing each country involved in exploration and listing that country’s explorers and discoveries.
- Define the vocabulary words in the context of the reading and put the word and its definition in the vocabulary section of your history notebook.
- Be sure to visit [www.ArtiosHCS.com](http://www.ArtiosHCS.com) for additional resources.

#### Key People and Events

Christopher Columbus, 1492-1504  
Prince Henry, the Navigator  
Bartholomew Diaz  
Vasco da Gama

#### Vocabulary

caravel	vehement
indomitable	importuned
forbearance	alacrity
transient	

## Discussion Questions

1. Where did Christopher Columbus actually land on his first voyage?
2. What was the principle cause leading to discovery?
3. What does the author mean when he writes, “The dream of the scholar became the demand of the merchant?”
4. What were other causes which led to a rise in exploration and discovery?
5. What does the author mean when he writes, “In the affairs of men and of nations, it has usually happened that when an emergency has arisen, the man has been found ready for the hour.”
6. Where and when did Columbus’ journey begin?
7. Why did Columbus refer to the Native Americans as Indians?
8. What does the text say “spurs men to action”? Do you agree or disagree?
9. What did Columbus discover on his other three voyages?

Adapted from the book:

### *History of the United States*

by William M. Davidson

### *Finding a Continent*

#### **Discovery of the New World**

At sunset on the evening of October 11, 1492, three Spanish caravels were ploughing the waves of an unknown sea at a rapid rate. On board all was expectancy and watchfulness, made so by the indomitable will and the undiminished enthusiasm of the great navigator, who, ten weeks before, had set sail from Palos, Spain, in search of a western passage to the Golden Indies of the east. In spite of pleadings to return home, in spite of mutiny and continuous discontent, in spite of threats to cast him into the sea, he kept on his western course by his forbearance subduing his men, and his courage and his hopefulness winning them to his purpose and his plans. On that memorable night not an eye was closed in sleep. It had been announced by the heroic admiral that he

thought it probable that they would make land ere the morning. The greatest animation prevailed throughout the fleet – the *Pinta* taking the lead, the *Santa Maria* following, and the *Niña* in the rear.

To the admiral the moment was indeed a critical one. Should his prediction fail him now, his last hope of controlling the turbulent crews would be gone forever. Already the dusk of evening had settled upon the sea when he took his station on top of the castle of the *Santa Maria* and with eager eye scanned the western horizon. At ten o’clock at night there burst upon his vision a gleam of light as if it were a torch in a fisherman’s canoe, dancing on the waves, or from a signal light in the hands of some human being rushing from place to place upon the shore. The first to behold that light, he alone of all on board

attached any importance to its transient gleams until, at two o'clock on the morning of October 12, 1492, a gun from the *Pinta* was followed by the joyful shout of "Land! Land" – and Christopher Columbus became the discoverer of the western continent, and gave a new world to Castile and Leon, "the like of which was never done by any man in ancient or in later times"

### **Principal Cause Leading to the Discovery**

When, on the morning of the discovery, Columbus landed on one of the islands now known as the Bahamas, and, calling it San Salvador, took possession in the name of Spain, the event marked the beginning of a new era in the world's history.

Since the time of the Greek philosopher, Aristotle, many learned men had held to the theory that the earth is round, and that by sailing west on the "sea of darkness," as the Atlantic was then called, the mariner would be brought to the eastern coast of Asia. Prior to the fifteenth century, the discussion of these largely occupied the attention of men of thought rather than men of action.

The march of progress among European nations had reached a point which demanded a large field of operation. Material wealth and prosperity, rapidly increasing, had created a demand for the luxuries of the Far East. A heavy trade had sprung up between Europe and Asia, carried on in the south by caravan over the Isthmus of Suez to the Red Sea, thence by vessel through that sea, or by camel train across the Arabian deserts to the Persian Gulf, and, in the north by way of the Black and Caspian Seas. The skilled Venetian

sailors and the successful merchants of Venice dominated the one; the far-famed Genoese sailors and merchants, the other. By the middle of the century these routes, however, were made very dangerous from the attacks of the Ottoman Turks, who were at war with the Christian nations of Europe. With the fall of Constantinople at their hands in 1453, trade was almost suppressed. From a commercial point of view, therefore, the theory of the scholars that the earth is round and that the East Indies and the shores of Asia could be reached by sailing westward, appealed powerfully to the business world. The dream of the scholar became the demand of the merchant.

### **Other Causes Leading to the Discovery**

Greed for power caused the reigning kings of Europe to reach out after more territory over which they might spread their dominion. A desire to carry the Gospel to heathen lands moved the authorities of the church to favor the project of seeking a shorter route to Asia. Men interested in science and letters desired to see the fulfillment of their prophecies.

Through long use, navigators had come to put their trust in the mariner's compass, and the boldest has begun to lay out highroads on the trackless ocean. Confidence in that little instrument was soon to revolutionize commerce, to free even the timid sailor from the coast, and give him courage. There was to spring into existence a vehement desire for the discovery of unknown lands.

The invention of printing from movable type in the early part of the fifteenth



century was exerting silent but powerful influence upon all the active countries of Europe at this time. The human mind was freeing itself. Intelligence was on the increase. A desire had taken possession of the public mind to know more of the world and its peoples.

### **Conditions in Europe**

At the time of the discovery, Europe was ready for just such an event in the world's history. She was enjoying a short respite from the habitual toil of war. Spain had conquered the Moor and all but banished him from her borders after centuries of strife. The civil war in England, known as the War of the Roses, had ceased, and Henry VII was restoring peace to the English nation; even the Italian countries and France and Portugal were free from strife. During this period of political calm among the nations of Europe, there was a deep feeling of unrest, which, accelerated by the development of commerce with Asia and the islands of the eastern seas, the perfecting of the mariner's compass, and the art of printing, manifested itself in the desire for discovery and conquest.

Naturally, the countries of Europe where this feeling of unrest was strongest were those which commerce had quickened first, namely, those bordering upon the Mediterranean Sea and those looking outward upon the Atlantic. Hence, it was that at the close of the fifteenth century, the great powers of the world were beset with this universal passion for discovery.

### **The Portuguese and the Route to India**

Under the influence of this new impulse, Portugal, on account of her

outward upon the Atlantic, had led all other countries of Europe in the desire to extend the geographical knowledge of the world. Prince Henry the Navigator had made his little country famous. Portuguese sailors were seen and known in every port. They boldly pushed out into the sea, and in the early part of the century discovered the Azores, the Madeira, and the Cape Verde Islands. By the middle of the century they had reached the coast of Africa as far south as Upper Guinea and returned to Lisbon laden with gold-dust, ivory, and gums. Pope Nicholas V immediately, on the strength of this later discovery, granted the Portuguese the possession of the lands and many of the islands already discovered, and of any further discoveries they should make as far east as India. They later reached Lower Guinea and the mouth of the Congo, and, in 1486, Bartholomew Diaz reached the southern point of Africa, which King John II of Portugal, named the Cape of Good Hope. It is not surprising, then, that this enterprising little nation persisted in its effort to find a new route to Asia, and that Vasco da Gama twelve years later (1496) rounded the Cape, crossed the Indian Ocean, and anchored safely in the harbor of Calicut.

### **Christopher Columbus**

In the affairs of men and of nations, it has usually happened that when an emergency has arisen, the man has been found ready for the hour. At this time there appeared upon the scene the son of a Genoese wool comber. The father had done valiant service for the king of Portugal as one of his able navigators. On his death he had bequeathed his charts and map to his son who had inherited his passion for the

sea. Christopher Columbus was the most conspicuous navigator of his age, and is clearly entitled to the distinction The Great Navigator. He combined the learning of the scholar with a practical knowledge of the sea. This tall seaman of “grave and gentle manner, though noble and saddened look,” was indeed an enthusiast of the most pronounced type in whom the “passion for discovery rose to the dignity of an inspiration.” For eighteen long, weary years he importuned monarchs and merchants, courts and bankers, for ships and men, that he might set out upon the western route to Asia. He sent his brother, Bartholomew, to England, but King Henry VII gave a deaf ear to his appeal. France likewise lost her opportunity. King John II of Portugal was encouraging his own seamen to make India by way of the Cape of Good Hope; he, therefore, could not be interested. The Italian merchants and bankers could not be induced to invest in the enterprise without its first having received the support of some powerful monarch.

Spain at this time was approaching the zenith of her power and was ready for new fields of conquest; still, she refused Columbus assistance. Discouraged, he was:

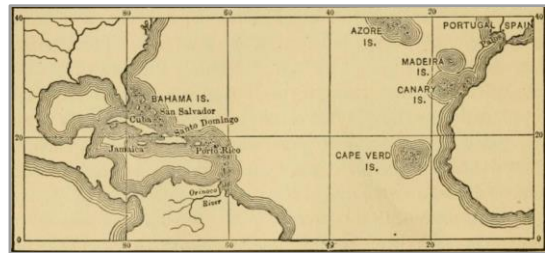
*“The fountain of his spirit’s prophecy  
Sinking away and wasting, drop by  
drop.*

*In the ungrateful sands of skeptic  
ears.”*

—Lowell’s “Columbus”

But he was a man who knew no such word as fail. His whole life had been one of hardship. At the age of thirty his hair was white, made so by the suffering and

hardships which he had endured. At last, success crowned his efforts, and the jewels of the queen of Spain became security for the successful prosecution of this proposed enterprise. Thus, to Ferdinand and Isabella, king and queen of Castile, fell the honor of having first given encouragement and substantial aid to the discoverer of the New World.



Map of Leif Ericson's possible Voyage

### First Voyage of Columbus

The three historic caravels with musical names were furnished him by Spain, but his task was still a difficult one. It was not easy to secure crews for these ships when the nature of the voyage became known. Only the boldest sea captains ventured out of sight of land. The vast majority of sailors in those days were timid, very ignorant, and superstitious. Noticing that a ship seemed to be sailing “downhill” as it went out into the ocean, they reasoned that should it go too far, it could never sail “uphill” on its return. Notwithstanding long use, still the ordinary ship’s crew looked upon the mariner’s compass with superstitious awe.

By dint of much persuasion, promises of great reward and finally, by the use of force, Columbus at last secured crews. They set sail amidst great rejoicing from Palos, Spain, on the third of August, 1492. First sailing south to the Canary Islands, they boldly took a westerly course, and in ten weeks landed on the island, which

Columbus named San Salvador. Just which one of the Bahamas Columbus touched upon will probably never be known.

From thence he sailed south to the coast of Cuba and Santo Domingo, taking possessions of those islands in the name of the king and queen of Spain, Ferdinand and Isabella. Having lost his flagship, the *Santa Maria*, in a storm, he sailed for home, taking with him several natives whom he called Indians, because he thought the island a part of the East Indies. He also brought back with him many curiosities from these new lands. His return to Spain was hailed with joy by the king and queen, who bestowed great honors upon him.

### **Effects of the Discovery**

Perhaps no single event in history surpasses in importance this first voyage of Columbus. It is true he did not discover the mainland of North America, but he opened up the way, thereby making its discovery an easy matter.

The return of Columbus set the world on fire. The printing presses in every city of Europe spread the news broadcast throughout the continent. “The revelation of the amazing fact that there were lands beyond the great ocean, inhabited by strange races of human beings, roused to passionate eagerness the thirst for fresh discoveries.”

Three powerful motives urge a man to action – the desire for wealth, the desire for power, and the desire to spread his peculiar religious tenets. These caused the voyage of Columbus, the success of which threw open a vast field for the exploitation of each. The business world, the governing class, and the church, responded with

alacrity to the call, and the sea of darkness was soon ablaze with the sail of the adventurer and the explorer, to be followed later by the white sails of commerce.

### **Later Voyages of Columbus**

Columbus made three other voyages to the New World. In the autumn of 1494 with a large expedition, he set sail on his second voyage for the purpose of taking possession of the new-found islands. He explored the southern coast of Cuba, founded a colony on Santo Domingo, and discovered the islands of Jamaica and Porto Rico. He returned to Spain in 1496 to solicit reinforcements, provisions, and funds.

On his third voyage, in 1498, he touched upon the continent of South America, having reached the mainland at the mouth of the Orinoco River. Notwithstanding that he believed the Orinoco to be a continental river, he still held to the view that he was upon the eastern of Asia. He proceeded to the colony, where he had been superseded in command by a new governor who preferred charges of cruelty against Columbus and sent him in chains to Spain. On his arrival there, the charges against him were investigated, and he was released at once.

On his fourth and last voyage, made in 1502-1504, he explored the coast of Central America, while still in quest of a “waterway to the far east.” No man ever held more tenaciously to an idea than did Columbus to his belief in the direct western passage. Though he heard rumors of an ocean lying beyond Central America, he still persisted that it must be the Indian Ocean.

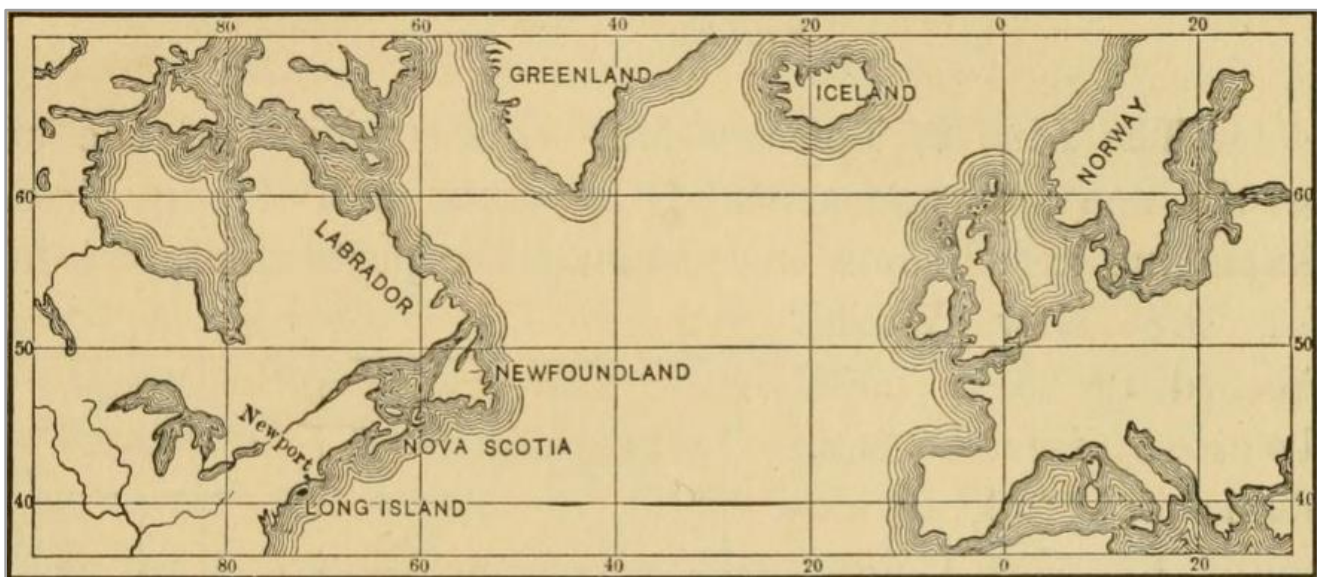
He returned to Spain, and, it is said, died in poverty and distress in 1506,

neglected by his king and his fellow-countrymen.

### **The Norsemen in America 1000, A.D.**

It is believed by some historians that Europeans first discovered America in the year 1000 – five hundred years before Columbus set foot upon the island of San Salvador. This first discovery is represented to have been made by the Vikings of Norway and Iceland. It is held that these hardy and bold seamen crossing from Greenland ranged the shores of Labrador, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, and the New England coast as far south as Long Island Sound. They gave the name Vinland to the southern portion of this new country on account of its yielding grapes in abundance. Even the names of some of these early explorers have been handed down – that of Leif Ericson being the most prominent among them. It is claimed that settlements were made at several points along the coasts of the region explored and

that remains of these early settlements have been found from northern Labrador to Newport. The most noted ruin pointed out is that of the Old Mill at New Port. Some authorities insist that there never were any such voyages, even holding that the Newport Tower was built centuries later than the time of Leif Ericson; while still others believe that the Vikings touched upon the shores of northern Labrador in the tenth or eleventh century. It took five centuries of most severe schooling to prepare the European for the task of conquering and peopling a new continent. But when the time did come and the cry of “Land! Land!” rose joyfully from the desk of the Spanish caravel in the western seas, Europe was ready, and the whole continent responded with enthusiasm to the call. Not to the son of Eric the Red, whose voyages are all but lost in the myth land of history, but to the son of the Genoese wool comber belongs the glory of the discovery of America.



Map of Columbus' 1st Voyage



## Lesson Two

# History Overview and Assignments

## The Race for Possession

*“Through a series of discoveries by men like Balboa, Ponce de Leon, Cortez and others, Spain laid claim to the eastern coast of the United States under the name of Florida, and the Pacific coast under the name of New Mexico. The French laid claim to Canada and the Mississippi valley. The Dutch claimed the territory line between Narragansett Bay and the Delaware River. The English, by right of discovery and occupation, proceeded to hold the coast from Nova Scotia to Florida, thence westward to the Pacific...”*

— William M. Davidson



Vasco Balboa

### Reading and Assignments

- Review the discussion questions and vocabulary, then read the article: *The Race for Possession*, pages 14-28.
- Narrate about today's reading using the appropriate notebook page. Be sure to answer the discussion questions and include key people, events, and dates within the narration.
- As you read through today's lesson, continue making a chart showing each country involved in exploration and listing that country's explorers and discoveries.
- Define the vocabulary words in the context of the reading and put the word and its definition in the vocabulary section of your history notebook.
- Be sure to visit [www.ArtiosHCS.com](http://www.ArtiosHCS.com) for additional resources.

### Vocabulary

askance  
avarice  
imbibed

### Key People and Events

Ponce de Leon  
Balboa  
Cortez  
Magellan



## Discussion Questions

1. What were some of the motivations behind exploration?
2. What did Ponce de Leon go in search of?
3. What did Ponce de Leon actually find?
4. What did Balboa discover?
5. Whom did Cortez take prisoner?
6. What were the achievements of Magellan's exploration?
7. What is the significance of the city of St. Augustine, Florida?
8. How did America get its name?
9. What were French Protestants called at this time?
10. Why were they persecuted?
11. What distinction does La Salle deserve?
12. What discovery is credited to John Cabot?
13. What was developed during the reign of Queen Elizabeth?
14. Name two poets/playwrights who were contemporary with Queen Elizabeth.
15. Name two writers who were contemporary with Queen Elizabeth.
16. Sir Francis Drake was the first English explorer to do what?
17. What did Sir Walter Raleigh name his colony, and why?

*Adapted from the book:*

### *A History of the United States*

by William M. Davidson

#### *The Race for Possession*

*SPANISH, 1492-1582*

*PORTUGUESE, 1500-1502*

*FRENCH, 1524-1687*

*DUTCH, 1609-1613*

*ENGLISH, 1497-1607*

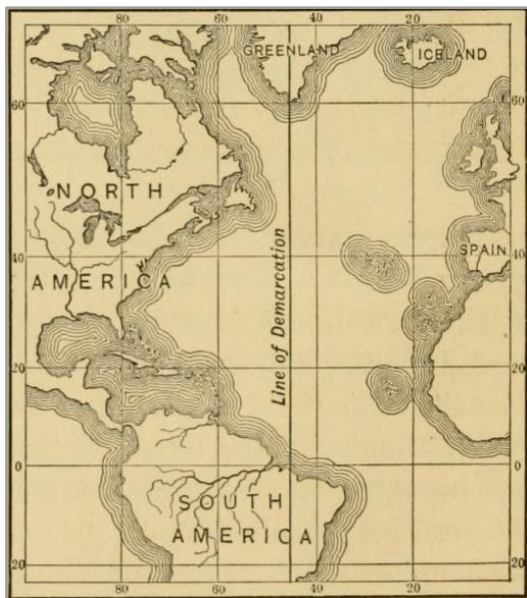
#### **The Line of Demarcation**

The opening of the sixteenth century was marked by great activity in Spain. Exploring expeditions were leaving her ports thick and fast for the New World. According to a papal decree issued from Rome in 1493, on account of the Columbus

discovery, Spain was to have all lands, no matter by whom discovered, lying west of a line drawn from the North to the South Pole at a distance of one hundred leagues to the west of Azores and Cape Verde Islands. This line, as first drawn not being satisfactory, it was located in the following year, by treaty between Spain and Portugal, three hundred and seventy leagues west of the Cape Verde Islands. It is known in history as the Line of Demarcation, and crossed Brazil east of the mouth of the Amazon River. Upon this decree of a

Roman pontiff, the Spanish and the Portuguese divided their interests. In the course of events the latter directed their attention to Brazil, the coast of Africa, and the eastern route to India; the former, to the West Indies, the lands bordering upon the Gulf of Mexico, and that portion of South America lying west of Brazil.

England and France, feeling that they had lost their great opportunity in not having extended aid to Columbus, looked askance at this decree of Pope Alexander VI, and later disputed the right to of the papal authority thus to dispose of the undiscovered lands of the world.

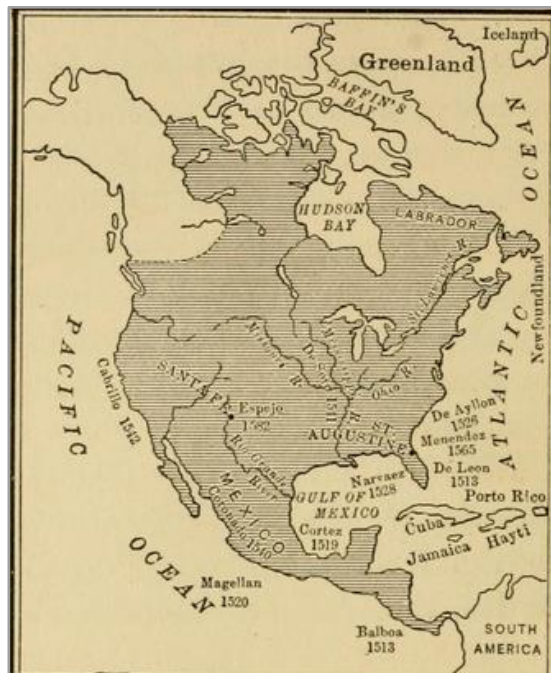


Line of Demarcation

The French, during the century, entered the continent of North America by way of the St. Lawrence River and the Great Lakes; later, they pushed down the Mississippi valley, penetrating as far south as Texas. The English preempted the Atlantic Coast from Nova Scotia to Florida. Even the Dutch, on the strength of a later discovery, laid claim to the stretch of the Atlantic seaboard from Narragansett Bay to the Delaware River. Thus, in the course of

the two centuries, the Line of Demarcation was ignored altogether.

## THE SPANISH



The Spanish Claims

## Impelling Motives

The Spaniard was quick to follow up the advantage gained by the discoveries and voyages of Columbus. Having pushing the hated Moor across the border to the land from whence he came, he was ready for new fields of conquest. Other nations were to be conquered, and heathen peoples converted. The four voyages of Columbus had served to surround the New World problem with glamour. The "riches of the Indies" was still the cry. "The splendors of the newly-found world were, indeed, difficult to be resisted. The wildest romances were greedily received and the Old World, with its familiar and painful realities, seemed mean and hateful beside the fabled glories of the New. It was rumored that gold and precious jewels abounded everywhere. Wealth beyond the

wildest dreams of avarice could be had for the gathering.” Even the fabled “fountain of perpetual youth” became a fixed belief and began to allure men in the western seas. It took a century’s sacrifice of blood and treasure to convince the Spaniard of his error. He eagerly entered into the search for gold, and to aid him in his venture began the planting of colonies. He was a great explorer; all honor to him. But he failed as a colonizer, which required honest toil and infinite patience – the latter he had not; the former he would never give. Nevertheless, the Spaniard has left his mark upon the western continent and had handed down a list of early explorers, many of whom were kindled by a lofty zeal to extend the dominion of Spain over the whole of the New World. All of the islands of the West Indies were soon discovered and explored, and the adjacent coasts of the mainland lay stretched out as an invitation to greater discoveries in an unknown land. The mystery of it all appealed to the imagination and fired the Spanish mind to further deeds of conquest and of glory.

### **Ponce de Leon**

#### **Discovered Florida – 1513**

Ponce de Leon had been a companion and friend of Columbus on his second voyage, and had imbibed much of the great navigator’s enthusiasm. While governor of the eastern part of the island of Haiti, he was filled with an ambition to effect the conquest of the island of Puerto Rico. This he did after a fearful campaign of slaughter, opening up the island to Spanish colonization. While acting as the first governor of Puerto Rico, and meditating upon the fact that he was past the prime of

life, his imagination, which was fired by a fable which was current among the Spanish colonists in the western world, that there existed in one of the islands of the Bahamas a fountain whose waters possessed the magic power of restoring youth to old age. As strange as it may seem, this man of intelligence gave a credulous ear to these native rumors, and though he laughed at his associates in the colony and his friends at the court of Spain, he still persisted in the belief, and asked that the king might give him authority to organize an expedition and grant him permission to discover the island. The king, feeling kindly disposed toward de Leon, lent him assistance, which soon put him on the tramp in search of this fountain of perpetual youth.

To this incredulous belief is due the discovery of the North American continent by de Leon. Though he did not find his fountain, he did discover Florida in 1513, finding it a land of flowers and singing birds and tropical fruits, though inhabited by many hostile savage tribes. He planted the cross, sang the Spanish song of discovery, and added Florida to the domain of Spain.

### **Balboa and the Pacific Ocean - 1513**

Vasco Nunez de Balboa, said also to have been a companion of Columbus, planted a colony on the coast of the Isthmus of Panama. Hearing the rumor, to which Columbus had turned a deaf ear, of a vast sea beyond the high mountains, he determined to learn the truth for himself. Accordingly, in the face of great natural obstacles and the hostility of native tribes, with a little band of seventy-five followers,

he was led by a native guide to the summit of a lofty peak, from which he beheld the vast expanse of the Pacific Ocean. Two weeks later he descended to its shores, and amidst great pomp and splendor, took possession of all the lands touching upon its waters in the name of the king of Spain.

### **Cortez Conquers the Aztecs 1519-1521**

Hernando Cortez had come to the New World in 1504 and won renown as a soldier in the conquest of Cuba. On the discovery of Mexico, the governor of Cuba was seized with a desire to subdue the land of the Aztecs and place the Empire of Montezuma under Spanish rule. Cortez was given command of an expedition in order that he might carry out the governor's plans. He landed on the coast of Mexico in 1519 with his army of conquest. He founded Vera Cruz, and after dramatically burning his ships so that neither soldier nor sailor could think of returning home, he marched inland. He at first met with bloody resistance, but was finally permitted to enter the capital unmolested. Establishing himself in one of the strong fortresses of the city, he made a prisoner of the Aztec emperor, Montezuma, and soon brought down upon his head the wrath of the Aztec chieftains on account of this despotic cruelty. The natives, biding their time, laid siege to the fortress, and ere the army of invasion was aware, it was surrounded by a vast horde of Aztec tribes, cutting off every avenue of escape. The alternative was offered Cortez of certain death by starvation, or possible death in an attempt to cut his way out. His prisoner, Montezuma, was accidentally killed by his own subjects in a parley; Cortez lost his last

hope. In a desperate and bloody encounter, he cut his way through the Aztec lines and succeeded in reaching a friendly tribe with but a remnant of his men. He soon returned to the struggle, and, after fearful destruction of life and property, the Aztec yielded to the Spaniard, and the empire of the Montezumas passed to the domain of Spain. The destruction of this native empire in the heart of Mexico, comprising the most enlightened and highly civilized people in the western continent, constitutes one of the most pathetic chapters in early New World history, and is paralleled only by the overthrow of the Incas in Peru by the cruel Pizarros in 1531-34. The history of both conquests has been preserved in imperishable literature by the historian Prescott in his thrilling and fascinating volumes on the "Conquest of Mexico," and the "Conquest of Peru."

### **Magellan Discovers Straits of Magellan – 1520: Philippine Islands – 1521: His Ship Victoria Completes the Circuit of Globe – 1522**

Fernando de Magellan, who had done valiant service as a soldier for Portugal in the conquest for the East Indies as well as of Morocco, became dissatisfied at his treatment and, renouncing his allegiance to his native land, enlisted under the banner of Charles V, who had just been crowned emperor. Believing the Moluccas to be an inviting field for discovery and exploration, he maintained that they were omitted from the treaty, which established the old Line of Demarcation, and, by his enthusiasm, succeeded in persuading Charles to enter that portion of the world set aside by the pope for conquest by Portugal. Magellan



was placed in charge of a large government expedition, whose avowed purpose was the opening of a western passage to the Moluccas. This voyage will ever hold the interested attention of students of history. To it is due: (1) The discovery of the Straits of Magellan; (2) the discovery and possession of the far-away Philippine Islands, which for nearly five centuries remained in undisputed possession of Spain, until Admiral Dewey, of the United States Navy (May 1, 1898), swept Spanish rule from the islands forever; (3) and the first circumnavigation of the globe, which completely silences all who opposed the theory of the rotundity of the earth. Magellan lost his life on one of the Philippine Islands in an encounter with the natives, but his good ship Victoria, the only surviving vessel of his fleet, reached the Moluccas, and later rounding the Cape of Good Hope and passing through the Straits of Gibraltar, came to anchor in the Spanish port from which she had sailed on her outward voyage.

### **De Ayllon and San Miguel – 1526**

Vasquez de Ayllon, a Spanish lawyer and a member of the Superior Court of the colony of Santo Domingo, became greatly absorbed in the problem of exploration and colonization, and through his influence at the Spanish court, secured permission to fit out exploring expeditions, which he sent to Florida and the coasts farther north. Through having enticed many of their numbers on board the Spanish ships and having afterwards condemned them to slavery in the mines of Haiti, one of these expeditions secured for the Spanish the last enmity of the native tribes of the coast.

In 1526 De Ayllon attempted to plant

the first Spanish colony within what is now the borders of the United States. He selected a site near the later English settlement of Jamestown and called it San Miguel. Beset by hostile tribes on every hand, the knights of Spain succumbed to the natives. The leader sickened and died of a fever, and this first attempt at colonizing nation in the United States ended in disaster.

### **De Soto and the Mississippi River – 1539-1542**

Hernando de Soto had been engaged in many active exploring and colonizing expeditions since 1514. He had ably assisted the Pizzaros in the conquest of Peru (1531-34), where he amassed great wealth. This gave him high standing at the Spanish court and, on his return to Spain, in 1536, he was, in the following year, appointed governor of Cuba and Florida, with orders to settle and explore the latter country. He organized in expedition at Havana in 1539, soon landed at Tampa Bay, on the coast of Florida, sent part of his ships back to Havana, and began the repetition of the De Ayllon and Narvaez disasters. In the hope of finding richer countries, he continued; and for three years he was urged forward in search of gold. It is thought that he traversed what are now the States of Florida, Georgia, the Carolinas, Alabama, Tennessee, and Mississippi. He suffered great hardships and was forced to fight many fierce battles with the natives. He discovered the Mississippi River in 1541, and explored the region west of the Mississippi nearly as far north as the Missouri. Turning southward in 1542, he reached the junction of the Red River and the Mississippi, where he



sickened and died. His body was buried in the great river, which he had discovered. The leader dead, the remnant of his cheerful company, which had embarked with such high hopes at Havana three years before, built rafts, floated down the great river out into the Gulf, and finally reached the Spanish settlements in Mexico.

**Menendez finds  
St. Augustine, 1565  
Espejo Santa Fe, 1582**

A half century had passed since the dawn of the New World. The Spaniard had not yet planted a single colony north of the region of Mexico. Every attempt had ended in dismal failure, until Pedro Menendez, successor to De Soto as governor of Cuba and Florida, founded the city of St. Augustine on the eastern coast of the peninsula. A decade and a half later (1592) Antonio de Espejo founded Santa Fe in New Mexico. These are the two oldest cities in the United States.

**THE PORTUGUESE**

**Americus Vesputius and  
the Naming of America – 1497-1504**

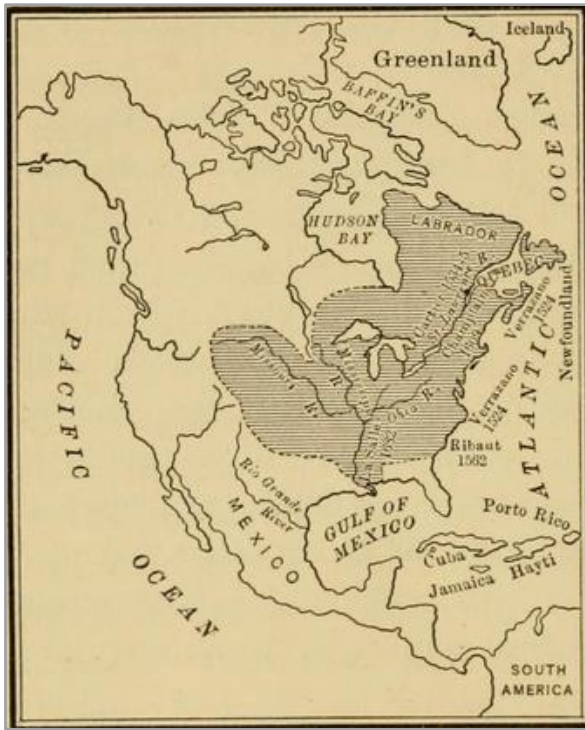
Americus Vesputius, a scholarly and capable Italian navigator, claims to have made four voyages to the New World, two in the Spanish and two in the Portuguese service. He has left narratives of these voyages. In the voyage of 1497 he claims to have discovered the mainland a year before Columbus first gazed upon the continent at the mouth of the Orinoco River.

In the voyages of 1501 and 1503, while in the Portuguese service, he visited the Brazilian coast, and in his narrative of the first of these Portuguese voyages maintained that the map of the world then

known should be reconstructed and made to include a “fourth continent” which he called *Mundus*; *Novus-Europe*, *Asia*, and *Africa* constituting the other three continents. The theory of a new continent thus early became associated with the name of this learned geography. Columbus combatted the theory to the time of his death. Indeed, the fiction that the new lands were a part of the East Indies or the continent of *Asia* was not fully dispelled till Cortez measured his strength with the Aztec and revealed the truth about Mexico. It is not strange, therefore, that a German teacher of geography in the college of St. Die should have used the following words in a little treatise on geography published in 1507: “And the fourth part of the world, having been discovered by *Americus*, it may be called *Amerige*; that is, the land of *Americus* or *America*.” At first applied to Brazil, the suggestion was eventually adopted and was soon applied to the whole of the New World.

**The French Fisherman**

Seven years after the discovery of the continent, the fisheries of Newfoundland were known to the hardy sailors of Breton, on the western shores of France. Each succeeding year found their fishing boats, in increasing numbers, laying in supplies for the markets of France from the cod-banks off Newfoundland. Their marvelous stories of the new coasts in the west soon became current in France. To the circumstance of the voyages of this simple folk, engaged in private enterprise, is doubtless due the later location and rise upon the western continent of that New France whose story has been so eloquently told by the historian Parkman.



The French Claims

### **Verrazano and New France – 1524**

France had little respect for the Line of Demarcation and early entered into competition for a share of the western world. Her king, Francis II, at bitter enmity with Charles of Spain, sent an expedition under command of Giovanni Verrazano in search of a northwest passage to China. Touching upon the shores of North America at a point near Cape Hatteras, he is said to have ranged the entire coast of the continent from the Carolinas in the south to Newfoundland in the north. He explored with more or less detail of the many bays and harbors of the Atlantic coast as far north as that island. He took possession in the name of his monarch of the region explored, and to the whole gave the name New France. He was perhaps the first European to sail into New York Bay and look upon the broad expanse of the Hudson River. Upon this voyage of discovery, France was wont, in a later

century, to base her claim to the territory which she proposed to carve out herself in the New World.

### **The Huguenots Attempt to Found a Colony in Florida – 1562-67**

After the still-further lapse of a quarter of a century, the story of New France reopened with a tragedy. "The political and religious enmities which were soon to bathe Europe in blood broke out with an intense fury in the distant wilds of Florida." Admiral Coligny, the leader of the Huguenots, as the French Protestants were called, was anxious to establish in America a colony of refuge for his persecuted brethren. He sent the first expedition in 1562 under the leadership of Jean Ribaut, who touched upon the coast of Florida, discovered the St. Johns River, planted the ensign of France, and named the new country Carolina, after the boy king, Charles IX. Sailing northward in search of a suitable harbor, he finally planted his little colony of thirty souls in the vicinity of Port Royal, South Carolina. He soon set sail on his return voyage to the Old World and was unable to return for three years. The Port Royal colonists, thus abandoned, eked out a miserable existence, and, unable to endure their hardships longer, built a ship and put to sea in the hope of reaching home. After enduring untold suffering, they were picked up, nearly famished, in the English Channel by an English vessel.

A second expedition was sent out in 1564 under Rene de Laudonniere, who planted a colony on the St. Johns River. His Huguenot company constituted a motley crew. The hardships and misery which they endured, due in a large measure to lack of harmony among themselves,

cannot be recounted. Their distress was relieved by John Hawkins, an English captain who had sailed into the mouth of the St. Johns River to fill his casks with water. On the urgent demands of his followers, Laudonniere traded his cannon for one of Hawkins's vessels. His followers were forcing him to abandon the colony, and he needed this ship to take them home. No sooner had the English captain sailed than Jean Ribaut appeared upon the scene with provisions and supplies, thus relieving their distress and suffering. Their joy, however, was cut short by the blow which fell upon their little colony.

Spain, intensely Catholic and always hating the Huguenots, had been watching with a jealous eye their attempt to plant a colony in the New World. Learning that they had landed in Florida, she proceeded to dispute their right, claiming Florida by the pope's decree and by right of the de Leon discovery. Accordingly, Menendez hastened to Florida, and as soon as he had planted the colony of St. Augustine, proceeded to lay plans to dispossess the Huguenots. Within two years, this cruel Spaniard butchered, massacred, or hanged nine hundred of the French colonists. It is not strange, therefore, that in 1567 Dominic de Gourges came over to America with the avowed purpose of avenging the butchery of his fellow Huguenots. His vengeance swept the Spanish settlements like a whirlwind until only the settlement of St. Augustine remained. Finding he could not hold his own against the larger Spanish force, he returned to France. When Menendez the year before had executed the last of the French, he marked the place with a cross bearing the inscription, "Not as to Frenchmen, but as

to Lutherans." When De Gourges sailed for France the inscription read, "Not as to Spaniards, but as traitors, robbers, and murderers."

### **Champlain, the Father of New France**

To quote Parkman the historian: "Samuel de Champlain has been fitly called the Father of New France. In him were embodied her religious zeal and romantic spirit of adventure. Before the close of his career, purged of her heresy, she took the posture which she held to the day of her death - in one hand the crucifix and in the other, the sword. His life, full of significance, is the true beginning of her eventful history." He was "devout, high-minded, brave, tender." He had made explorations in Canada and in New England, having spent much time exploring the coast. He is said to have been an excellent draughtsman, and has left some of his best maps extant of that upper coast. He founded Québec (1608) - the first permanent French settlement in America. He discovered Lake Champlain in 1609. He was instrumental in laying successfully the foundations of the French Colonial Empire. He was appointed governor of New France, and remained in that position until 1635. He made one error, however, which had serious consequences and possibly cost the French their dominion in the New World. This was in joining a war party of Hurons against the Iroquois, thus incurring the lasting enmity of that powerful confederacy. From this error of judgment, fatal results followed in later years. The time came when the French needed the aid of the Iroquois against the English, but they petitioned in vain.

## **De Monts and His Agricultural Colony in Canada**

However, before Champlain established Québec, he had assisted in a prior attempt to plant a colony in America, under the leadership of the Sieur de Monts. After the tragic end of the Huguenots in the south in 1565, no further attempts at colonizing were made by the French until 1604. A movement had been set on foot to establish an agricultural colony, and in that year, under the leadership of De Monts, a settlement was made on an island in the Bay of Fundy. This proving an undesirable site, they moved across the bay the next year and founded Port Royal, Nova Scotia. The colony never flourished under French rule and in 1607 was abandoned.

## **The Pioneers of France in the New World – Soldiers, Fur Traders, and the Jesuit Fathers**

From the time Champlain planted the first permanent French settlement in America, just three-quarters of a century elapsed before La Salle, the discoverer of the great west, planted the lily-standard of France at the mouth of the Mississippi River, and, taking possession of the vast interior of the continent in the name of France, named it Louisiana in honor of his king. A vast pioneer army of missionaries, traders, and soldiers had made possible this crowning act of La Salle. The military power of France was always in evidence, and the French soldier in conquest of the New World was an imperative necessity. But with the soldier there went the trapper, the hunter, and the fur trader, who pushed their canoes up every navigable stream in quest of their prey or to traffic with the Native Americans. In fur and fishing the

adventures of France had found “veritable gold mines.” The demand in Europe for these commodities became enormous.

Hand in hand with the soldier and the trader went the Jesuit missionary, zealous to convert the savage and build up a Christian empire in the wilderness of the west. With a devotion that has seldom been surpassed, with a self-denial and self-abasement that still astonishes the world, the Jesuits went everywhere, spreading the doctrine of their faith. They were the advisors, both spiritual and temporal, of every French trading post in America. Among them all, two names stand out prominently as the leaders in the far west. The early history of many of the north central states of our republic cannot be written without mention of the names of Marquette and Joliet. It was they who in 1673 rounded the Great Lakes, crossed to the headwaters of the Mississippi River, and in time drifted down the stream to within seven hundred miles of its mouth, thus demonstrating that the great river emptied its waters into the Gulf of Mexico and not into the “Vermilion Sea,” as the Pacific was then called.

## **La Salle and the Extension of New France**

Ten years later, La Salle pushed down the great river, and took possession in the name of France of that vast territory, one-half of which was later to be surrendered to the English; the other half, to be sold to the republic of the United States in 1803, for fifteen millions of dollars. “La Salle stands in history like a statue cast in iron.” At first a Jesuit, he renounced his connection with that society, and, in behalf of France, began his interminable voyages of exploration. He



traversed a stretch of country from the Great Lakes on the north to the Ohio River on the south; and from the portage of Chicago to the mouth of the Mississippi. He is said to have traveled twenty thousand miles in the interior of the continent, most of the distance on foot or in a Native American bark canoe. He built the first ship that ever sailed the waters of the lakes above Niagara. He is truly entitled to the distinction, "The Discovery of the Great West." To him, more than any other man, was the mother country indebted for the expansion of New France.

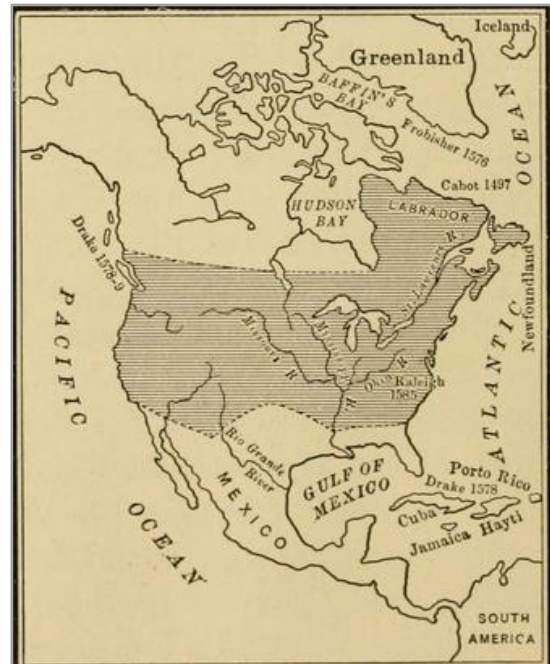
It is sad to relate that after this crowning act of his life, he repaired to France only to be enlisted in an enterprise which led to his death by assassination. Spain patrolled the Gulf of Mexico, by her warships forbidding any nation to enter the ports of the West Indies or of Mexico unless by her permission. La Salle, however, who on his way over from France succeeded in deceiving the Spanish at Santo Domingo, planted a French colony on the coast of Texas. This colony did not flourish on account of native foes without and wicked plottings within. La Salle did not conclude to abandon the colony and led his followers back to France through the Canadian settlement of Québec. He, however, was assassinated on the eve of his departure. "Thus died," says Parkman, "in ignominy and darkness the last embers of the doomed colony of Le Salle."

### THE DUTCH

Holland was also a seafaring nation, and yet she, like Portugal, failed to profit much by discoveries in the New World. On the single voyage of Henry Hudson in 1609 she based her claim. He entered the

beautiful river, to which he gave his name, and the Dutch were thus enabled rightfully to claim one of the richest sections of the New World. They made their claim good in 1613, by permanent settlement on the present site of New York City.

### THE ENGLISH

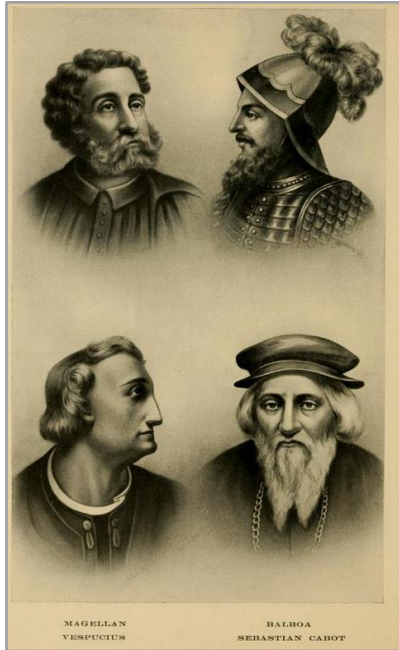


The English Claims

We now come to the nation which was later to have such a vast influence upon the North American continent. When Henry VII of England turned a deaf ear to the appeal of Columbus, he lost an opportunity which in all probability he did not cease regretting to the day of his death. At that time, the English navigators and sailors were worthy competitors with those of Spain and Portugal, and, after the discovery of Columbus, they were imbued with a desire to penetrate the sea of darkness and share in the discoveries of the mysterious land beyond the Atlantic. While Portugal strove for a southeast passage in Spain, English and French sailors set their



faces toward the northwest. They believed, and rightly, that if there were an open passage, the route by the northwest would be shorter than the routes chosen by either Spain or Portugal. For the first voyage to the New World under the flag of England, we are indebted to his belief.



### **The Cabots Establish the Claim of England – 1497, 1498**

John Cabot and Sebastian his son were Genoese sailors in the employ of England. Under the direction of the king of their adopted country, they made a voyage to the New World, touching at some point on the Labrador coast. They sailed southward for a distance of some three hundred miles and landing at a point not now known, planted a cross and the flag of England, after three months, returned to the harbor of Bristol from which they had sailed. Thus, to John Cabot and to England is due the first discovery of the North American continent. He had touched Labrador fourteen months before Columbus saw the mainland at the mouth of the Orinoco River. By this early and remarkable voyage

of the Cabots, England was able to establish their claim of nearly the whole of North America. However, on the death of Henry VII, his successors, out of respect for the papal decree, did nothing to further the claims made good by these early voyagers. Busy with affairs at home, the English allowed three-quarters of a century to relapse before they again appeared in the western world.

### **England under Queen Elizabeth**

Queen Elizabeth was keenly alive to the interests of her people, and under her, England rapidly rose in power. In commerce she dared to compete with all the other countries of the world. She became the antagonist of Spain and the great champion of Protestantism in Europe. She “strengthened her navy, filled her arsenals, and encouraged the building of ships in England.” The spirit of English nationality was developed during her reign. She encouraged adventure and discovery in Africa and Russia, and commerce with the distant peoples of Asia. She encouraged science, letters, art, invention, and discovery. In her day Shakespeare and Spenser sang, and Sidney and Bacon wrote. Finally the overthrow of the Spanish Armada laid the fountain of England supremacy at sea.

### **Frobisher Enters Baffin’s Bay in Search of a Northwest Passage**

Before the destruction of the Spanish Armada, Queen Elizabeth had been encouraging exploration and discovery in the New World. Her fishermen off the Newfoundland coast became the “lords of the banks.” In 1576 she sent Martin Frobisher to find a northwest passage to

the Indies. This bold seaman, with two small barks, penetrated as far north as Baffin's Bay. He loaded his ship with a substance the natives assured him was gold, and, returning to England, "dropped down the Thames, where Queen Elizabeth waved her hand in token of favor." His load of yellow earth proved to be mica, but belief in his "Arctic Eldorado" lured English seamen into the cold regions of the north seas for many years.

### **Drake, the Bold Rover, Circumnavigates the Globe 1577-1580**

No ship was safe on the high seas unless manned by a valiant captain and crew. England had many of these and no captain bolder than Sir Francis Drake. He had already made several successful practical voyages to the West Indies, returning to England with rich booty. In 1577 he resolved to try his fortunes on the west coast of America, where the Spaniard was reaping a rich harvest from the coffers of the Incas. He followed in the track of Magellan, and turned Cape Horn. Entering different harbors along the South American coast, he despoiled Spaniard and native alike, until his most sanguine dreams had been realized. But now came the question of a return home. Should it be by the route he came, the Spaniard might waylay him. He therefore sailed leisurely up the coast as far north as Oregon, which he named New Albion, and passed the winter of 1579 in one of her safe harbors. The following year he struck boldly across the Pacific Ocean and returned home by the Cape of Good Hope. He was the first Englishman to circumnavigate the globe.

### **Sir Humphrey Gilbert Makes an Attempt to Found an English Colony**

The queen was now determined to plant an English colony in her new possessions. In 1583 Sir Humphrey Gilbert, "one of those persons whose life and conduct served to brighten the pages of history," was fitted out with five ships. He made three attempts to found a colony in Newfoundland, but failed on account of the severity of the climate and dissensions among his followers. On his return home from his last voyage, the vessel in which he sailed went down at sea. His last recorded words were, "We are as near to Heaven by sea as by land." Sir Humphrey was a step-brother of Sir Walter Raleigh and had been assisted and encouraged in his colonial enterprise by his relative.

### **Sir Walter Raleigh and Virginia**

Remembering the experiences of his step-brother in the rigors of the Newfoundland climate, Raleigh resolved to establish a colony on the southern coast from which the French had been banished. Being a great favorite of the queen, he readily obtained a large grant. An exploring party was sent out, which returned with glowing accounts of the country. It was reported to be "a land of perpetual flowers and eternal springs." Raleigh caught the fancy and named the country which he sought to colonize Virginia, in honor of the Virgin Queen. In 1585 a colony of one hundred was located on Roanoke Island. On account of the colonists, this treatment of the natives became very hostile. The situation grew critical. Starvation confronted them, and they were threatened with extermination by the savages, when they were happily rescued by Sir Francis

Drake, who had stopped to see how his friend Raleigh's country was prospering. He found them in such distress that he yielded to their request to be taken home. These returning colonists are said to have been the first to introduce the use of tobacco in England.

A final attempt was made in 1587 under the leadership of Governor John White. This time old men and women were sent. The outcome was tragic. After seeing them located at Roanoke, Governor White returned for supplies. In England he found all was excitement over the report of the coming of the Spanish Armada. Every ship and every seaman was in demand. When, after an absence of three years, White returned, he could find no trace of the colony. It became known as "The Lost Colony."

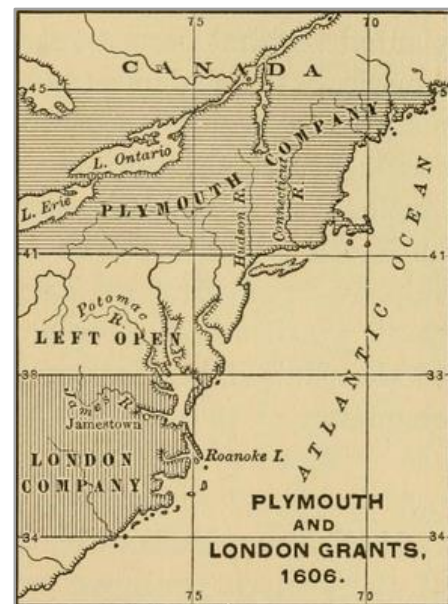
Disappointed and broken in fortune, Raleigh now relinquished his rights to others. Bancroft says: "The name of Raleigh stands greatest among the statesmen of England who advanced the colonization of the United States." He was courtier, soldier, colonizer, historian, and poet. When Queen Elizabeth died, he fared ill with her successor who imprisoned him in the Tower of London in 1603 and released him in 1616, only to condemn him and execute him at the block two years later.

### **Gosnold – 1602; Pring – 1603; Weymouth – 1606**

At the beginning of the century three voyages were made to the New World which excited great interest in England. In 1602 Bartholomew Gosnold coasted Massachusetts, named Cape Cod, and sailed into Buzzards Bay. He named an

island after his queen, and attempted to plant a colony there. He failed because none of his crew would consent to remain. Martin Pring visited the same coast the following year, returning laden with fish. Both Pring and Gosnold made favorable reports on the desirability of the New England coast as a place for settlement. George Weymouth followed up their explorations in 1605, entering and exploring many of the harbors along the coast of Maine and reaching as far south as the region visited by Gosnold three years before.

These three voyages aroused the business centers of England. They served to stir the English mind as never before in its relation to the colonization of the New World. The voyages made to other parts of the Atlantic coast, particularly to the south, had demonstrated that fine harbors were not numerous. Gosnold, Pring, and Weymouth had explored in detail a sufficient number of harbors on the New England coast to shelter the navies and the merchant ships of the world.



## **The Virginia Company Plymouth: London – (1606)**

As the sixteenth century closed and the seventeenth century opened, all the business centers of Europe became actively interested in the promotion of commercial enterprise. Trading companies, exploring companies, and companies interested in a great variety of enterprises, existed in Holland, France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, and England. England, where a broader idea of the rights of the individuals had gained a foothold, was especially interested in the organization of such companies. The year following the return of Weymouth, the now famous Virginia company was organized (1606) under a charter from the king. The original company soon subdivided into two companies – the London and the Plymouth. The members of the London Company lived in or near London; those of Plymouth, in or near Plymouth. The companies were organized for the purpose of colonization and trade.

The London Company, by the charter, was limited to the territory lying between the thirty-fourth and thirty-eighth degrees of north latitude; the Plymouth, to the territory lying between the forty-first and forty-fifth degrees. Both extended westward without limit. The strength line between the two grants was left open as a field of competition between the two companies, neither to make a settlement without a hundred miles of the other. The Plymouth Company made its first attempt at colonization on the coast of Maine in 1607. The colonists had settled too far north, and the climate proved too severe for them. The following year, discouraged and heartsick, they returned home.

While the Plymouth Company failed,

the London Company succeeded. To it belongs the distinction of having planted the first permanent English colony on the shores of America. The Jamestown Colony, established in 1607, marks the beginning of that English colonization of the continent, which, during the next century and a half, was destined to spread and establish the supremacy of England in North America. The history of the English colonies, thirteen in all, stretching along a narrow strip of the Atlantic coast, constitutes the beginning of the history of the republic of the United States, and must be reserved for a future chapter.

### **SUMMARY Progress Made**

We have thus far followed the sort of the western continent as revealed in the lives of the early explorers.

From Columbus to Menendez and Espejo (1492-1582) is a long and bloody period of time. But during that period the Spaniard planted himself firmly in the West Indies, conquered Mexico and the western coast of South America, and by an armed patrol maintained his rights to Florida – the northern limits of which he placed at the North Pole.

We have seen the Portuguese (1500-1502) limited to Brazil, and note with shame their development into the leading slave traders of the world.

From Verrazano and Cartier to La Salle (1524-1687), we are carried over more than a century and a half of history. But we behold the Frenchman in the van of the army of pioneers who conquered the vast interior wilderness of the continent. He has extended New France from a small settlement at Québec, westward to the



upper limits of the Great Lakes and thence southward to the Gulf of Mexico, through one of the richest and most productive valleys in the world.

We have seen the Dutch under Henry Hudson (1609) sailing into the Hudson River, establishing the right of Holland to the New Netherlands in America and plying their trade along that river and the coasts of Long Island Sound.

From the Cabots to the Jamestown colony (1497-1607), we know a long line of disasters for England. But we are thrilled by the promise that it is reserved to her to sow on this new soil the seeds of individual liberty, which, taking deep root, shall blossom forth into the thirteen original colonies and later reach fruition in the greatest attempt at self-government the human mind has ever conceived – the United States of America.

### Conflicting Claims

We thus see, as we narrow ourselves to the territory occupied by the present boundaries of the United States, that there were conflicting claims to this territory.

These conflicts, leading to endless trouble in later years, were settled only by appeal to the sword. Let us note carefully the claims of the contending nations:

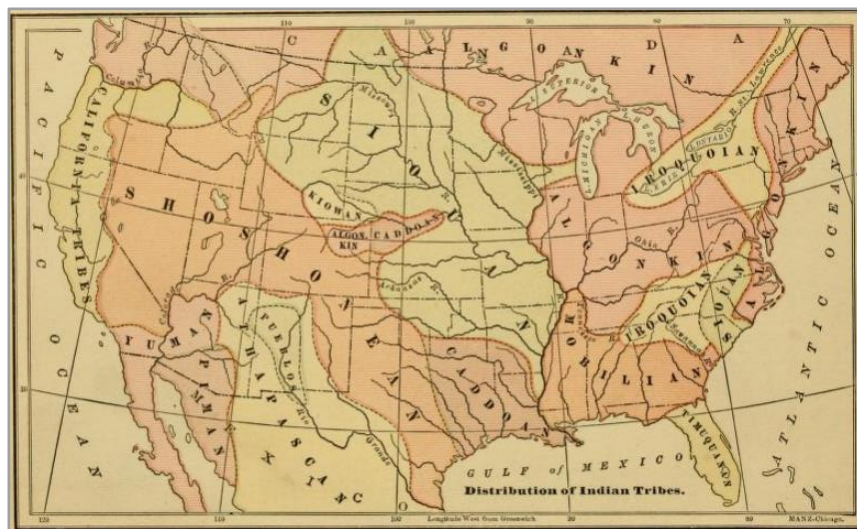
Spain laid claim to the eastern coast of the United States under the name of Florida, and the Pacific coast under the name of New Mexico.

The French laid claim to Canada and the Mississippi valley.

The Dutch claimed the territory line between Narragansett Bay and the Delaware River.

The English, by right of discovery and occupation, proceeded to hold the coast from Nova Scotia to Florida, thence westward to the Pacific.

Before taking up the story of the English colonies in the New World, it is well that we should take a glance at the Continent of North America and learn something of its native inhabitant, who confronted the early settler at every step, and, with dogged resistance, disputed the right of the European to encroach upon his territory.



The Different Claims of European Territories