

## UNIT 1: BASIC FACTS SHEET



### Exploration and Settlement (c.1000-1607)

#### Dates and Events to Remember

c.1000 ----- Vikings sail to “Vinland”  
1492 ----- First voyage of Columbus  
1521 ----- Cortes conquers the Aztecs  
French explore St. Lawrence and Mississippi Rivers  
Dutch explore New York  
English explore Atlantic coast  
Spanish Explore Florida & California

#### People Places and Topics to Read About

Christopher Columbus	Captain James Cook
Ferdinand Magellan	John Cabot
Hernando Cortes	Verrazano
The Vikings	Pizarro
Leif Erikson	Ponce de Leon
Jacques Cartier	Coronado
Samuel de Champlain	De Soto
Henry Hudson	Vasco de Gama
Balboa	Francis Drake

***Everything You Need to Know About American History Homework:***  
*A Desk Reference for Students and Parents*

**“European Explorers Find a New World”**

**Pages 6-8**



## UNIT 1: STUDY HELPS

- Early Visitors to North America—The Vikings
- Finding—and Taking—a “New World”
- Spanish Explorers of North America
- Spanish Settlements in the New World
- In Search of the Northwest Passage
- New France
- The Voyages of Henry Hudson
- The Land Shapes the Ways People Live
- Location of Indian tribes
- Explanation of the reasons for European exploration

**Study  
Topics from  
E. D. Hirsch’s  
*What Your 3rd  
Grader Needs to  
Know***

### **Optional Activities**

**(Page numbers are keyed to *Everything You Need to Know About American History Homework*)**

- List and memorize the five reasons for European exploration (p. 6)
- Trace the journeys of Columbus on a map of the Caribbean
- Pretend that you are one of the explorers you are reading about. Write a letter back to your parents describing your journey

## UNIT I: READING LISTS



### Level 1 Reading out-of-print

- Amerigo Vespucci: Scientist and Sailor*, Ronald Syme
- Balboa, Finder of the Pacific*, Ronald Syme
- Captain Cook, Pacific Explorer*, Ronald Syme
- Cartier, Finder of the St. Lawrence*, Ronald Syme
- Champlain of the St. Lawrence*, Ronald Syme
- Columbus, Finder of the New World*, Ronald Syme
- Cortes of Mexico*, Ronald Syme
- De Soto, Finder of the Mississippi*, Ronald Syme
- First Man to Cross America (Cabeza de Vaca)*, Ronald Syme
- Francisco Coronado and the Seven Cities of Gold*, Ronald Syme
- Francis Drake, Sailor of the Unknown Seas*, Ronald Syme
- Francisco Pizarro, Finder of Peru*, Ronald Syme
- Henry Hudson*, Ronald Syme
- John Cabot and his Son Sebastian*, Ronald Syme
- LaSalle of the Mississippi*, Ronald Syme
- Magellan, First Around the World*, Ronald Syme
- The Man Who Discovered the Amazon*, Ronald Syme
- Vasco de Gama, Sailor Toward the Sunrise*, Ronald Syme
- Verrazano, Explorer of the Atlantic Coast*, Ronald Syme
- Walter Raleigh*, Ronald Syme

### Level 2 Reading: In-Print or Easily Found

- The Vikings*, Elizabeth Janeway (Landmark)
- The Log of Christopher Columbus* (abridged)
- Brendan the Navigator*, Jean Fritz
- Cartier Sails the St. Lawrence*, Esther Averill

### Landmarks (out-of-print)

- The Voyages of Christopher Columbus*, Armstrong Sperry
- Captain Cook Explores the South Seas*, Armstrong Sperry
- The Hudson's Bay Company*, Richard Morenus
- Balboa: Swordsman and Conquistador*, Felix Riesenberg, Jr.
- Ferdinand Magellan: Master Mariner*, Seymour Gates Pond
- Captain Cortes Conquers Mexico*, William Johnson
- Walter Raleigh, Man of Two Worlds*, Henrietta Buckmaster
- The Voyages of Henry Hudson*, Eugene Rachlis



## UNIT 1: READING LISTS

*Admiral Christopher Columbus*, Clara Ingram Judson

*The Sea King: Sir Francis Drake and his Times*, Albert Marrin

*Aztecs and Spaniards: Cortes and the Conquest of Mexico*, Albert Marrin

*Inca and Spaniard: Pizarro and the Conquest of Peru*, Albert Marrin

*Empires Lost and Won: The Spanish Heritage in the Southwest*, Albert Marrin (describes events up through the Alamo and the Mexican War)

\**The Story of Rolf and the Viking Bow*, Allen French

*Door to the North*, Elizabeth Coatsworth

“Christopher Columbus,” Stephen Vincent Benet

“Columbus,” Joaquin Miller

“Hernando de Soto,” Rosemary and Stephen Vincent Benet

\* Family favorite

**Other  
Out-of-Print  
Treasures**

**Advanced  
Readers  
or Read-Aloud**

**Historical  
Fiction**

**Poetry,  
Prose and Songs**