US History Chapter 2 Lesson 1

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| **LESSON 1****The Growth of Trade****ESSENTIAL QUESTION *Why do people trade?*** |
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| *The arrival of the Europeans in the Americas in the fifteenth century changed the lives of people in both hemispheres forever.***Searching for New Trade Routes**[*SS.8.A.1.7*](https://connected.mcgraw-hill.com/ssh/AEF5DE0E-CCB8-11DD-A7C8-69619DFF4B22)*,*[*SS.8.A.2.1*](https://connected.mcgraw-hill.com/ssh/AEF83028-CCB8-11DD-A7C8-69619DFF4B22)*,*[*SS.8.E.3.1*](https://connected.mcgraw-hill.com/ssh/AF29BA6C-CCB8-11DD-A7C8-69619DFF4B22)*,*[*LA.8.6.2.2*](https://connected.mcgraw-hill.com/ssh/DA104998-4B74-11DB-ABAF-F681ADECFD11)***What advances in technology paved the way for European exploration?***During the 1400s, European countries competed to find a sea route to the Indies—islands located southeast of Asia. The Indies were a source of valuable spices. At this time, spices were more than flavorings for food. People used them as medicine and to keep food from spoiling.Sailors from the country of Portugal were the first to find a new route. They sailed south along the west coast of Africa, around Africa's southern tip, then eastward to Asia.In comparison, Italian-born Christopher Columbus sought a different route. Instead of sailing south and east around Africa, Columbus planned to sail west across the Atlantic Ocean.**Better Ships, Better Sailors**New **technology** (tehk • NAH • luh • jee)—the use of scientific knowledge to solve practical problems—helped make Columbus's voyage possible. Advances in shipbuilding and navigation meant his ships could sail across the open ocean, well beyond sight of land.New ships were faster and more seaworthy. The carrack (KA • ruhk), for example, was sturdy and large enough to carry supplies for a long voyage. On Christopher Columbus's first voyage, the *Santa María* was a carrack. The *Niña* and the *Pinta* were caravels. The caravel (KEHR • uh • vehl) was smaller but easier to handle. Caravels could also sail close to shore. |  |

For thousands of years, Mediterranean ship captains tried to sail within sight of land, guided by the stars and written descriptions of coasts and harbors. By the time Columbus sailed, however, sea captains had precise maps for both the Mediterranean coast and the coasts of Europe and North Africa.

In addition to having better maps and ships, the Europeans had several new tools. The **compass** was invented in the 1100s. Even at night or in cloudy weather, a compass showed which direction was north. The astrolabe and the quadrant measured the positions of the sun and stars. This made it possible for a sailor to determine distances north and south from a given point. These tools helped sailors to chart their location on a map.

***Explaining*** How did improved ship designs and new tools make it safer to explore by sea?

**Exploring the World**

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***Why was the Age of Exploration a major turning point in history?***

Columbus would need more than the latest technology to make it across the ocean. He also needed help paying for the voyage.

Queen Isabella of Spain agreed to fund the expedition. She had two reasons for doing so. First, Columbus promised to bring Christianity to any lands he found. This appealed to Isabella's strong faith. Second, she knew if Columbus found a new route to Asia, Spain would grow rich from the increased trade.

On August 3, 1492, Columbus set out from Palos, Spain. He had three ships—the *Niña,* the *Pinta,* and the larger *Santa María*. Columbus served as captain of the *Santa María,* his flagship, or lead ship. The three ships carried about 90 sailors and a six-month supply of food and water.

Still, after a few weeks at sea, the sailors grew nervous about the distance they had traveled. Columbus refused to **alter** his course. Instead, he encouraged the crew by describing the riches he believed they would find. He urged them on, saying that, "with the help of our Lord" they would arrive in the Indies.

**Columbus Explores the Caribbean**

On October 12, 1492, at two o'clock in the morning, a lookout shouted, "Tierra! Tierra!"—"Land! Land!" He had spotted a small island in the chain now called the Bahamas. Columbus went ashore, claimed the island for Spain, and named it San Salvador.

Columbus believed he had arrived in the East Indies, the islands off the coast of Asia. The maps he and the first European explorers used did not include the Caribbean islands or the Americas. They showed three continents—Europe, Asia, and Africa—as one gigantic landmass. Some explorers thought that the Western (Atlantic) and Eastern (Pacific) oceans ran together to form what they called the "Ocean Sea." No one realized that another huge landmass—the Americas—lay in the middle.

Columbus had actually arrived in the Caribbean islands—known today as the West Indies. Columbus explored the area for several months. Because he thought he was in the East Indies, he called the native people "Indians." He noted that they looked at the Europeans with wonder and often touched them to find out "if they were flesh and bones like themselves."

When Columbus returned to Spain, Queen Isabella and the Spanish king, Ferdinand, received him with great honor. They made him Admiral of the Ocean Sea and agreed to **devote** funds to his future voyages.

Columbus made three more voyages to the Americas from Spain in 1493, 1498, and 1502. He explored the Caribbean islands of Hispaniola (present-day Haiti and the Dominican Republic), Cuba, and Jamaica. He also sailed along the coasts of Central America and northern South America. He claimed the new lands for Spain and started settlements. Columbus also mapped the coastline of Central America.

**Exploring the Americas**

After Columbus, other voyagers explored the Americas. In 1502 Amerigo Vespucci (veh • SPOO • chee) sailed along South America's coast. Vespucci concluded that South America was a continent, not part of Asia. European geographers soon began calling the continent "America," in honor of Amerigo Vespucci.

One Spaniard, Vasco Núñez de Balboa (bal • BOH • uh), heard stories of the "great waters" beyond the mountains of Panama in Central America. He led an expedition westward. There, in 1513, Balboa found a vast body of water, the Pacific Ocean. He claimed the ocean and lands along it for Spain.

**Sailing Around the World**

In 1520, Ferdinand Magellan (muh • JEH • lun), a Portuguese sailor working for Spain, reached the southern tip of South America. He sailed through a **strait**, or narrow sea passage, into the ocean Balboa had seen. The waters were so peaceful—*pacífico* in Spanish—that Magellan named the ocean the "Pacific." Although Magellan died during the voyage, his crew sailed on and reached Spain in 1522. They became the first known people to **circumnavigate** (suhr • kuhm • NAV • ih • gayt), or sail around, the world.

**The Columbian Exchange**

The voyages of European explorers brought together two parts of the globe that had had little contact up to then: Europe, Asia, and Africa in one hemisphere and the Americas in the other.

The voyages led to the exchange of people, plants, animals, and germs from each continent to the other. This exchange—today known as the Columbian Exchange—had a great effect on the world's cultures. For example, the horse dramatically changed life on the Great Plains for many Native Americans.

The effects of the Columbian Exchange were not always positive. For Native Americans, contact with Europeans introduced new diseases. The Native Americans had not developed natural defenses to these illnesses. Smallpox and other diseases hit native populations extremely hard.

***Describing*** Why did Spain finance Columbus’s voyage?