

# NEW ROUTE TO INDIA

## COLUMBUS CROSSES ATLANTIC

Barcelona, Spain, March 1493

It is reported that Admiral Christopher Columbus and his daring crew have just returned from the shores of India. No longer will it be necessary to ship trade goods to the Orient by caravan. Soon tea and spices from India, silk from China, and the herbs and oils of the Far East will come to us by this much shorter route.

STORY ON PAGE TWO



## California!

What is California? Write your answer below.

Did you say it is a state, your home, a part of America? Yes, if you live in California, it is all of these. But it is more. California is people, land, homes, farms, cities, schools, churches, and rivers. They are all part of California. What are some other parts of California?

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So California is not just a space on a map or a name on your address!

Have you been outside of California? Have you been in any of these states? (Circle the ones that you have been in.)

Arizona      Nevada  
Oregon

Look at a map of America. What is special about these states?

You are right if you said that they all touch California. They are our neighbor states.

What about these? (Circle any you've been in.)

Alaska	Hawaii
Texas	Maine
Florida	Washington

Find them on your map? What is special about them?

They are far away from California. In fact, two of these states are so far away that they may not be on your map! Which two are they?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

How are all of these states alike? (Mark 'X' by the right answers.)

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. They are part of America
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Everyone there is over 18 years old
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. People there love their families and state
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. They have a *history*
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. They have jungles and swamps

If you marked 'X' on #1, #3, and #4, you are right. #2 is wrong because there are young people in every state. Why is #5 wrong?

### California is part of America

While we live in California and love California, we also live in and love America. We are Californians and Americans. We are proud of both.

In this newspaper you will especially learn about California. You will learn about her past and the people here first. You will also study the land and how it was discovered and explored. You will learn what it was like then and what has happened since. It is the story of our California *heritage*.

It is a tale of adventure filled with heroes and *villains*, good times and bad, success and failure. Sometimes we may wish we could change it, but we can't. But if we pay close attention, we can learn from it. Then maybe we can make the future better. Are you ready? Let's go.

**HEADLINE STORY FROM PAGE 1**

# Short way to India!

It was 2:00 in the morning of October 12, 1492, when a crewman on the "Pinta" sighted an island off the southeastern coast of what is now America. A cannon shot announced the discovery and soon Columbus landed, threw himself to his knees, and returned thanks to God. He named the island "San Salvador."

When Columbus returned and word of his discovery reached Spain, there was much excitement. He believed he had reached islands near Asia called the "Indies." He thought he was close to the country of India where Spain traded for things not available at home. He thought he was near India, but he was mistaken. Columbus had sailed west but had reached the farthest lands of the east!

Today the islands Columbus discovered are known as the "West Indies." He never did see the mainland of America and he never did know he was still half way around the world from India!

Columbus returned three more times to look for India. Once he thought he was too far north so he sailed farther south. Finally he landed on the coast of South America. He thought it was Asia. He never did visit our North American mainland.

## Understanding your world

For this lesson you need a globe. A globe is a model of the earth we live on. It is a *replica*, a likeness in small size. It is round like the earth is round. It has a map on it that shows where the land is and where the sea is. The sea is usually colored blue. The land is in many shapes and probably has countries marked in different colors. The different land shapes are called *continents*. The seas between them are the oceans.

Look at your globe. Can you find America? Turn the globe and look at the top half until you find it. Do you see how America fits into the middle of a large continent? Now look above America to find Canada. Next look below America to find Mexico.

Look left of Canada and find the state of Alaska. Look in the ocean below Alaska and find Hawaii. Alaska and Hawaii are two of our United States. What separates Alaska and Hawaii from our other states?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

Photo of a globe showing North and South America and the Atlantic Ocean.

In the picture, California is at the far upper left of the globe and Spain is at the far right.



Altogether, America, Canada, and Mexico form most of the continent of North America.

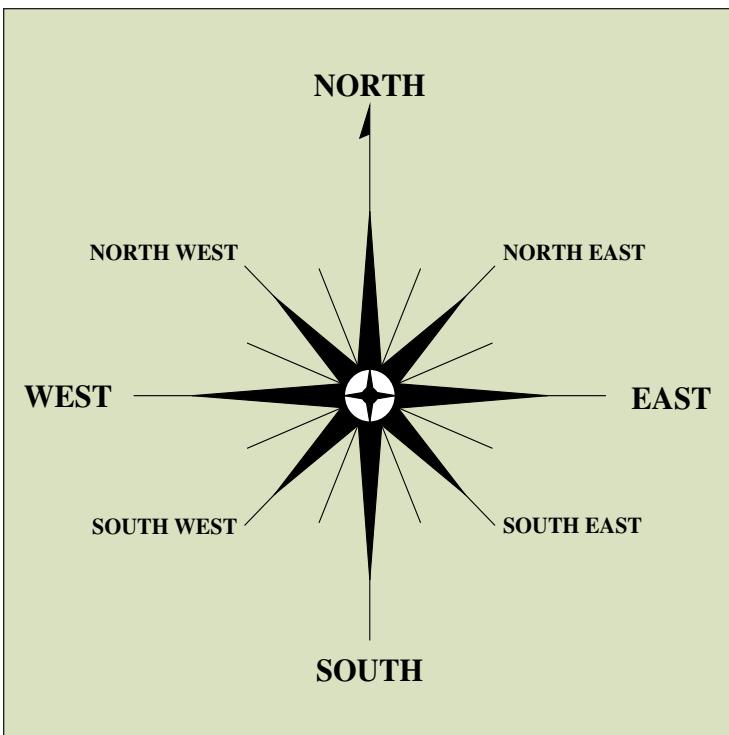
"North" is a direction. It means toward the top of the globe. "South" means toward the bottom of the globe. Since your globe probably tilts slightly, the top and bottom are really where the pole sticks out that the globe spins on. Find the north pole and the south pole. Spin the globe slowly. The line made by the pole through the globe is the *axis*. The world, like your globe, spins on its axis. It makes one full turn each day.

Look at the thin line of land below Mexico. Today this is called "Central America." Follow it down and to the right until you come to the country of Colombia. Colombia is on another continent called "South America." Find a few other countries on this continent. Find Brazil, the biggest country in South America. Why do we call this continent "South America" and our own "North America?" Yes, because one is south and the other north.

Set your globe on a table. Look for a doorknob in the room. Imagine the doorknob is the sun. Turn the globe slowly so that California moves to your right. (This is toward the east.)

As you turn it, imagine you are standing on the globe in California like you are standing on the earth. Imagine looking for your doorknob-sun. Sometimes you will face toward it. Other times you will face away. Our earth is just like that and that is why we have day and night.

Look again at your globe. Canada is north of America. Mexico is south of America. But Mexico is north of Brazil. "Well," you say, "Mexico is not straight north. Straight north of Brazil is an ocean." Find its name. It is the Atlantic Ocean. America is left of the Atlantic Ocean. We call this direction "west." The Atlantic Ocean is right of America. We call this direction "east."



Compass illustrating the 16 points.

To tell directions we use these four names: north, south, east, and west. These are called the "cardinal directions." They are the four basic directions.

Sometimes we use them together for a direction in between. If we use two of them together, we always use the north or south name first.

We may even use three together. For example, the direction between north and northeast is called north-northeast. These directions are called the "16 points of the compass." Look in the box above. Count them. You should find sixteen.

### ACTIVITY

 Look at the compass above. Count the named directions. Do you see that there are eight? Now look between them. Do you see the thin lines? These are the eight other directions that make up the 16 points of the compass.

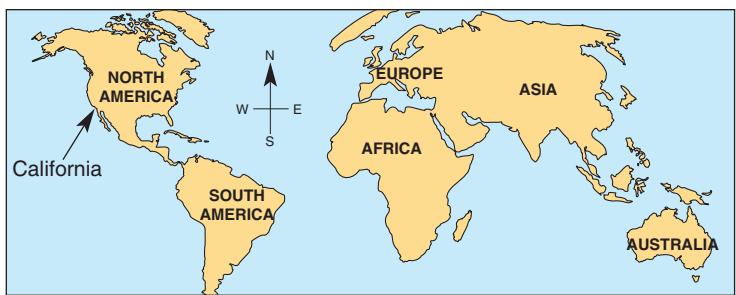
Find the line for NORTH-NORTHEAST. (It is between NORTH and NORTHEAST.) Label it NNE.

Find the line between NORTHEAST and EAST. Label it ENE. This stands for EAST-NORTHEAST. NOTICE: The first direction used for three together is the "cardinal" one.

How should you label the direction between EAST and SOUTHEAST? (Now see the upside-down answer box at right.)

Label the remaining directions.

## Where is California?



Find California on your globe. Look on the Pacific coast of North America. What part of America is it in? "The west." You may also say "the south" because it is also on the border of Mexico. Really, it is in the "southwest." (We never say "westsouth!")

Find the state of Washington, north of California. What part of America is it in? Look in the southeast and find Florida. Find Spain. It is not in America. It is a country on another continent.

To find Spain, from Florida go straight east on your globe, across the Atlantic Ocean. When you come to land you should be in Morocco on the continent of Africa. The country north of Morocco is Spain. It is in the southwestern part of the continent of Europe.

Spain is where Christopher Columbus lived. It is far east of America, across the Atlantic Ocean. No one in Spain had ever crossed that ocean. Some even thought it was flat and that if you sailed far enough, you would go right off the edge. They imagined demons and dragons out there.

Columbus believed they were wrong. He believed he could sail all the way around the world and come back to Spain. He thought he would get to India and China that way. But Columbus didn't know it was so far and he didn't know North and South America were in the way! No one knew that but the people living there. Who were they?

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Yes, the native Americans, the Indians. (In the next issue, you will begin learning about these interesting people.)

But the Indians didn't know about the people in Spain! They were an *isolated* people. Neither people knew or understood the other.

So why was Columbus looking for a shorter route to India? The answer is "trade." This word is important because trade is very important to us.

ANSWER BOX  
Did you say ESE?

# Trade

Many people lived in Europe. Some were farmers. Others worked in factories. There were fishermen, miners, lumbermen, and many other *trades*. Some countries raised lots of food, while other countries had lots of coal. People in one country needed what people in other countries produced. So they would buy what they needed. Likewise, those other countries needed products too and they would buy them. This buying and selling between countries is called "trade."

But there were some things that couldn't be found in Europe. There were spices and tea from India and silk cloth from China. Caravans would go all the way to India and China to deliver goods from Spain and come back with goods from China.

On your globe, find India, east of Spain. The first trade routes to India were over land. Then ships began to sail there. How could ships sail between Spain and India?

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Today the Suez Canal goes between the Mediterranean and Red Seas. What difference do you suppose that makes?

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# Vespuccia, Vespuccia, God shed His grace on thee...

Do you know that song? Maybe you know it as "America, America..." Did you know you could be living in Vespuccia?

America is named for Amerigo Vespucci. He was an Italian explorer in Columbus' time. Like Columbus, he traveled to the "Indies." But when he came along the coast of South America, he decided he had found a new continent, not Cathay. He was sure these were not the Indies!

Later, when he was proven right, the continents of North and South America were named for him. They named them America for Amerigo, his first name. But his last name was Vespucci. So they could have named them North and South Vespuccia! How would you like that?

There is another name also used for America. It is "Columbia." There is a song that calls America, "Columbia, the gem of the ocean." Where do you think the name Columbia comes from?



Map of Mexico and Central America showing the travels of Cortés and Balboa. (You will read about Cortés in your next issue.)

# Balboa discovers the Pacific

Eleven years later, about September 25, 1513, an explorer named Vasco Núñez de Balboa went to the top of the Central American mountains in what is now Panama. (Find this on your globe.) Now, for the first time, Europeans saw the Pacific Ocean. Balboa named it the "Great South Sea."

Balboa sent three scouts down to the shore. One was the first European to ever actually enter the sea. Four days later, Balboa claimed the whole sea and all the lands it touched for Spain.

The Pacific is the biggest ocean on earth. It forms all of the western boundary of California, Oregon, and Washington. When Balboa discovered it, he had no idea how big it actually is. He also had no idea how many countries it touches.

What did Balboa's discovery prove?

## VOCABULARY

Look up any of these words that are new to you:

axis	cardinal direction	continent
heritage	isolated	replica
trade	villain	

## REACTION TIME

1. What is the world?
2. When the sun "comes up," what really happens?
3. Why did people think the world was flat?
4. How do you know it is not?
5. Why is trade important to you?