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LESSON 1: Our Country, Northmen, & Prince Henry

I. FACTS TO KNOW:

Native Americans	peoples native to the United States before the arrival of Europeans
Northmen	also called Norsemen, Vikings, or Normans; great seamen from northern Europe
Eric the Red	driven out of Iceland for murder; settled Greenland; also known as Eric Ericsson
Leif the Lucky	son of Eric; first known European to sail west and land in North America
Prince Henry	called Prince Henry the Navigator; Portuguese prince who wanted to find a water route around Africa for trade with the East

II. VOCABULARY:

- wigwam: tent-like shelter used by some Native American tribes
- adobe: sun-dried bricks
- irrigate: to water by artificial means, as by diverting water sources
- caravan: a group of travelers, usually in covered vehicles, journeying together for safety
- navigator: one who steers or directs a vehicle or voyage

III. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS:

- Why is it inaccurate to call North America the "New World"? The land itself is not actually new, and has been inhabited by people and animals for a long time, but Europeans did not know it existed, so when they discovered it, they called it the "New World."
- For what were the Northmen known? They were known as great seamen and explorers.
- When and where did Leif the Lucky land in North America? Leif landed somewhere in Newfoundland, Canada, around 1000 A.D., in an area he called Vinland ("vineland," for all the wild grapes he found there).
- Why did Leif and his Northmen leave their settlement in North America in 1012? They did not have good relations with the Native Americans, and often faced attacks from the natives. When they realized the attacks would not cease, they left their settlement and returned home.
- Why were Europeans so desperate to find a water route to the East in the 15th century? Trading of luxury goods from the East was a lucrative business, but acquiring the goods by land was a long, expensive, and risky undertaking. Shipping goods by boat instead of land caravan would save much time and money, and bring riches to the person or country who could find and take advantage of it.

6. After much research, what plan did Prince Henry come up with for finding better routes to African cities? Though little was known about the west coast of Africa, Prince Henry thought it would be possible to sail around Africa to reach India.

7. What did Prince Henry's explorers discover? How far did they get in their quest? Prince Henry's explorers discovered Madeira and the Canary Islands, but when they saw smoke rising from a volcano on an island off the coast of Tenerife (in the Canary Islands, off the coast of Morocco) they were too terrified to continue any farther.

IV. ENRICHMENT:

1. **Map:** Locate Europe, India, Norway, the Atlantic Ocean, the North Sea, Iceland, Labrador, Nova Scotia, Rhode Island, Portugal, Madeira, the Canary Islands, the Cape Verde Islands, and Senegal.
2. **Timeline:** Add the arrival of Leif the Lucky in North America.
3. **Research:** Research the culture of a group of Native Americans who were indigenous to your state. Were they farmers? Hunters? What sort of houses did they live in? How did the physical geography of their area affect their way of life? Combine your research into a 2-3 paragraph report.