

# COLUMBUS REACHES INDIES

## LANDS ON UNKNOWN ISLAND

Barcelona, Spain, March 1493

Admiral Christopher Columbus and his daring crew have just returned from an uncharted island near the shores of India. The landing, which took place last October, is expected to open a new route to the Orient. He is seeking the support of Queen Isabella for a second voyage on which he hopes to establish a trade route.

STORY ON PAGE TWO



## Illinois!

**What is Illinois?** Write your answer below.

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

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

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

Indiana      Missouri      Wisconsin  
Iowa      Kentucky

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

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



Photograph by Dori

To really understand history we have to look very carefully at events. It's as easy to miss important events as it is this deer hiding near Urbana.

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

Alaska	Hawaii
California	Maine
Florida	Washington

Can you find these on your map? What is special about them?

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

What do all of these states have in common? (Mark 'X' by the right answers.)

1. \_\_\_ They are part of America
2. \_\_\_ There are no boys or girls in them
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 boys and girls in every state. Why is #5 wrong?

## Illinois is part of America

While we live in Illinois and love Illinois, we also live in America and love America. We are all proud of both. In *My Illinois*, you will learn some things about both. You will especially learn about the past. We will study the people who came before us in Illinois and in other parts of America. We will study the land and learn how it was discovered and explored. We will learn what it was like and what has happened on it. It is the story of the past. It is our *heritage*.

This story is filled with adventure. It has heroes and villains, good times and bad times, 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.

## Columbus in "America"

When word of Columbus' remarkable discovery reached Spain, there was much excitement. It was thought he had reached the outer islands of Asia called the "Indies." They thought he was close to the country of India where many things came from that they could not get in Spain. They thought that by sailing west he had reached the farthest lands of the East in less time!

They were mistaken. At 2:00 in the morning of October 12, 1492, a crewman on the *Pinta* sighted an island of the Bahamas off the southeast 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." He thought he was on an island near India and sailed among the islands in the area. Today we call them 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 for further explorations. He was still looking for India. He thought he was too far north so he sailed further south. Then he landed on the coast of South America and thought that was Asia. He never did land on the main part of America. However, he left small landing parties on several islands to establish settlements.

On his first voyage, he left a settlement at Navidad on the island of Hispaniola. When he returned and found it destroyed by natives, he built a fort and *founded* Santo Domingo. Today, this is the capital of

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

In the picture, Illinois is near the top of the globe and Spain is at the far right.



the Dominican Republic. Columbus also discovered Haiti, Jamaica, Cuba, Trinidad, and Puerto Rico. Puerto Rico is an island *commonwealth* of America.

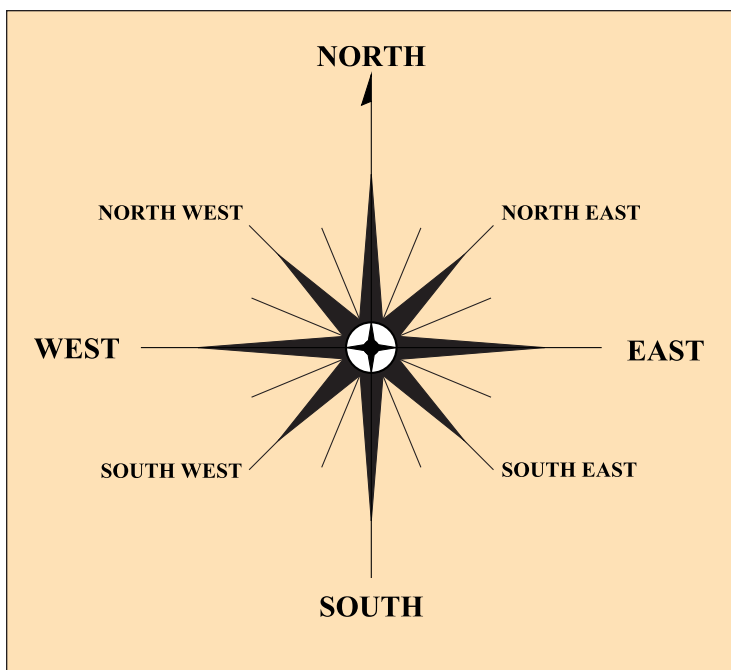
## Understanding your world

For this activity 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 shaped in many ways and has countries on it often shown 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 and find Canada. Next look below America and find Mexico. Again, look at Canada. On the left of it find the state of Alaska. Alaska is part of America, but Canada is in between. Altogether, America, Canada, and Mexico form most of the continent of North America.

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 a country 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 north of the other. The top half of the globe is north, the bottom half is south.

"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



Compass illustrating the 16 points.

the globe spins on. Find the North Pole and the South Pole. Spin the globe slowly. The line made from pole to pole through the globe is the *axis*. The world, like your globe, spins on its axis. It makes one full turn each day.

Set your globe on a table. Look for a doorknob in the room. Imagine the doorknob is the sun. Imagine you are standing on the globe in Illinois like you are standing on the earth. Turn the globe slowly. Sometimes you will be able to see the sun. Other times you will be away from the sun. 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." To tell directions we use these four names: north, south, west, and east. Sometimes we use them together.

When we use two of them together, we always use the north or south name first. We may even use three together. These are called the "16 points of the compass." Look at the illustration above. Do you see why?

Find Illinois. What part of America is it in? We say it is in the "Middle West" or "Midwest." When you look closely you can see that it is not really in the middle. We will learn more about this as we continue our study.



Find California. It is west of Illinois. Find the state of Washington, north of California. Where is it? Find Florida. Look in the southeast to find it. Find Spain. It is not in America. It is another country on another continent. 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 next country north of Morocco is Spain. It is on the continent of Europe.

Spain is where Christopher Columbus lived. It is far east of America. The Atlantic Ocean is in between. No one in Spain had ever crossed that ocean. Some thought the ocean was flat and that if you sailed far enough you would go right off the edge. Others thought the world was round but were afraid to sail far from land. Many imagined demons and dragons out there.

Columbus believed they were wrong. He believed he could sail around the world and come right back to Spain. He thought it would be a shorter way to India and Cathay. ("Cathay" was the name for China in those days.) But Columbus didn't know it was so far and he didn't know North and South America were in the way!

Nobody knew about America except the people who lived there. Who were they? Yes, the *Native Americans*, the Indians. (In issues #4 and 6, you will learn about these people.) But the Indians did not know about the people in Spain either! They were an *isolated* people. Neither people knew or understood the other.

## Trade

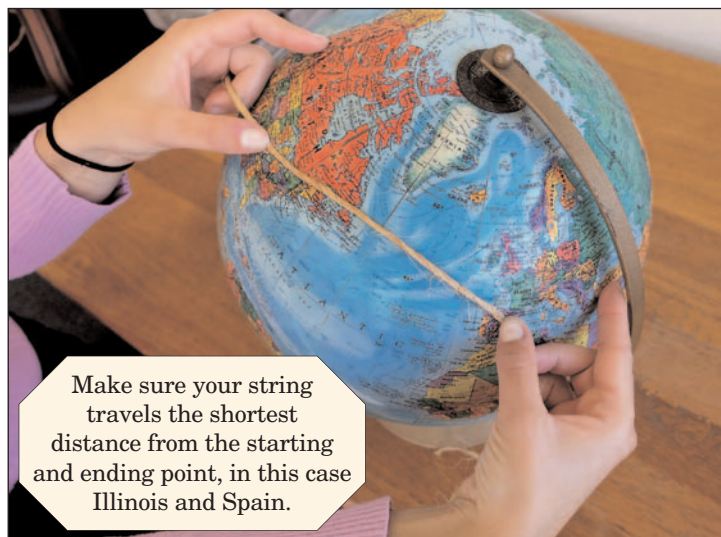
Many people lived in Spain and the other countries of Europe. Some were farmers or merchants. There were fishermen, miners, lumbermen, and many others. Some countries raised lots of food, while other countries had lots of coal. People in one country needed what people in other countries had. So people bought what they

needed from each other. The people who have things sell them to the people who need them. The buying and selling of goods is called *trade*.

But there were some things that could not be found anywhere in Europe. There were spices and tea that came from India and silk cloth that came from Cathay (China). *Caravans* would go all the way to India and Cathay by land to deliver goods from Spain and trade them for goods from Cathay.

Look at your globe. Find India. It is east of Spain. How would you get there? The first trade routes went overland. Later they learned how to go by boat.

How would ships of that day have to sail to get from Spain to India?



over 8 inches, about 5,400 miles. Do you agree? That is how far you would fly. But what about going by boat?

Lay your string on the globe and *navigate* a line around Africa to the southern tip of India keeping close to the shore. How far is it? I measured it at about 13,200 miles. At an average speed of 5 miles per hour, it would take that boat about 110 days to sail that far. That's almost four months! It could take even longer.

After the boat sailed one way, it would have to sail all the way back. It would take about the same time. That's why sailors were gone from their families so long. It also caused many other problems.

For example, boats could not carry enough food and fresh water for the whole journey. They needed to stop along the way to get fresh supplies of food and water. Sometimes storms would surprise them. There was no weather bureau to warn them. Storms caused many ships to sink. These are some good reasons why ships sailed close to shore whenever they could.

It took a lot of courage to sail straight out to sea away from land. But that is what Columbus and his crew did. They wanted to go west to India.

## Finding distance on your globe

Find the line that goes around your globe halfway between the poles. It is an east-west line called the *equator*. Take a piece of string long enough to go around your globe at the equator. Place one end of the string on the equator and wrap the string around your globe until it overlaps. Be sure the string is on the globe and straight. Cut the string where it overlaps. Measure it with a ruler. How long is it?

The earth we live on is about 25,000 miles around. My globe is 38 inches around. That means that every inch on my globe is about 25,000 miles divided by 38 inches or about 660 miles per inch. This is called a *scale of miles*. On a globe it is easy to figure distances using a piece of string.

Take your string and put one end in the middle of Spain and stretch it to your town in Illinois. Make sure to lay it the shortest way. If you do it right, the middle of your string will pass over the eastern end of Canada. How long is it? Mine is about 6 1/2 inches. (Yours may be different.) How far is it? 6 1/2 inches times 660 miles per inch equals 4,290 miles. This means I could fly straight to Spain in under 4,300 miles. (Note: If my plane flew 430 miles per hour, how long would it take?)

Now place your string from Spain to the southern tip of India. How far is it? On my globe it is a little

### 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 didn't Columbus reach India?
6. Why is trade important to you?

# NEW ROUTE TO INDIA

## EXPLORER ARRIVES!

*Calicut, India, May 20, 1498*

Vasco da Gama arrived today by sea from Portugal. He plans to establish a trading post and conduct trade with Europe.

## Sailing around Africa!

While Columbus was looking for a route to India by sailing west, the Portuguese were exploring routes around Africa sailing south and east. No one had ever gone all the way around Africa before.

On July 9, 1497, Vasco da Gama sailed from Portugal with a fleet of four ships. They went down, along the west coast of Africa, around the southern tip, and up the east coast to where Kenya is now. There he found *mariners* who knew the course to India. He sailed east and completed the journey 315 days later.

With your finger, trace his course on the map. When you get to Kenya, what is the name of the ocean you cross to get to India?



Above: Map showing the course of de Gama's voyage around Africa to India. Top Right: Map showing Atlantic coastline. The St. Lawrence River was often thought to be the Northwest Passage.



## CABOT RETURNS SAFELY

*Bristol, England, August 1497*

John Cabot has returned from his second voyage to the New World. He reports great fishing and has claimed all of the coastal lands for our great King Henry VII.

### Cabot explores Newfoundland

For a few years only Spain seemed to care about the New World. Then in 1497 and 1498 the King of England sent John Cabot to explore the northern coast.

## Northwest Passage

The early explorers did not know the size of North America. They thought they could sail around or through it. While some looked for a southern route, others looked to the north. They wanted to find a *Northwest Passage*. Look at your globe to see the only way around North America. Where would you have to sail?

## MAP INDEX

County	County Seat	1990 Population	Area in square miles	Index
Adams.....	Quincy	66,090	856.7	A-6
Alexander.....	Cairo	10,626	236.4	D-12
Bond.....	Greenville	14,991	380.2	D-8
Boone.....	Belvidere	30,806	281.6	E-1
Brown.....	Mt. Sterling	5,836	305.7	B-6
Bureau.....	Princeton	35,688	868.6	D-3
Calhoun.....	Hardin	5,322	253.8	B-8
Carroll.....	Mt. Carroll	16,805	444.2	C-2
Cass.....	Virginia	13,437	376.0	C-6
Champaign.....	Urbana	173,025	997.2	F-6
Christian.....	Taylorville	34,418	709.1	D-7
Clark.....	Marshall	15,421	501.5	G-7
Clay.....	Louisville	14,460	469.3	F-8
Clinton.....	Carlyle	33,944	474.3	D-9
Coles.....	Charleston	51,644	508.3	F-7
Cook.....	Chicago	5,105,067	945.7	G-2
Crawford.....	Robinson	19,464	443.6	G-8
Cumberland.....	Toledo	10,670	346.0	F-7
DeKalb.....	Sycamore	77,932	634.2	E-2
DeWitt.....	Clinton	16,516	397.6	E-6
Douglas.....	Tuscola	19,464	416.9	F-6
DuPage.....	Wheaton	781,666	334.4	F-2
Edgar.....	Paris	19,595	623.6	G-7
Edwards.....	Albion	7,440	222.4	F-9
Effingham.....	Effingham	31,704	478.7	E-8
Fayette.....	Vandalia	20,893	716.5	E-8
Ford.....	Paxton	14,275	485.9	F-5
Franklin.....	Benton	40,319	412.1	E-10
Fulton.....	Lewistown	38,080	865.7	C-5
Gallatin.....	Shawneetown	6,909	323.7	F-10
Greene.....	Carrollton	15,317	543.1	C-7
Grundy.....	Morris	32,337	420.1	F-3
Hamilton.....	McLeansboro	8,499	435.2	F-10
Hancock.....	Carthage	21,373	794.7	A-5
Hardin.....	Elizabethtown	5,189	178.3	F-11
Henderson.....	Oquawka	8,096	378.8	B-4
Henry.....	Cambridge	51,159	823.3	C-3
Iroquois.....	Watseka	30,787	1,116.5	G-4
Jackson.....	Murphysboro	61,067	588.1	D-10
Jasper.....	Newton	10,609	494.4	F-8
Jefferson.....	Mt. Vernon	37,020	571.1	E-9
Jersey.....	Jerseyville	20,539	369.2	C-8
Jo Daviess.....	Galena	21,821	601.2	C-1
Johnson.....	Vienna	11,347	346.0	E-11
Kane.....	Geneva	317,471	520.7	F-2
Kankakee.....	Kankakee	96,255	677.5	F-4
Kendall.....	Yorkville	39,413	320.7	F-3
Knox.....	Galesburg	56,393	716.3	C-4
Lake.....	Waukegan	516,418	447.8	F-1
LaSalle.....	Ottawa	106,913	1,135.0	E-3
Lawrence.....	Lawrenceville	15,972	372.0	G-9
Lee.....	Dixon	34,392	725.4	D-2

## MAP INDEX

County	County Seat	1990 Population	Area in square miles	Index
Livingston.....	Pontiac	39,301	1,043.8	E-4
Logan.....	Lincoln	30,798	618.2	D-6
Macon.....	Decatur	117,206	580.6	E-6
Macoupin.....	Carlinville	47,679	863.7	C-7
Madison.....	Edwardsville	249,238	725.1	C-8
Marion.....	Salem	41,561	572.3	E-9
Marshall.....	Lacon	12,846	386.1	D-4
Mason.....	Havana	16,269	539.0	C-5
Massac.....	Metropolis	14,752	239.1	E-12
McDonough.....	Macomb	35,244	589.3	B-5
McHenry.....	Woodstock	183,241	604.1	F-1
McLean.....	Bloomington	129,180	1,183.6	E-5
Menard.....	Petersburg	11,164	314.3	D-6
Mercer.....	Aledo	17,290	561.0	B-4
Monroe.....	Waterloo	22,422	388.3	C-9
Montgomery.....	Hillsboro	30,728	703.8	D-8
Morgan.....	Jacksonville	36,397	568.8	C-7
Moultrie.....	Sullivan	13,930	335.6	E-7
Ogle.....	Oregon	45,957	758.9	D-2
Peoria.....	Peoria	182,827	619.6	D-4
Perry.....	Pinckneyville	21,412	441.0	D-10
Piatt.....	Monticello	15,548	440.0	E-6
Pike.....	Pittsfield	17,577	830.3	B-7
Pope.....	Golconda	4,373	370.9	E-11
Pulaski.....	Mound City	7,523	200.8	E-12
Putnam.....	Hennepin	5,730	159.8	D-4
Randolph.....	Chester	34,583	578.4	C-10
Richland.....	Olney	16,545	360.2	F-9
Rock Island.....	Rock Island	148,723	426.8	B-3
Saline.....	Harrisburg	26,551	383.3	F-10
Sangamon.....	Springfield	178,386	868.3	D-6
Schuyler.....	Rushville	7,498	437.8	B-6
Scott.....	Winchester	5,644	251.0	C-7
Shelby.....	Shelbyville	22,261	758.6	E-7
Stark.....	Toulon	6,534	287.9	D-4
St. Clair.....	Belleville	262,852	663.9	C-9
Stephenson.....	Freeport	48,052	564.3	D-1
Tazewell.....	Pekin	123,692	648.9	D-5
Union.....	Jonesboro	17,619	416.2	D-11
Vermillion.....	Danville	88,257	899.1	G-6
Wabash.....	Mt. Carmel	13,111	223.5	G-9
Warren.....	Monmouth	19,181	542.6	B-4
Washington.....	Nashville	14,965	562.7	D-9
Wayne.....	Fairfield	17,241	713.9	F-9
White.....	Carmi	16,522	494.9	F-10
Whiteside.....	Morrison	60,186	684.8	C-2
Will.....	Joliet	357,313	837.3	F-3
Williamson.....	Marion	57,733	424.2	E-10
Winnebago.....	Rockford	252,913	513.8	D-1
Woodford.....	Eureka	32,653	528.0	D-4
<b>State Totals.....</b>		<b>11,430,602</b>	<b>55,754</b>	

## Maps & how to use them

On the front page is a simple map that shows the route used by Vasco da Gama to sail to India. If you can, look at a globe and find this same area. (Look for Africa first.) Because the globe is round like the earth, it is more like the earth. We cannot draw a flat map that shows everything just like a globe. But we must use flat maps in books and papers like this.

Look at the map of Illinois on the next page. This map shows the 102 *counties* of Illinois. Illinois was divided into counties so that government offices could be closer to the people. Each county has its own government. It provides important services for the people who live there. This includes things like sheriff's officers and firemen. There are many county offices and services. The offices for the county are in the "county seat." This is like the capital of the county.

In what county do you live?

Find it on the map and mark an ✕ on it.

What is the county seat of your county?

### A Map Index

Look at the chart above. It contains a list of Illinois counties in alphabetical order. The counties are at the left. The county seats are next. Then comes the population. This is followed by the area in square miles and the index code. These will help you find the county on the map.

Find your county in the first column. What is its population?

Look in the far right hand column. What is the index code to find it on the map?

# RESOURCE MAP OF ILLINOIS

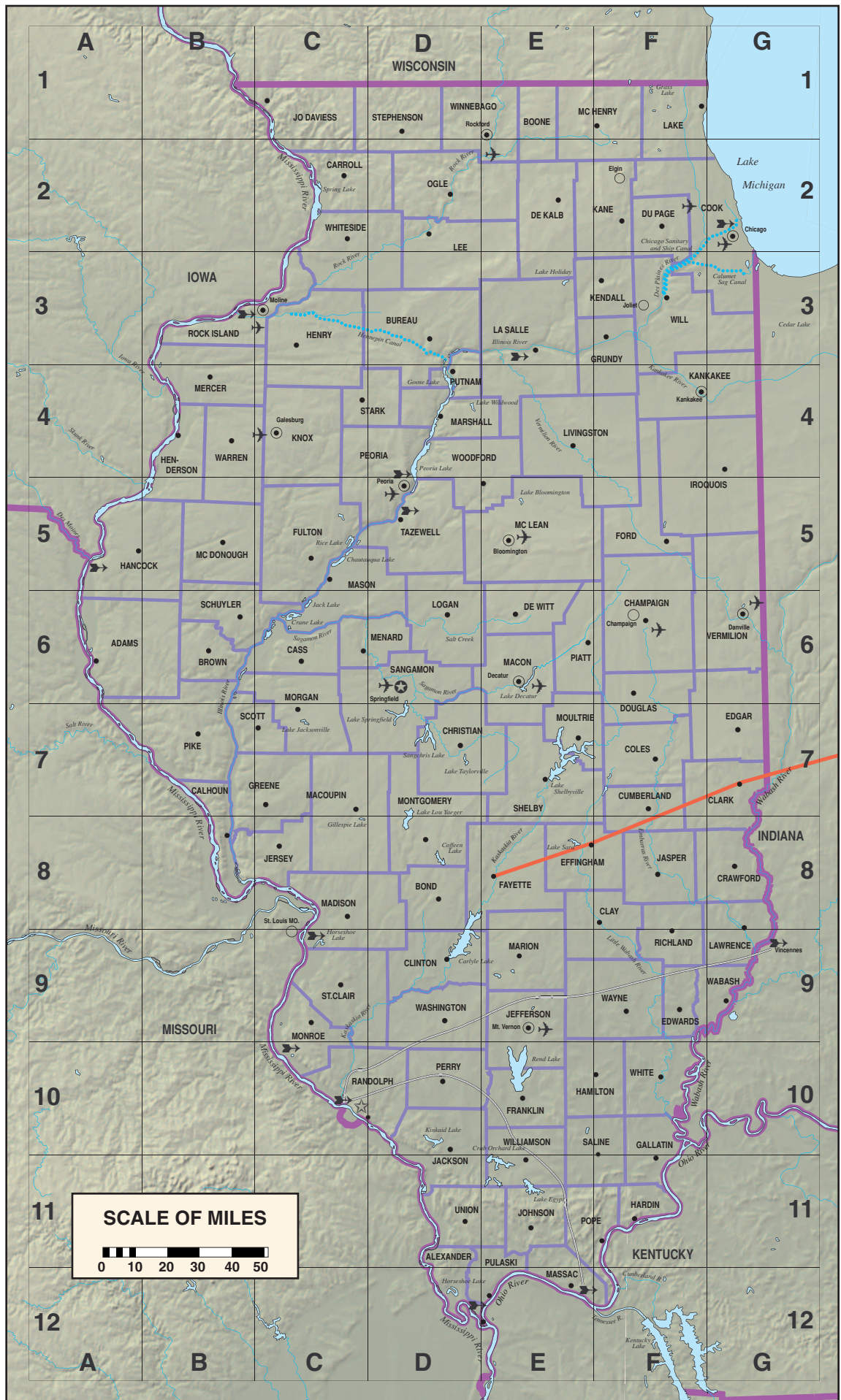
Note: There is an enlarged master of this map in the Teacher's Manual.

## Map Key

- County Seat
- ☆ French Capital
- ★ State Capitol
- Major City
- ✕ My County
- ➡ Fort
- ✈ Major Airport
- ..... Canal
- National Road

- ① \_\_\_\_\_
- ② \_\_\_\_\_
- ③ \_\_\_\_\_
- ④ \_\_\_\_\_
- ⑤ \_\_\_\_\_
- ⑥ \_\_\_\_\_

(Blanks will be filled in as you study the text.)



Now find Pope in the first column. It shows Golconda in the second column. That is because Golconda is the county seat of Pope County. From the chart you can see that the population of Pope County in 1990 was 4,373 and it is at E-11 on the map. Pope County has the smallest population of any county in Illinois!

Now look at the map. See the letters that go across the top and bottom of the map from A to G. Also notice numbers going down the sides of the map from 1 to 12.

To find Pope County, go across the top of the map to the letter 'E.' Put one finger there. Now find the '11' on one side of the map. Put another finger there. Move the first finger down the map and the other over until they meet. This is E-11 on the map. Do you see Pope County there? (Some of it is in F-11.) If you cannot find it, try again, or have your teacher help you. Notice the black dot circled in the county. This is the county seat. In this case, this is where the town of Golconda is located.

Now find Cook County.

What is its population? \_\_\_\_\_

Where is it on the map? \_\_\_\_\_

Find Sangamon County

What is its population? \_\_\_\_\_

Where is it on the map? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the county seat of Sangamon County? \_\_\_\_\_

As you study Illinois, you will use many maps. This is one way to find things on them. Below is another way.

### A map key

A map key shows *symbols* used on a map to identify things. The key to our map is in the box on page 3. Look at the map now and find one of each of the named symbols. Each symbol stands for the item in the key.

Let's try one. Where is the capital? Look at the key. What is the symbol for a capital? Now find that symbol on the map. What is the capital of Illinois?

Yes, it is the same as the Sangamon County Seat!

Map keys work both ways. You may also find something on the map and look at the key to see what it is. Find another symbol on the map. Look at the key. Draw the symbol below and tell what it stands for.

## How Illinois got its name

In issue #6 of *My Illinois* we will study the Indians of Illinois. One tribe of Indians we will study was called the "Illiniwek." This was their word for mankind.

The first explorers met these Indians. They shortened the Indian name to "Illini." But since they spoke French, they soon made the Indian name into a French one. They changed the ending to the French "nois" which is pronounced "nwah." There is no "s" sound at the end. We call it a "silent s." When English speaking settlers came, they said the "nois" like we say "noise" but they still did not make the "s" sound. That is why "Illinois" is pronounced like "Illinoy."

When those first explorers returned home, they told people they had gone to "the Illinois." They meant they had gone to the place where the Illiniwek Indians lived. When Illinois became a state, the French name used for these Indians became the name of the new state.

### Roman Numerals

In this issue we have used a different way of writing numbers. It was common in those years and we still use it sometimes today. They were called *Roman numerals* because they were used in Rome. (They were used in many other places too.)

Do you know the first ten Roman numerals? They are I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, and X. What do they mean?

When we read about King George III, we are reading about the third king named George. Who was Louis XIV? (Hint: Add the last two letters to the first one.) \_\_\_\_\_

### REACTION TIME

1. Why did the English look for a "Northwest Passage?" What did they want to do?
2. Summarize the explorers we have learned about. Where did they go? What were they looking for? What did they discover?
3. What can we learn from a map?
4. Why is a map key called a "key?"
5. Find where your town should be on the map and draw a ① there. By the ① in the map key, carefully print the name of your town.

# GREAT LAKE DISCOVERED

## LAKE MICHIGAN DISCOVERED

*New France, 1634*

French explorer Jean Nicolet has discovered another great lake. He believes it is on the route to China.

## Nicolet enters Wisconsin

Jean Nicolet was the first European known to reach what is now our state of Wisconsin. He crossed Lake Michigan and entered Green Bay. There he met the friendly Winnebago Indians.

## POSSIBLE ROUTE TO CHINA?

*Quebec, New France, 1634*

French explorer Jean Nicolet has just returned to this city after discovering another great lake. Named Lake Michigan for local Indians, he believes it is on the route to China. He reports tales of a great river to the west and believes it will flow into the Pacific Ocean. His efforts to find the river were not successful.

The Indians told Nicolet about a great river to the west. Now we know it was the Mississippi River. Nicolet thought it would lead to the Pacific. He thought he had found the Northwest Passage. But he was wrong.

He tried to reach the river but did not find it. When he returned to Quebec, he was very disappointed.

## Missions

Why did most of the French settlers come?

There was another, very different reason that some came. They came to teach the Indians about God. They believed that it was very important to bring their religion to the people who lived here.

To do this, they went to the Indian villages and built small churches. They called the churches “missions.” It is because they believed that teaching the Indians about Christ was their mission.



Almost all the French missions throughout Indiana and Illinois are gone. This one is at Los Adaes, Louisiana. It is like the ones that were in Illinois. Most were simple log cabins with dirt floors. The worshippers sat on the floor or wooden benches. Missionaries were among the first Europeans to live in Illinois.

The missions in New France were very simple. But many of the ones built in New Spain were very big. Many are still standing.

By 1640, a number of missions had been built along the St. Lawrence River and on the shores of the Great Lakes. One was built at Sault Saint Marie. This is at the very top of Lake Michigan. Another was built on Green Bay.

## Our Illinois Indians

In Issue #4 we studied the American Indian. (You might want to review that issue now.) In this issue we want to think about those Indians who are special to Illinois. We will begin with the Mound Builders. They are also known as the Mississippians.

### The Mound Builders

This is not the name of one tribe or nation of Indians. There were many tribes who built mounds. They made mounds shaped like *pyramids* or flat topped *cones*. Sometimes they built a temple or house on top.

They had different mounds for different uses. One kind was used for the temples. Another kind was used to bury their dead.



Left is Monks Mound at Cahokia, IL. To appreciate its size, look carefully for the people standing on top. Photo courtesy of Wikimedia member Skubasteve834.

The first great family of mound building Indians was called the Hopewell. They built large cities of mounds. Many of the biggest were in Ohio. You can still visit some of the old mound cities today.

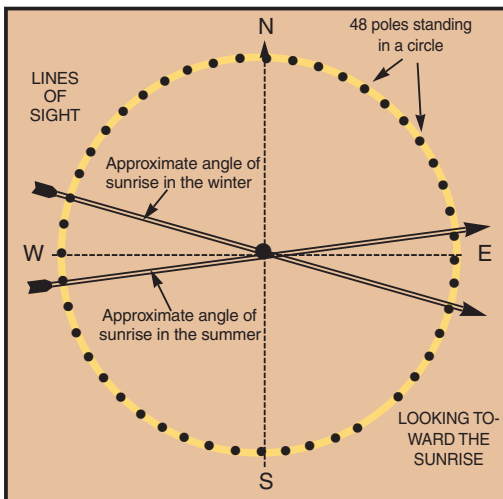
Another great family was the Mississippian. They came later and made their first mounds in the South. They also came to Illinois. Some even went as far west as Texas.

Cahokia, which is near Collinsville, Illinois, is a city of mounds. You can visit the park there and climb some of the mounds. There is another mound city near Lewistown, Illinois. There are also mounds near Jolliet and other places in our state.

### Decline of the Mound Builders

Where the Mound Builders came from is a great mystery. Maybe even a greater mystery is what became of them. More than 100 years before Columbus came to the "New World," the Mound Builders were beginning to *decline*. They stopped building their mound cities. They stopped burying their dead in mounds. They gave up their old ways. When the first explorers came to Illinois, these mound cities had already been abandoned. Now the Indians lived in villages. Often they lived in one village in the summer and another in the winter.

The men did the hunting and fishing and defended the village against other Indians. The women worked in the fields, did the cooking, and took care of the children.



Woodhenge was a kind of calendar built with poles. There were 48 standing in a circle. The Indians could tell the seasons by watching where the sun came up. In the summer, the sun comes up farther north than in the winter.

### "Woodhenge"

This is another very special part of Cahokia. We call it "Woodhenge." The Indians built circles of logs standing on end. By looking at the sunrise from the middle of the circle they could tell what season it was. Then they knew when to plant their corn.

## Later Indians

When the first explorers came they found many different tribes. They were probably *descendants* of the Mississippians, but they did not build mounds. Many of them lived in houses. To build one kind of house, they would place poles in the ground in a circle. Then they would tie the top ends together to make a cone shape. They covered the cone with tree branches or reeds. They would dig a fire pit in the middle. A small hole in the top would let the smoke out. They would sleep on mats or cots on the floor or sit around the fire. Some Indians used animal *hides* or tree bark to cover their houses.

### Woodland Indians

Illinois lies near the border between two great Indian cultures. To the west is the Great Plain. The Plains Indians lived there. To the east are the great forests of the Appalachians. We call the Indians who lived there, "Woodlands Indians."

This is not a tribe or nation. In fact it is just one way to describe the families of Indian tribes living here when Europeans first arrived. These tribes had many things in common. We say they were "culturally similar." What are some ways in which they might be culturally different?

Woodland Indians typically lived in small villages. They would often grow corn and vegetables in small fields. They also would hunt



Above is a photo of a dwelling made from grass and tree branches. This is the type of home the Illinois Indians would have made.

the animals that lived in the forest and fish in the many lakes, streams and rivers. Providing food for the village took lots of work.

### Indians of the woodlands and the plains

Illinois is at the eastern edge of the "Great Plains." Even though we call them woodland Indians, the Illinois Indians also hunted on the plains. This is how Father Sebastian Rasles, a French missionary to the Illinois, which is what he called them, described the area around Kaskaskia in 1723:

*Among all the Tribes of Canada, there is not one that lives in so great abundance of everything as do the Illinois. Their rivers are covered with swans, bustards, ducks, and teal. We can hardly travel a league without meeting a prodigious multitude of Turkeys, which go in troops, sometimes to the number of 200 ...*

*Bears and deer are found there in great numbers; there are also found countless numbers of oxen (buffalo) and of roebucks (deer); there is no year when they do not kill more than a thousand roebucks, and more than two thousand oxen; as far as the eye can reach, are seen from four to five thousand oxen grazing on the prairies. ... When they have killed an ox that seems to them too lean, they are satisfied to take its tongue and go in search of one that is more fat.*

*Arrows are the principal weapons that they use in war and in hunting. These arrows are barbed at the tip with a stone, sharpened and cut in the shape of a serpent's tongue; if knives are lacking, they use arrows also for flaying the animals which they kill. They are so adroit in bending the bow that they scarcely ever miss their aim; and they do this with such quickness that they will have discharged a hundred arrows sooner than another person can reload his gun.*

Can you imagine looking out your window and seeing 5,000 buffalo on the lawn? The abundance of food meant that they could feed many more people and live in much larger villages than other tribes. Some villages in Illinois had over 5,000 people! Other tribes were very different from the Illinois and sometimes they did not get along. Some tribal cultures were more warlike than others as well. To understand why this was so, we need to understand how our *environment* affects our lives. "Environment" is an important word. What do you think it means? (Write your answer in pencil so you can change it later.)

Think about natural resources. Think about how the Indians would be affected by nature. Can you see how some relate? Here are some obvious ones.

#### In Nature

#### What is affected

Weather

{ Housing  
Clothing

Land & Sea

Food

Trees & Grass

Housing

Animals

{ Food  
Clothing

How would the weather affect the kind of house and clothes the Indians needed?

Indians had to build their houses from things they could find on their land. If there were few trees and much grass, they used mostly grass. Some places they built frame shelters out of tree branches and covered them with grass. In places where there were buffalo, they used the buffalo hides. Other tribes plastered them with mud. Still others used furs and hides from other animals.

If they lived where it was cold, they needed heavy clothes made from fur. To get fur or meat they had to be able to kill the animals in the area.

They invented the bow and arrow to do this. They used feathers from birds to help the arrows fly straight. They sharpened stones to make arrow heads or they carved them from wood. They tied the feathers and the heads to the arrow shafts with strong string they made from grass or *sinew*. They became very good at using bows and arrows because their supply of food and fur depended on it.

Bowls and baskets were made out of a kind of rope that Indians wove from the grass and leaves. They also made bowls out of stone or wood. Some



This is a painting of Indian hunters on the Great Plains. Disguised as wolves, they sneak up close to the buffalo herd before attacking. This tactic worked because wolves were often in amongst the buffalo, eating dead members of the herd.

ground nuts, seeds, or *maize* in these bowls to make *meal*. They stored the meal in *granaries* *thatched* out of grass.

Most of the Indians of Illinois lived in villages where they raised crops and lived peacefully most of the time. They tried to stay away from warlike Indians. They didn't need to steal or kill for food.

When the trappers and traders came, things began to change.

### Trappers compete

The men who came to trap the fur bearing animals took the game away from the Indians. While the Indians did not believe they owned the land, they did believe these were their private hunting grounds. Sometimes they fought with the trappers.

### Traders create a market

The traders would give the Indians guns, whiskey, ammunition, tools, cloth, and other goods in trade for fur pelts. This was a good business. It meant that some Indians who had poor hunting grounds wanted to take over good hunting grounds from other Indians. Indians who had not been fighting began to fight over the hunting grounds.

### Competition over "national interests"

As the French began trading with the Hurons, the Iroquois began trading with the English. Both families of Indian tribes were choosing sides. It was almost like two schools in the same town. The fourth grade classes in one school could get together and have a contest with the fourth grade classes in the other school. But when the Iroquois and the Hurons had a contest, it was a war.

Between 1648 and 1651, the Iroquois killed many Hurons. It was hurting the French fur trade. They also killed many of the French missionaries. This made France mad. So France began to help the Hurons. Then the English began to help the Iroquois.

In 1653, the Iroquois Confederation (remember them?) made a *treaty* with the Hurons in New France. Now there would be peace. But in Illinois, there would be a new war. The Iroquois wanted the hunting grounds of the Illiniwek. Soon they would attack them.

## LA SALLE OBTAINS GRANT

Montreal, Canada, 1666

A newcomer from France has obtained a land grant nearby. He is Robert Cavelier, Sieur de la Salle. He says he wants to find the route to China. Many others have tried and failed. Perhaps Mssr. La Salle is just another fool in search of his dream.

Three important new names are about to enter our story. LaSalle is one. The other two are explorer, Louis Jolliet, and missionary, Father Jacques Marquette. We will study them in the next issue.

## Gifts to us from the Indian

Did you know that we have received some very good gifts from our American Indians? Do you like corn-on-the-cob? It was first raised by the Indians. Do you like ketchup on your hot dogs? Well ketchup is made from tomatoes and they were first raised by the Indians.

Do you like turkey at Thanksgiving? Give thanks to the American Indian for turkey. How about pumpkin pie or pecan pie? You guessed it! No Indians, no pumpkins or pecans!

Then there's peanut butter and sweet potatoes and French fries. They all come from crops raised by the Indians.

But maybe most of all, do you like chocolate? It is from cacao beans, another gift from the Indians.

I'm sure glad the Indians were here first.



### REACTION TIME

1. What Indian tribes lived near your town?
2. Was it okay for the Iroquois Indians to attack the Hurons? Discuss ideas about right and wrong.
3. Discuss the *alliances* between the Hurons and the French and the Iroquois and the English. How do you think this might affect history?
4. Which Indian "gift" do you like most?
5. Which gift is most important to Illinois and why do you think so?

# A WAR FOUGHT FOR IDEALS

## WASHINGTON TO LEAD

*Boston, Massachusetts, June 26, 1775*

George Washington arrived today to assume command of the Continental Army. His first task will be to build a strong force of soldiers who will defeat the English tyrants.



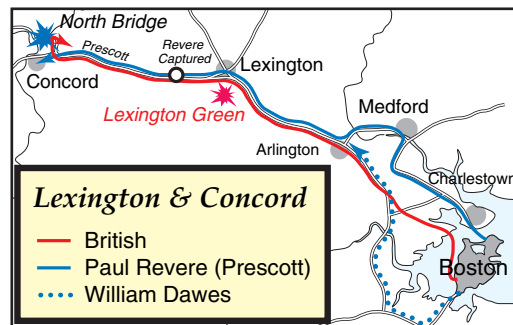
In this building in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, many of the early meetings of Congress were held. It is called "Independence Hall" because the Declaration of Independence was passed here in July 4, 1776.

## URGENT BULLETIN

*Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, July 4, 1776*

In a brave act of defiance, a "Declaration of Independence" has been approved by the colonial representatives assembled for the Second Continental Congress. All await His Majesty's response. This action calls all residents of the thirteen colonies to join in a union of states.

In our last issue, we studied a time line of events before July 4, 1776. Many of them were causes of the revolution. The Boston Tea Party in 1773 was a war-like act. Massachusetts declared itself in rebellion in February 1775. The Battle of Lexington in April 1775 was an act of war. George Washington was named Commander of the Continental Army more than one year before the declaration.



This map shows the path of the British and Paul Revere and William Dawes' hasty gallop warning the people that "the British are coming!" before the Battles of Lexington and Concord.

## Revolutionary War

July 4 is called "Independence Day." On this day each year we celebrate America's independence from England. What are some of the ways we celebrate it?

What we are really celebrating on that day is the "Declaration of Independence." It is the document that *declares* our freedom. It was signed on July 4, 1776, by 56 of America's greatest leaders. What they did was very dangerous. They were willing to give their lives for the new nation.

But the Declaration of Independence was NOT the beginning of the revolution. The war had already begun. In fact it is hard to say when it really started.

In August 1775, King George III replied to the colonial "resolves." He declared the colonies in rebellion. Then he hired the help of German soldiers to go to America and stop the rebellion.

The war also went on for more than six years after the declaration. It was not until November 30, 1782, that England agreed to America's independence.



This is the Old North Bridge in Concord, MA. The first official battle of the Revolutionary War was fought here.

# What about Illinois?

When we study the Revolutionary War we mostly think of battles fought in places like New York and Pennsylvania. But not every important battle was fought there. In fact, a few battles were fought far away from there. These battles may have changed the whole war. Without these American victories, we might still belong to England!

## The American West

Do you remember the Quebec Act? (We studied it in our last issue.) It was passed by the English parliament in 1774. It made the area north of the Ohio River part of Canada. It was often called “the Ohio Country.” It included Illinois. In 1774 this was the “American West.”

Who owned the land west of the Mississippi River?

There were British troops in the Canadian forts. The army headquarters for the Ohio Country was at Detroit. There was a fort at Vincennes, Indiana, and there were forts at Kaskaskia and Massiac, Illinois. There were other forts too throughout the new Quebec.

Many French families still lived near many of the forts. But around each fort there were also Indians. There were more Indians than French or British. So the soldiers in the forts always wanted the Indians to be on their side. They wanted the Indians as *allies*.

## UNITED STATES IS BORN

*Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, September 9, 1776*

The Continental Congress today passed a law changing our nation's name from the “United Colonies” to the “United States of America.”

## Canada refuses to join in the revolution

Now there was another war. It was between England and the American colonies. The colonists wanted the Canadians to join them. But the Canadians refused. They remained loyal to the king.

Today we often call our country “America.” But we know the whole name is “United States of America.” At first we were the “United Colonies.” But when they declared their independence, they were colonies no longer.

A state is a name for a small nation or part of a nation. The colonies believed they were independent states, but they were united in their rebellion against England. In later years this became a very difficult subject. How could they be independent and still be united? In issue #17 we will begin to study the trouble this caused.

## What about the Indians?

The English believed that the colonies could not win the war. They knew Washington's army was very small and poorly trained. They decided to use the Indians to

help them win. They offered to buy scalps from the Indians. The scalps were to come from the American settlers on the western frontier of the colonies.

Henry Hamilton was the English commander of the army in the Ohio and Illinois Country. He was headquartered in Detroit but he had soldiers at many of the forts. He told the Indians to bring the scalps of settlers to the forts and they would be paid. For this he was called “Hair Buyer Hamilton.” He was hated by the settlers.

## The Kentucky frontier

We have studied how colonial settlers moved across the Appalachian Mountains to live in Kentucky. Many of them even paid the Indians so they could live there. Now the Indians began to act on the side of the English. The settlers were in great danger.



This is the statue of George Rogers Clark inside the monument at Vincennes, Indiana.

# George Rogers Clark

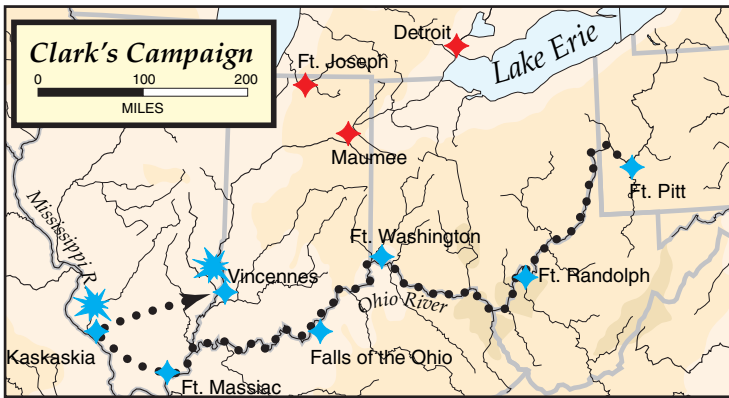
In Kentucky there lived a young red-headed Virginian named George Rogers Clark. He loved the frontier. He had been to many parts of the Ohio Country. He also knew a lot about the Indians. He knew that if the Indians began to attack the frontier settlers, soon the English could attack the colonies from the west. They could bring their army over the mountains. Then the new United States would be surrounded.

## Clark has a plan

Virginia still claimed the Ohio River valley. It also claimed Kentucky. So, at the time George Rogers Clark lived in Kentucky, it was still part of Virginia.

Patrick Henry was governor of Virginia. He was a great patriot. In December 1777, Clark came to him with a plan. He said he could drive the British out of the Ohio River valley.

He asked Governor Henry to give him soldiers to *conquer* the forts in the Illinois Country and take Detroit. Then the American frontier would be safe.



's show principle sites of George Rogers Clark's journey.

Clark had been in Indian country before. He knew how to talk to the Indians. He knew the Indian ways.

Governor Henry liked the plan but he had only about 150 men who could go with Clark. But Clark said that would be enough. He said they would win because they were fighting for their own land and families.

In May 1778, Clark and his *rag-tag* army began their journey down the Ohio River. They stopped at the Falls of the Ohio. This is where Louisville, Kentucky, is today.

From there they floated downriver to Fort Massiac. (See page 11-1.) The fort had been burned down. There was no one there. Clark and his men camped nearby.

They knew that it would be hard to take their little boats up the fast moving Mississippi River filled with spring rains. So they decided to walk to Kaskaskia. There they would find the small *garrison* that was assigned to protect the Illinois Country for the British.

In order to capture Kaskaskia, they knew they had to make a surprise attack. Slowly they moved through the hills, forests, and fields of Illinois. They were very careful not to be seen by the Indians.

Sure enough, on July 4, 1778, they arrived at Kaskaskia. Very quietly they moved through the village streets. From door to door they went. They told the villagers to stay in their homes. The villagers were afraid of Clark's men who were dirty and ragged from their journey. You can imagine how they must have looked.

## FRENCH SETTLERS JOIN!

York, Pennsylvania, May 4, 1778

A treaty signed between America and France here today recognizes our nations' common purpose in defeating English colonialism in America. French residents of the American frontier are urged to join in the fight for freedom.

## French settlers join the Americans

Most of the Kaskaskia villagers were French. They had remained there after the French and Indian War. They didn't like the English very much but they got along. Now they were faced with the Americans under Clark. They expected to be killed.

Clark was very wise. He brought Father Pierre Gibault, the village priest, to a meeting. Clark told Gibault that he and his villagers were safe. He promised they would not be hurt and they were free to leave. He also said, that if they stayed to help the Americans, they would enjoy the liberties for which America was fighting.

Father Gibault was so pleased with Clark's offer that he went to Vincennes. (It is now in Indiana.) There he convinced the many French villagers to join with Clark and the Americans.

## French and American alliance

It took many months for word of the new treaty to reach Kaskaskia. When it did, the French villagers received the word with joy. There was much celebrating as Clark's men and the townfolk rejoiced together.

## Hamilton receives word

Can you imagine the surprise to Henry Hamilton when he received the news in Detroit? He never thought an American force could enter Quebec. (Remember, to England, Illinois was part of the Quebec Province then.)

He was so mad! He ordered 'his' Indians to attack the Americans. Then he learned the Indians around Kaskaskia and Vincennes had joined the Americans and French too! So he was angrier still.

He would personally direct an American defeat. He would take soldiers from Detroit to Vincennes and Kaskaskia. He would ask the Indian tribes to join him. He would offer more gifts and money and buy more scalps.

It was a very hard winter journey for Hamilton and his men. They had to go up the Maumee River. Then they had to portage to the Wabash. The weather was bad and travel very hard.

When Hamilton arrived at Vincennes, he easily captured it. (Clark had only placed two Americans there.) But travel had been so hard that he decided to wait until spring before attacking the Americans at Kaskaskia.

## A heroic journey

When Clark learned what Hamilton had done, he made a new plan. He proposed to take his army by land to Vincennes and capture Hamilton and his troops. It seemed like an impossible task. How could they possibly do it?

Clark was a very good leader. He inspired his men. They believed in him and his plan. They said they would go with him.

Together they went. Through mud, swamp, rain, and snow. Shooting game to eat as they went, they traveled like Indians.

Their last twenty miles were through the rain swollen forks of the Wabash River. The icy water rose to their necks as they waded through it. Nobody saw them coming.

When Clark's men entered the village of Vincennes Hamilton and his men were in the fort nearby. They knew nothing of the American attack that was coming.



Clark and his men on their march to Vincennes. What do you think it would be like, hiking across country and wading through rivers in winter on your way to battle?

## HAMILTON SURRENDERS

*Fort Sackville, Indiana, February 24, 1779*

Thinking himself surrounded and badly outnumbered, Henry Hamilton has surrendered his forces here. Clark's campaign of surprise and daring has seriously reduced the English presence in Illinois.

### A big bluff

That is what it was. Clark's plan was to surround the fort and fire his guns from all sides. He ordered his men to make noise, move about, stay hidden, and act like they were part of a huge army. It was all a big bluff.

On February 24, 1779, Hamilton surrendered the fort and his men. When Hamilton discovered Clark and his men, he couldn't believe it. He was a very smart commander but Clark had fooled him completely. How do you think he felt when he discovered how small Clark's army really was?

While Clark never captured Detroit, he had seized the Illinois Country. He ended the threat of British invasion up the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers.

### Learning more about George Rogers Clark

George Rogers Clark was a very interesting man. He was a hero and a patriot. He was a frontiersman. He was an explorer. He had a younger brother, William, who was also an explorer. We will be studying him in issue #15.

Clark was a very good leader in the war. But soon after the war he was forgotten. He was a poor man when he died. It was not until years later that people began to appreciate what he did.

There are interesting books about George Rogers Clark. You may want to read more about him.

## ILLINOIS NAMED COUNTY

*Williamsburg, Virginia, December 9, 1778*

In recognizing Colonel G.R. Clark's recent success in driving the British tyrants out of Kaskaskia and Vincennes, the assembly today placed him in charge of the newly created "Illinois County." It is planned to have district courts at Kaskaskia, Cahokia, and Vincennes.

### Virginia gives up on Illinois

In 1784, Virginia gave up the land she had claimed in the Ohio River Valley. Illinois was made a county in what would become the Northwest Territory.

## REVISIONS SUGGESTED

*Annapolis, Maryland, September 14, 1786*

In a poorly attended meeting here, Alexander Hamilton declared the need for a new constitution for the United States.

### The need for a constitution

There were many flaws in the Articles of Confederation by which America was first governed. The call for a Constitutional Convention was made. At this convention, representatives of the 13 states in the new nation were to meet and decide how the country should be governed.

The kind of document they wrote is called a constitution. We will learn more about this in our next issue.



The United States Capitol building in Washington, D.C.

## REACTION TIME

1. What did the Declaration of Independence mean to the colonies?
2. Discuss life in Illinois at the time of the revolution.
3. Describe what may have happened without Clark and his men.
4. Discuss George Rogers Clark's plan. Was it successful?