

NEW WORLD DISCOVERED



Write your answer below.

Did you say something about the 50 “United States”? Did you say it is the country in which you live? Maybe you said something about it being the world’s most prosperous nation or that it is a country in North America.

Well, it is all of these, but that hardly begins to answer the question. America is so much more, isn’t it?

When we speak of America different pictures may come to mind. Perhaps we see a map like that above. Maybe we see our red, white, and blue flag. (We may call it the “Stars and Stripes” or “Old Glory.”)

But I see something very different. I see you and me! I see thousands, even millions, of Americans. They are boys and girls, young and old, black and white. They are light and dark. They are all kinds of people with one thing in common: They are Americans.

Then, as I look closer, I see they do different things, want different things, like different things, and come from many different places. Some come from lands far away. Maybe they aren’t even fully Americans yet. They may not yet be citizens. Still they are part of this great family we call America. In fact, this America is people.

But I also picture another kind of America, an America that is places. It is mountains, lakes, rivers, canyons, cities, farms, even deserts. This is an America of airplanes, trains, automobiles, factories, stores, churches, homes, and schools. It is an America of corn fields, cattle barns, spring storms and rainbows. It is the America in which we live and work.

Geography

When we picture the America of places, we picture America’s *geography*. It is an area of the globe that we call America and it includes all of the places in that area.

Palos, Spain, March 15, 1493

Upon his arrival in this port city Admiral Christopher Columbus has provided details of a new and much shorter route to the Indies. With the backing of King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella, the 40 year-old Columbus sailed from here last August.

Many are scoffing at his claim. From his description of the natives, some say he actually sailed south and landed in Africa! The admiral has named the natives “Indians” but admits that he was unable to reach any known part of the Indies. Rather, he reports sailing from island to island off of the Indian shore.

Columbus is expected to report to the Court in Barcelona next month. Perhaps then more will be known of his journey. Until more convincing evidence can be presented, it is this reporter’s opinion that the whole matter is a hoax.

In this photo of a globe showing North and South America, we see the land known of as the “New World.”

We also see the Atlantic Ocean over which the first explorers traveled on their voyages of discovery.



When we study the land we know of as America, we are studying geography. When we study the Atlantic Ocean, we are also studying geography.

When we study the voyage of Christopher Columbus across that ocean to America we are still studying geography, but we are studying something else too. We are studying an event, something that happened a long time ago. We are also studying *history*.

History

It is important to understand the meaning of this word. History is a record of facts about people and events over time. It is the true story. To be a true story we have to know about it. That is why we say it is a *record*.

If we do not know the facts and have no record, it may not be true. Then it is not history. It may be fiction, a fable, a myth, a legend, or even a lie.

In *Our Land of Liberty* we will study important facts about the history and geography of America. We will do so using an interesting series of papers like this one. We call this a *periodical*. Each issue will be part newspaper and part history. The newspaper part will be in tan boxes like the one to the right.

Most newspaper articles tell us about people, places, and events. They give us information. They answer questions we might ask about the event. There are six of those questions, but not all six are always answered.

1. What?

What happened? Newspaper articles usually report events. They tell what happened. Often the *what* is a special subject too. For example, in March 1876, Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone. The invention of the telephone is *what*. But *telephone* is a *subject*. If you look up *telephone* in an encyclopedia, what would you expect to learn? Yes, you would learn about a telephone and how it works. You would also learn it was invented by Alexander Graham bell in 1876!

2. Where?

Where did it happen? We want to know the location of the event. This is another important question most newspaper articles will answer. *Where* questions ask about geography.

3. Who?

Who is the story about? Questions like: "Who did it?" are *who* questions. Bell is *who* invented the telephone. Most newspaper articles tell us who is involved or who is affected.

4. When?

When did it happen? Sometimes this will also tell how long something lasted. It is a question about *time*. Time is very important to *news*. It is also important to history. Today's *news* will become tomorrow's *history*!

5. Why?

Often we want to know why something happened or why it was done. We are asking, what is the reason for this event? This may be very hard to explain.

6. How?

How did it happen? How was it done? How does it work? *How* questions can also be very hard to answer.

Chronology

This is another important word in the study of history. It is the order of events over a period of time. When we study events as they occurred, we are studying them in *chronological order*. Since our newspapers report events that way, we can say that they are chronological.

In this study of America, our lesson sheets are placed in chronological order. Each issue will cover a time period that follows the one before. This one covers the years 1000 to 1496.

Example

Here is an article we can use as an example. Read it now and ask the five questions.

POLOS LEAVE FOR CHINA

Acre, Palestine, November 1271

With his son Marco, Nicolo Polo has departed on a trading mission to China. They plan to travel by sea but are prepared to journey over land if necessary.

After you have answered these questions, check the answer box at the bottom of this page.

What? _____
Where? _____
Who? _____
When? _____
Why? _____
How? _____

Who discovered America?

The headline on our front page says that a "New World" has been *discovered*. When Columbus made his journey in 1492, he did not know that another explorer had crossed the Atlantic Ocean long before.

This was Leif Erikson. The make-believe newspaper article below tells about that event. Read the article and list your answers to the six questions on a separate sheet of paper. Be prepared to explain your answers.

SPAIN'S CLAIM DISPUTED

Norway, 1493

A report from Barcelona, Spain, claims that an Italian by the name of Columbus has "discovered" a new route to India by sailing west, across the Atlantic Ocean. A few have even said he has discovered a "new world." While his voyage was quite remarkable, we do not agree with this claim of discovery.

Everyone in Norway knows of the great discoveries of Erik the Red and his son Leif 500 years ago. Stories of their great adventures have been told ever since. We know them as the "Sagas."

The Vikings

Far north in Europe is a country called Norway. Find it on a globe. The people who lived here 1000 years ago were called Norsemen. Some were called Vikings. They were fighters, farmers, and fishermen. They lived a hard life. Erik the Red was one of their leaders. He had a son named Leif. Since he was Erik's son, the Norse called him Leif Eriksson. Leif probably came to America long before Columbus. He called it "Vinland."

ANSWER BOX
1. What? Left for China
2. Where? Acre, Palestine
3. Who? Nicolo and Marco Polo
4. When? November 1271
5. Why? To establish trade
6. How? By sea

Look at your globe again. From the middle of Norway, go west to the first large island. It should be Iceland. West of Iceland is an even larger island called Greenland. This is where Erik the Red first settled about 985.

Look southwest from Greenland and you will find the northeastern part of Canada. Canada is America's northern neighbor. It is part of North America. In stories told by the Norsemen, land was seen west of Greenland by a fisherman in 986. These stories say that Leif set out to explore it around the year 1000. He spent the winter there and other Norsemen came later. Houses were built and crops were planted.

We now believe that Leif first landed on Labrador and settled in Newfoundland. If so, we might say he "discovered America." But he probably never came to the land we now know as "America" and he really didn't know where he was!

More about Columbus

This replica of the Columbus ship, "Santa Maria," may be visited at the Marine Museum in Corpus Christi, Texas.



When Columbus sailed westward across the Atlantic Ocean, he was not looking for a "new world." Rather, he was looking for a better and shorter route to India. India was important to people in Europe because of the tea, spices, and fine wood that came from there. It was also important as a place to sell European products.

To buy products in one country and sell them in another is called *trade*. To trade goods between Europe and India (or China), *caravans* had been crossing a vast desert. It was a very long and hard journey. Columbus thought it would be shorter and easier to sail west to India. If he were right, he could make a lot of money. But on October 12, 1492, when he sighted an island he named "San Salvador," he was nowhere near India.

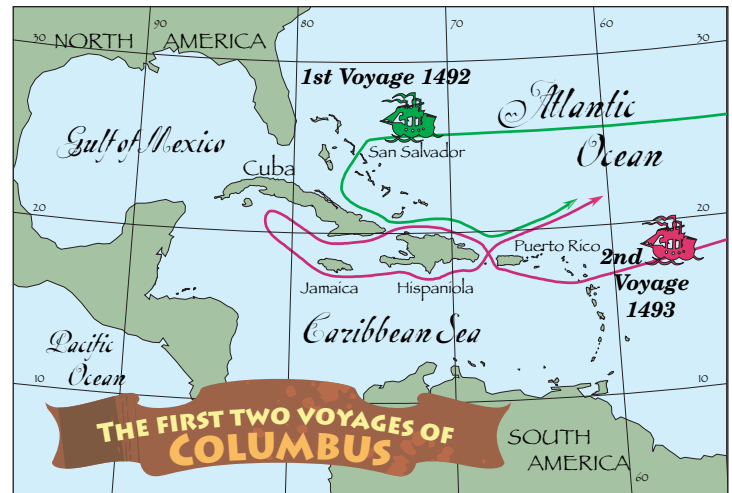
COLUMBUS OPENS PORT

Navidad, Hispaniola, December 27, 1492

After losing his ship, the *Santa Maria*, on a nearby reef, Admiral Christopher Columbus plans to build a fort here. He will use boards from the ship to build the walls of the fort. He will leave shortly for Spain to report on his discoveries but a small group of his men will remain at the fort.

First European settlements

While Navidad was not much of a settlement, it was the first. Columbus left a small number of men at



Navidad and went back to Spain to give his report to the king and queen.

In 1494 he left Spain on his second voyage. He continued his search for India. He returned to Navidad and found the men he had left there had all been killed. He started a new settlement and named it Isabella. This became America's first *permanent* settlement. (Later, in 1496, he would found yet another settlement and call it Santo Domingo. Today this is the capital city of the Dominican Republic.)

Altogether Columbus discovered about 60 islands and eventually landed on the coast of South America. But he never fully understood where he was. He did not know there was another even larger ocean yet to cross. What is that ocean?

(Hint: Look at your globe. It is the ocean between North America and China.)

What is "discovery"?

Maybe this is a question we need to ask. What does the word mean? Look it up in a dictionary. You will probably find a definition that says something like, "to make known." It is like saying, "to take the cover off." When people know about something, it may be said it has been uncovered or *discovered*.

The Indians lived in America. But they didn't know about Europe. They didn't really know where they were. It may be something they never even thought about! Leif Eriksson knew he was in a new land, yet he didn't really make it known either.

Columbus came and made America known to many. Yet, what did Columbus think he had discovered?

He thought he was near India. He called the islands he landed on, the "Indies." He didn't know he was less than half way to India! So even though he made America known, he didn't really know where he was!

Look at your globe again. Find India. Now find Cuba below the southern tip of Florida. This is about where Columbus was when he "discovered" America.

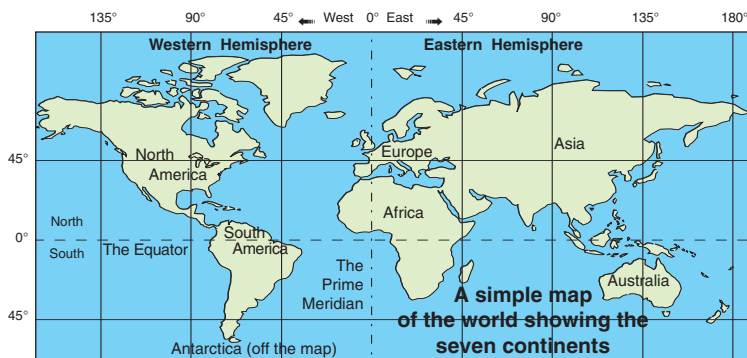
Understanding a globe

Several times in this issue you have been told to look at a globe. A globe is a *model* of the earth. Like our earth, it is a *sphere*, a ball. When we examine a globe, we see each of the world's continents, countries, and oceans in its respective shape and size.

Look at your globe carefully. Find the *equator*. It runs around the earth at the middle. Notice that half of your globe is "above" the equator and half is "below." Each of these is a *hemisphere*. The top one is called the *Northern Hemisphere*. The lower one is the *Southern Hemisphere*.

Notice the lines that run around your globe parallel to the equator. We call these lines *latitude*. Find the lines that go the other way, the ones through the poles of the earth. They cross the latitude lines. We call them *longitude*. All of these lines are marked in numbers of *degrees*. The *symbol* for degrees is a small raised circle. The equator is at 0° latitude. Latitude is measured in degrees north or south of the equator.

Now find the longitude line that goes through England and France. It is called the *prime meridian*. It is the line for 0° longitude. Longitude is measured in degrees east and west of the prime meridian. The half of the globe that is west of the prime meridian is called the *Western Hemisphere*. All of North and South America are in the Western Hemisphere. We live there. Almost none of Europe, Asia, or Africa are in our hemisphere.



If you know the latitude and longitude of a place, you can find it on your globe. What is the approximate latitude and longitude of your home?

Flat maps and globes

Flat maps can show us continents, countries, and oceans too. But they are not as accurate as a globe. Look at the flat map above. Locate the southern tip of India and place a dot there. Now locate the southern tip of Florida and make a dot just below it. Draw a line between the two dots. Find the middle of the line and mark it. Where is it?

Now find the same two places on a globe. Take a piece of string and draw it tightly around the globe connecting these two points. Where is the middle of the string?

Find this place on the flat map and make a mark there. What do you notice about the two middle points?

We see that the shortest distance between two points on a globe is not always the same on a flat map.

Repeat this exercise connecting your town in America with the southeastern tip of China. On the flat map it looks like the shortest route to China is across Africa. What does the globe show us?

The path of a string on a globe used this way shows the "Great Circle Route." It is the shortest distance between any two points on earth. Columbus thought the shortest route to India was westward across the Atlantic Ocean. Was he right?

OTHER NEWS BULLETINS TO 1497

Here are some other names and events you may want to explore:

- 9000 BC End of the ice-age.
- 8000 BC Approximate time that the woolly mammoth, mastodon, camels, and other pre-historic animals disappeared from North America.
- 4000 BC Pottery made by Indians of the southwest.
- 1100 BC Cliff-dwelling Indians live in the southwest.
- 1000 BC Maize (corn) cultivated by Indians.
-Anno Domini (AD) or Common Era (CE).....
- 700+ Anasazi Indians abandon pueblos and cliff dwellings.
- 1015 First European child known to be born in North America (Greenland).
- 1066 Norman conquest of England.
- 1121 Probable last Norse visit to the New World.
- 1215 Magna Carta as the basis of English liberties.
- 1300 Approximate date Indian mounds abandoned.
- 1440 Portuguese settle islands of Azores in the Atlantic Ocean.

REACTION TIME!

1. What is the difference between *history* and *geography*?
2. List the six most important events in your life **in chronological order**. Compare lists.
3. Who do you think *discovered* America? Explain your answer.
4. Write a news article about a recent event at home. (Be sure to answer the six questions.)
5. What are the advantages and disadvantages of a globe compared with a flat map?

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DE SOTO DEAD!

MOSCOSO TAKES LEAD

Along the Mississippi River, May 21, 1541

Racked by fever, Explorer, Conqueror Hernando de Soto has died and was buried on the banks of this mighty river he discovered. Luis de Moscoso will lead the expedition westward.

De Soto expedition

One of the first explorers to go deep into the heart of America was Hernando de Soto. He had been made ruler of Florida by the Spanish government. He was a hero of their conquest of Peru. In 1539 he began a journey of exploration from Florida, moving westward across Mississippi and Louisiana.

This is the Hernando de Soto Bridge over the Mississippi River at Memphis, Tennessee.

De Soto and his men crossed the Mississippi somewhere near here in 1539. If you have never seen the river you will have a hard time imagining how big it is. Look at the trucks on the bridge to get an idea on its size.
Photo: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



Along the way he discovered a big muddy river he named "Rio de Espiritu Santo." That means "River of the Holy Spirit." Today we know it as the Mississippi River.

De Soto was very mean to the Indians. He captured many and had some placed in chains. As he journeyed west, he and his men fought the Indians. Many on both sides were killed. This was one reason that many Indians became enemies of these strange people who came from Europe.

OIL DISCOVERED

Caddo Indian country, Texas, 1542

Explorer Luis de Moscoso today discovered ugly tar ponds oozing forth in this area. The Indians find it useful as a medicine.

The De Soto Expedition found no riches. They heard stories and legends, but found no gold. In Texas they found oil, but in those days, oil was just a worthless ugly mess. It poisoned the land and had little value!

These men are showing visitors how to fire an arquebus at De Soto National Memorial in Florida. The arquebus was one of the weapons used by De Soto's men.

It was so inaccurate, they joked that the safest place to be was in front of the gun! Indians using their bows and arrows were often more accurate and deadly in battle than the soldiers.



Photo: De Soto National Memorial

Coronado's "entrada"

While De Soto was exploring from the east, another Spanish explorer entered from the west. He was Francisco Vázquez de Coronado. Coronado was placed in charge of a great expedition to find and capture the City of Gold. It was called an "Entrada," which is Spanish for "entrance," because it was Spain's entrance into this unexplored land.



Journeys of Coronado, De Soto, Moscoso, & Cabrillo

In 1542, with over a thousand eager men, 1500 horses and mules, wagons, cooks, and herds of farm animals for food, the expedition headed north. Coronado became impatient and went ahead. Soon he saw the golden city. But it was not gold at all! It was only the mud bricks of a city's walls reflecting the bright sun! The village was nothing more than a poor, dry *pueblo* of Zuñi Indians.

Coronado was very disappointed. As they journeyed onto the plains, they saw many Indians watching in the distance and large herds of buffalo, but no golden cities.

Coronado would not give up. He asked help of the Indians and was told of a city. But it was a trick. The expedition almost became lost on the plains.

Horses come to America

When we think about the Indians, we usually picture them riding their horses across the prairie. But did you know that there were no horses in America before the Spaniards came? The Indians had never seen a horse. In fact, they had not seen a cow, pig, or sheep either!

They had no animals to ride or cattle to raise for food. They went looking for *game*, like deer or buffalo and did it on foot. They had to find watering holes or feeding grounds where they could sneak up on the animals.

During the Coronado Entrada, many horses and other animals that had come with the explorers got loose or were stolen by Indians. The Indians saw the Spaniards riding on the horses. They knew this gave them a big advantage. They wanted to have horses so they too could ride fast and far.

Why would a horse be so important to an Indian?

Did you say something about *transportation*? The horse was the basic means of transportation for the pioneers and the explorers.

Cabrillo lands in California

Until now, no explorer had sailed up the Pacific coast of North America. This was still an unknown land.

In 1542 Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo set sail from the port of Navidad on the west coast of Mexico and went west and north around Baja California. ("Baja" is pronounced "ba-ha.") Finally he came to a beautiful bay where he stopped for six days. He named the bay "San Miguel," but we know it today as San Diego.

Cabrillo was the first white man to land on California soil. Soon they called it "Alta California." In Spanish, "alta" means upper and "baja" means lower.

After Cabrillo landed at San Miguel (San Diego), he continued north. As he went, he named the places he visited along the way. First he came to two islands we know as Santa Catalina and San Clemente. He called them San Salvador and La Victoria for his two ships.

Next he crossed to the mainland and went into a large open bay we know as Santa Monica. He called it "Bay of Smokes" because of all the Indian fires he saw on shore.

The next day he went to an Indian village where Ventura is now. He named it "Pueblo de los Canoas" because he met so many Indians in their canoes there. Each canoe could carry as many as thirteen Indians! The Indians dressed in animal hides and ate mostly raw fish.



Photo © Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported

Above - Photo by Urban¹

Left - Photo by Ctorbann²

Right

The rocky Pacific shore did not look very desirable to weary seamen.

Below

Lighthouses were built to warn ships that they were near land. This one is at Point Loma, California, near where Cabrillo sailed.



Photo © Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported

As he continued, he encountered strong north winds and stopped at another island he found. He named it "La Posesión," however, we call it San Miguel. While on this island, Cabrillo fell and broke his arm.

There were many Indians on the islands that Cabrillo discovered. Today we call them the "Channel Islands" because there are deep *channels* between the islands and the shore. Big ships now sail through there.

Cabrillo's death

Cabrillo and his crew continued the difficult and stormy journey northward until they reached a bay lined with pines. They tried to land, but the water was too rough. Before leaving, they named it "Bay of Pines." In another day, about 36 years later, another great captain would land here. Then it would be known as "Drake's Bay." (See issue #5.)

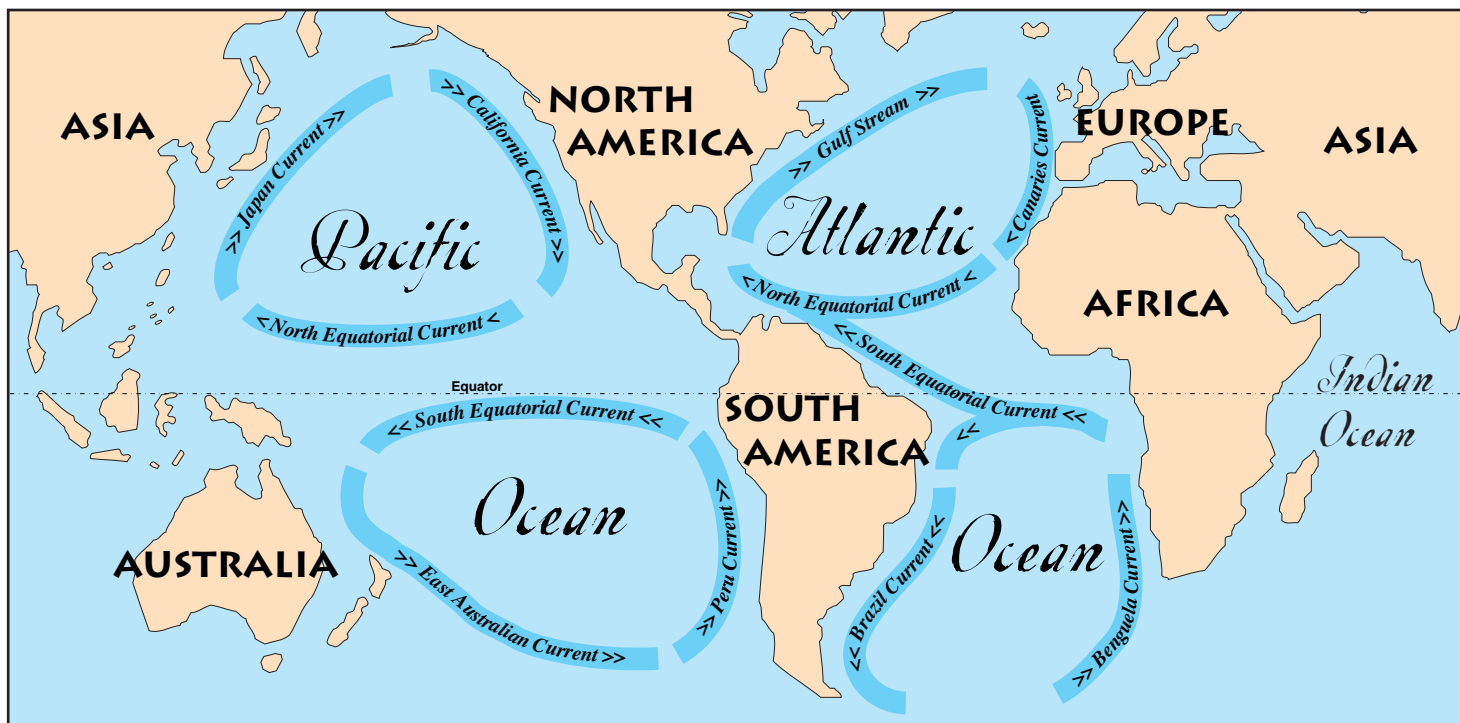
But Cabrillo's broken arm would not heal. It was infected. The ship turned south and returned to San Miguel Island. There, on January 3, 1543, Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo died. But before he died, he told his crew to go on. He named his chief pilot, Bartolomé Ferrel to take his command.

After they buried Cabrillo there in that lonely place, they returned northward. They passed the Bay of Pines and reached a point near the Rogue River of Oregon before the weather became too much to overcome. After a terrible ordeal, they headed south. On August 14, 1543, they returned to Navidad, Mexico, and home.

Oceans and currents

Have you been to the seashore? How did the water look? Was it still? Almost certainly not. Sometimes it is very rough. Big waves come crashing on shore. They make a sound like thunder. It is exciting to watch the big waves. But they are very dangerous.

The ocean is constantly in motion. The water moves in *waves*, *swells*, *tides* and *currents*. You know what waves look like. Swells are the up and down surges of



Map showing major currents of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

water like waves. Tides are a different kind of motion. Tides are caused by the spinning of the earth and the position of the sun and moon.

When the moon and the sun are on the same side of the earth, they pull the water toward them. This is the same invisible force called *gravity* that holds us on the earth. We can't see it, but it's there. If it weren't, we would fly into space without a rocket!

Usually there are two tides each day. When the water rises, we say the tide "is in." This is because the rising water comes farther up onto the shore.

The most important kind of motion in our study is current. A current is like a river of water in the ocean. Water flowing from one area to another right in the middle of the ocean is a current.

Some currents move the same way all the time. There is such a current off the west coast in the Pacific Ocean. It is called the California Current. It brings cold water from the Gulf of Alaska down past California. For this reason, the water at Pacific beaches is always cold.

Another current is called the Japan Current. It flows north along the coast of Asia and brings warm water up to Alaska. As this water goes north, it gets colder and colder. Finally it reaches Alaska and starts back as the California Current!

Across the Pacific is the Equatorial Current. It flows from east to west near the equator. If you put a boat in the water of this current, it will probably float toward Asia. When it gets there, it might get caught in the Japan Current and flow north to Alaska. There it could catch the California Current and come back south again. It may float back into the Equatorial Current and start

all over again. We call this *circulation* because it goes around and around, over and over!

These currents were very important to sailors. It was much easier to sail with the current than against it. Also, most of the time, the wind blows in the same direction, so the ship's sails worked with the current to move the ship even faster.

Now look at the ocean map above. It shows the most important currents in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Do you see how they make a circle in both oceans. In the northern hemisphere they go clockwise. In the southern hemisphere they go counter-clockwise.

Along the Atlantic coast of America, the "Gulf Stream" flows north, becomes the "Canaries Current," and moves south past Europe. Then it joins the Equatorial Current and goes west again.

Look at the current moving south and west from Spain. Follow it with your finger. Do you see where it takes you? It goes to the "West Indies." That is where Columbus landed when he discovered the "New World." Why did Columbus land there and not in New York?

On the Pacific Ocean, the same thing happened. Ships began sailing between Asia and Mexico. They were called "Manila Galleons." One went each year. It sailed straight west in the Equatorial Current. When it was ready to return, it went north into the Japan and Alaska currents. This brought it back to America's Pacific coast where it went south. By then the crew was so anxious to get home, they didn't want to stop for anything. For many years, most of the ships that came to America's west coast sailed right on by!

There were many dangers to sailors if they didn't understand the winds and currents. They could crash onto the shore or they might simply stop dead in the water. Look at the map again. Look in the middle of the circulation. Do you see the area where there is no current? Often, there is also no wind in this area either. What would happen if a ship sailed into there?

Sometimes, when this happened, the sailors would die of hunger or thirst. They could not get out. They would throw everything overboard to lighten their ship and make it as easy as possible for even a breeze to move it. They would even throw their horses overboard. For this reason, this area became known as the "horse latitudes!" A name for another area like this near the equator is the "doldrums." Sometimes, when a person is tired and bored, we say he is "in the doldrums." That is where this saying comes from.

SPANISH SETTLE AMERICA

St. Augustine, Florida, September 6, 1565

In what is said to be, "the first city in America," a Spanish landing party has begun settlement and fortification.

Giant cannons like this one on the wall of the Castillo de San Marcos in St. Augustine protected the fort. Why is it aimed at the city in the background?

The castillo was built between 1672 and 1695 and is the oldest stone fort in the U.S.



Spain & France to Florida

We have already seen how early explorers came to America's gulf coast. (Review the map on page 3-4.) So far, few had stayed. Soon this would change as European nations would decide to establish *colonies*. Why do you think they would want to have colonies in the New World?

Most of the early colonies settled in America were in the southeast. In 1559 a Spaniard named Don Tristan de Luna brought 1500 settlers to Mobile Bay. The colony only lasted 2 years.

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In 1562 the French built a small colony named "Charlesfort" at Paris Island, South Carolina. After nearly starving and finally resorting to cannibalism, this colony was also abandoned.

Then the French tried again with a settlement at the mouth of St. Johns River, Florida, in 1565. They named it Fort Caroline.

Soon a Spanish settlement was built at St. Augustine. The commander of this colony was Pedro Menendez. Knowing the French had settled nearby, Menendez took an army to attack Fort Caroline. The French were crushed and almost all were killed. It was a *massacre*. Menendez renamed the fort, "San Mateo."

Three years later, the French returned. They wanted to *avenge* the attack on Ft. Caroline. Aided by their Indian *allies*, they attacked and burned the fort. Then they massacred the Spanish survivors.

Before peace would come to America there would be hundreds of battles, massacres and attempts at revenge. It would be many years before France and Spain would be at peace in Florida (or anywhere else)!

OTHER NEWS BULLETINS OF 1541-1570

Here are some other names and events you may want to explore:

- 1549 Missionary priest Luis de Babastro killed by Indians in Florida.
- 1550 Spain brings first beef cattle to North America.
- 1559 Spanish fail in attempt to settle at Pensacola Bay, FL.
- 1561 King of Spain discontinues efforts to colonize Florida.
- 1562 Led by Jean Ribault, 150 Huguenots fleeing religious persecution in France establish colony on St. Johns River, FL.
- 1563 Ribault publishes a book in England describing Florida.
- 1566 First exploration of Chesapeake Bay.
First Jesuit missionaries arrive in Florida.

REACTION TIME!

1. How do you think De Soto's treatment of the Indians may have changed the history of our southeastern states?
2. Why do you think the Indians tricked Coronado into believing there was a City of Gold when there was none?
3. How would the introduction of horses and cattle change life for the Native Americans?
4. Explain what a "doldrum" is.
5. Why was it so difficult for Cabrillo to explore the Pacific coast of Oregon?
6. Why didn't Spanish and French settlements in Florida get along with each other?

1) http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Big_Sur_California2.jpg

2) http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Old_Point_Loma_lighthouse_11.jpg

BOSTON MASSACRE KILLS 3

Acts of Parliament

Throughout the colonial era there were many acts passed by the English parliament that affected the colonies. We have already seen how some of these laws were passed in order to house and pay costs of English soldiers in America.

Laws like these drew the colonists closer and closer together. Their old differences became less important. They began to work together.

They also began to talk about *independence*. They didn't really want a war of *rebellion*. They didn't even think they could win such a war. But they wanted their freedom even more. They wanted England's respect.

Taxation without representation

The colonists' biggest complaint was that the government was making decisions in England without asking them. Laws were being passed. Taxes were being put into effect. But the colonies had no voice in the decisions. This was called "taxation without representation." The colonists said they should have *representatives* in the English government who could tell their side of the story. The King refused to allow it.

TWO MORE NEAR DEATH REDCOATS FIRE WITHOUT WARNING!

Boston, Massachusetts, March 5, 1770

Tension between Boston citizens and British soldiers rose to the breaking point today when three locals were killed. The incident allegedly resulted after blows were exchanged between a sentry and a protester who was taunting the soldiers. Crispus Attucks, believed by many to be an escaped Southern slave, led in the reprisal and was among the first to be slain. A number of the soldiers have been arrested and will be tried for murder.

The Boston Massacre

The "Boston Massacre" was only a small battle. In fact, it was more an act of mob violence than a battle. But it was the first time the tension between the colonists and the British soldiers actually led to bloodshed.



This flyer was printed in Boston after the massacre. Seeing flyers like this made the people of New England even angrier with England.

Riot, revolution, and civil war

In issue #10 we studied how rising tension between the English and French led to the French and Indian War. Now tension was growing between colonials and soldiers within the English colonies. They were all citizens of the same country. They were all "subjects of the crown." (Remember, most colonists in America were citizens of England.)

We often call people who behave in an uncontrolled manner a "mob." The Boston colonials were acting as a mob. They were out of control and taunting the soldiers. When the soldiers could not regain control, they began to fear for their own lives. Soon they began firing their muskets into the crowd.

When an unruly group of people begins fighting, shouting insults, taunting, and throwing rocks, bottles, and other things, we say they are rioting. The "Boston Massacre" was more of a riot than a battle or a massacre.

But it resulted in the deaths of five citizens and aroused the anger of many in Boston. When the soldiers

who had fired their muskets were brought to trial, two were given a light punishment. The others were released. How do you feel about this?

The citizens of Boston were angry, but few wanted to start a war over it. Some, however, were ready to fight. There was growing bitterness between many citizens and the English soldiers sent there by the king. It was the beginning of “civil unrest.”

Soon the colonials would begin meeting together. They would hold a “congress” to discuss how to deal with their situation. They would even talk of forming their own *militias*. When different groups of citizens in the same country begin to fight against each other, we call it a “civil war.” The civil unrest in the colonies was close to becoming a civil war.

But there was something else happening as well. Many people were beginning to question the English form of government.

They were saying no king or parliament should be able to control the citizens without the “consent of the governed.” Some citizens even spoke of inventing their own new form of government and *overthrowing* the king. When people rise up to change the form of government by force, it is a “revolution.” These colonists were nearing the point of revolution.

Beginnings of modern democracy

The colonies had seldom worked together well. They had many differences of opinion. They often argued over such things as boundaries, religious issues, trade, and slavery. Now, however, these differences were becoming small. The colonies were in agreement in their opposition to the king. They were coming together.

What made them want to work together?

“INDIANS” DUMP TEA

Boston, Massachusetts, December 16, 1773

This evening a rebellious band boarded the cargo ship *Dartmouth* in Boston Harbor, overcame the crew, and dumped the ship’s load of English tea into the bay. While dressed as Indians and shouting Indian war-cries, it is certain they were colonial patriots protesting the new import tax on tea. Many fear this act may lead to harsh reprisals by the king.

Boston Tea Party

In May 1773 the Tea Act was passed in England. It was another law made to protect English business and raise money for colonial defense. Not only did it increase the cost of tea, but it outlawed importation of tea from other nations.

For many colonists this was just too much. They drank a lot of tea. They thought it was wrong that Eng-



Colonials dressed as Indians throw tea into Boston harbor in this 1846 Currier and Ives lithograph.

land should tell them where they had to buy their tea and tax it as well. They refused to accept English tea.

On December 16, 1773, a group of men in Boston dressed up as Indians. They raided a British ship filled with tea and the entire *cargo* of tea was thrown into the harbor. Today we call it the “Boston Tea Party.”

It really angered the English government. Parliament decided to punish the people of Boston by passing another series of laws. They called them the “Coercive Acts,” but the colonists called them “intolerable.”

These laws took away all governing authority of the Colony of Massachusetts. They also demanded that the colonists pay for the tea they destroyed. The port of Boston was closed so no goods could go in or out. It was to stay closed until payment had been made for the tea. Soldiers were stationed at the port to guard the harbor. The soldiers were to be housed by the citizens without choice or compensation.

If you were one of the colonists in Boston, what would you do?

QUEBEC ACT PASSED

London, England, May 30, 1774

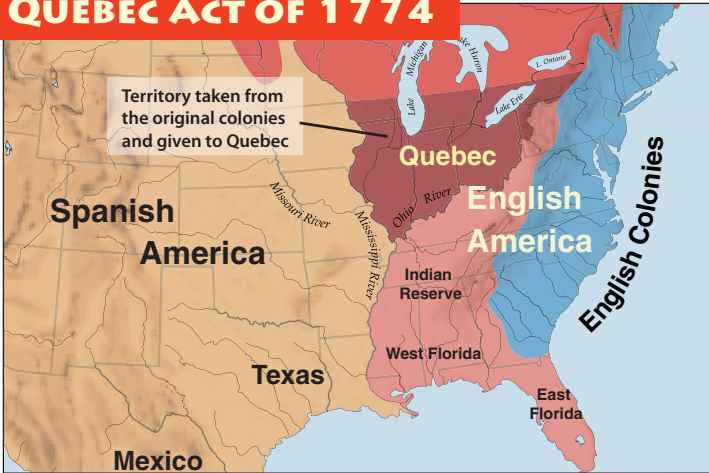
Parliament has now passed another Coercive Act which will restrict colonial power and punish Massachusetts. This act places all of the Illinois & Ohio Country in the Canadian territory of Quebec. It ends Massachusetts’ claim to land west of the mountains.

Mid-west part of Canada!

Did you know that today’s states of Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and part of Minnesota were once part of Canada? Well, for awhile they were!

The original charters of Massachusetts and Connecticut gave them land that went far to the west. In fact, Massachusetts claimed to own the land all the way to the Pacific Ocean! Can you image one state going 3000 miles from the Atlantic to the Pacific?

QUEBEC ACT OF 1774



The Quebec Act of 1774 added all of the Ohio River Valley to Canada. This permanently ended Massachusetts claim to the Ohio River Valley.

After the Boston Tea Party, the English government began punishing the people of Massachusetts for what had been done. They wanted to make them an example to the other colonies. They wanted to force the colonies to accept the English orders and rules.

The Quebec Act made all of the land north of the Ohio River, west of the Appalachian Mountains, and east of the Mississippi River a part of Quebec, Canada. It took away the land Massachusetts had claimed. The southern boundary of Canada was moved to the Ohio River. This meant that Massachusetts and the other northeastern colonies could no longer grow to the west. It was another act the colonials called “intolerable.”

FIRST CONTINENTAL CONGRESS CONVENES

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Sept. 5, 1774

The Continental Congress has been convened in order to establish a united approach to our present problems with England. Many believe that the only answer is to separate from England. Others believe this must never be done.

Each colony had its own congress and each congress held meetings to discuss England’s acts. But working alone, no colony was strong enough to oppose Parliament or the King. The colonies needed to meet together and talk about it.

At an informal meeting in Williamsburg, Virginia, an “inter-colonial congress” was proposed for September 1774. A resolution was passed to promote it and it was dispatched to each of the other colonies for consideration.

The “First Continental Congress” opened in Philadelphia on September 5, 1774, with 56 delegates present. Peyton Randolph of Virginia was named to preside. Only Georgia failed to attend.

It was the first time so many colonies met to discuss their common concerns. Foremost was England’s punishment of Massachusetts for the Boston Tea Party.

Delegates to the Congress discussed different ideas for a colonial government united with England, but they could not reach agreement.

Then they debated their response to the intolerable acts and passed a set of what they called “Resolves.” What is “resolve”?

These Resolves expressed the colonial view of what England was doing. They also posed a threat to English rule in America. It was their hope that this would make the King listen.

The Resolves declared that:

1. The colonies would stop trading with England.

This was the only way the colonials could “get even.” They knew colonial trade was very important to English business. They thought that by cutting off trade, English merchants would come to their aid in Parliament.

2. They would send a letter to the English people to tell how they felt.

They expected the citizens of England to understand why the Acts of Parliament were wrong and should be repealed.

3. They would ask the King for help.

They saw Parliament as their *adversary* and hoped the King would step in and overrule it.

Reaction to the Resolves

The result of the colonial resolves was not what they wanted. On February 9, 1775, Parliament declared Massachusetts in rebellion. Then, unexpectedly, that body moved toward a new policy of *reconciliation*, but the King rejected it.

Meanwhile the citizens of Massachusetts were preparing for war. The Sons of Liberty were organized under a new name. Since they would be ready to fight “in a minute” they were called *Minutemen*.

The Revolutionary War was about to begin.

“GIVE ME LIBERTY... OR GIVE ME DEATH”...Patrick Henry

Richmond, Virginia, March 23, 1775

To the resounding applause of those at the Virginia Convention, Patrick Henry has expressed unrestrained opposition to England’s Intolerable Acts. Only a free and independent American nation will be acceptable, he says, summing it up in the words quoted above.

Revolutionary fever

What happens when good friends get into an argument and neither is willing to compromise?

Sometimes things get out of hand. That is, we lose control over them. We become less willing to say we’re sorry and more willing to fight. Soon we may not even be

speaking to each other. This situation is sometimes called a “powder keg.” It is very explosive. All it takes is one small spark and “Boom!”

The argument over colonial rule had reached that point. In the next issue we will see why it went Boom!

Cause and effect

Imagine that two children are playing baseball in the yard. One pitches the ball to the other who swings the bat and the ball flies through their neighbor’s window. Broken glass falls everywhere. What *caused* the window to break?

- ✓ The ball
- ✓ The player who hit the ball
- ✓ The bat
- ✓ The player who pitched the ball
- ✓ None of the above
- ✓ All of the above

Often it is hard to say what caused something. The cause may be the effect of something else. When the ball went through the window, it *caused* the glass to break. When the bat hit the ball, it *caused* the ball to hit the window. Swinging the bat *caused* the bat to hit the ball. And, of course, pitching the ball was a *cause* too.

Make a list of the key events we have studied in the last two issues. List them in the order in which they took place. We call this a “timeline.” It helps us understand how things can happen in a series of causes and effects. We call this a “chain reaction.”

There is also another kind of cause-effect. This is when separate events occur that go together to cause something else. For example, if the batter above had better aim, the ball would not have broken the window. It was the combined effect of hitting the ball and having poor aim that led to the broken glass!

Examine your list carefully. Can you find an example of chain reaction? Look for one event that caused another that also caused another.

Can you find where two things combined to cause a reaction?

BOONE BUILDS FORT

Boonesborough, Kentucky, April 1, 1775

This Kentucky River site has been chosen for a new fort to protect settlers coming through the Cumberland Gap. He calls his trail the “Wilderness Road.” Many more settlers are expected to arrive as reports of our fertile Kentucky soil reach Virginia.

Daniel Boone

Many stories have been written about this frontiersman. Most of the stories exaggerate the importance of what he did. Still, he was a remarkable example of the kind of person who would now begin going west.

Boone was a skilled hunter and trapper who sometimes lived with and other times fought with the Indians west of the Appalachian Mountains. He also became a legislator in the government of Virginia. (At this time, Virginia still claimed Kentucky.)

Was Daniel Boone’s journey into Kentucky one cause of the Revolutionary War?

PASSES AND GAPS

These are two words used to describe places where travelers could cross a barrier. We often connect *pass* with roads over high mountains, but it is also used for places where you can sail between the barrier islands along the Gulf and Atlantic coast.

Gap was often used for a break in a ridge. Cumberland Gap is such a place.

OTHER NEWS BULLETINS OF 1770-1775

Here are some other names and events you may want to explore:

- 1770 First school for Negroes started by Quakers in Philadelphia.
First mental institution in America opens at Williamsburg, VA.
- 1772 California’s Central Valley discovered and explored by Pedro Fages.
Province including Texas established in New Spain.
Mission founded at San Luis Obispo, CA.
Watauga Association founded in eastern Tennessee establishes its own plan for self-government.
- 1773 First museum established at Charleston, SC.
- 1774 Harrodsburg is first European settlement in Kentucky.
- 1775 800 Indians raid mission at San Diego, CA, killing most residents.

REACTION TIME!

- Review our last two issues and list the acts of Parliament that contributed to the revolution.
- Discuss the colonial behavior at the Boston Massacre and the Boston Tea Party. Was it right? Were England’s responses correct? What can we learn from this?
- Why were the Minutemen formed and what was their purpose?
- What did Patrick Henry mean by his remark, “Give me liberty or give me death”?
- Describe cause and effect in terms of something that has happened in your home or school.

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“THE EAGLE HAS LANDED”

APOLLO ASTRONAUTS ON MOON

Houston, Texas, July 20, 1969

With those words astronaut Neil Armstrong reported the safe moon landing of his spacecraft “Eagle” to Mission Control. Soon afterward he stepped to the moon’s surface announcing, “That’s one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.”

With the safe landing of the “Eagle” on the moon, people all around the world celebrated. America had achieved the impossible dream.

Today you can see many fine space flight exhibits at places like Cape Canaveral, Florida; Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas; and Goddard Space Center, Green Belt, Maryland.

America’s success in landing on the moon and returning safely proved we had finally overtaken the Soviet Union in the space race. But the race didn’t end there. The fear remained that any nation controlling space would be able to destroy any other nation on earth.

First space shuttle

On January 5, 1972, Pres. Nixon approved expenditure of 5 1/2 billion dollars to design and build a reusable space plane. It was called a “space shuttle” because it would be used to enter space and return again and again.

U.S. TROOPS EVACUATE SAIGON

Saigon, South Vietnam, April 30, 1975

Following today’s unconditional surrender to the Vietcong, South Vietnamese forces have laid down their arms. Thousands are seeking to escape as the communists move in. Americans have been speedily evacuating this war-ravaged city.

Vietnam War ends

The anti-war protests of the 1960’s reached a climax on May 4, 1970, when violence erupted at Kent State University in Ohio. Four student protesters were killed during the rally.

Vowing to bring the war to an end, President Nixon began removing American forces from combat roles. On January 27, 1973, a truce was signed. Vietnam was probably our most painful war experience. It was the



Space Shuttle Discovery blasts into space on October 28, 2007

“war America lost,” a war to stop the growth of communism, yet never had the support of the American people.

More than 46,000 American soldiers were killed in battle during the war. Another 300,000 were wounded. In addition, a large number were missing in action and some may still be alive in communist prisons. On November 13, 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated in Washington, D.C., as a tribute to those who served.

NIXON RESIGNS PRESIDENCY

Washington, D.C., August 8, 1974

Facing the certainty of impeachment proceedings in Congress, the president has resigned and bade farewell to political life. In what is surely one of America's saddest days, this man who led us to restored dignity after the Vietnam War, has become the first president in our history to resign while in office.

Middle East at war

The "Holy Land" is a name given an area of Asia at the far eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea. It is holy to people of three world religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. For this reason it has been a center of conflict for many centuries.

In 1967 Egypt attempted to block shipping in and out of the Israeli port of Elat. In the brief (6-day) war that followed, Israel soundly defeated the Arab nations of Egypt and Syria and occupied the Gaza Strip, the Sinai Peninsula, and the Golan Heights.

Attempts by Egypt and Syria to reclaim this land in 1973 led to another brief war. The United States supported Israel and the Soviet Union supported Egypt and Syria. The United Nations arranged a cease-fire, but the Arab nations were very angry over America's support of Israel.

The Arab nations are the world's largest supplier of oil and much of their oil was exported to America. So, in October 1973, the (Arab) Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) placed an *embargo* on export of oil to nations who had been supporting Israel.

Energy crisis

Supplies of oil to the United States dropped dramatically under the OPEC embargo. Since America uses so much oil and was so dependent on these imports, what do you suppose happened?

Yes, the United States experienced great shortages of oil and all products made from oil. It made all Americans realize how much we depended on oil in our daily lives. With so little oil available, what do you think happened?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Conservation

In order to conserve gasoline, new restrictions were placed on driving. Speed limits were lowered, gas stations limited the amounts of gas sold and the days on which it was sold.



This large field of solar panels powers Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada.

Since much of our electricity was generated from plants burning oil, some areas were required to reduce power consumption. New fuel sources were sought.

Alternative fuels

Oil is not the only source of energy. Now was the time to explore all the others. This included nuclear, hydro-electric, solar, wind, and even *geothermal* energy sources. Underground heat around geysers and volcanos produce "geothermal energy."

ALASKAN OIL ARRIVES

Valdez, Alaska, July 28, 1977

The first oil has finally arrived here through the Trans-Alaska Pipeline today. It is believed that future oil deliveries from Prudhoe Bay will reduce our need for imported oil by at least 15%.

Alaska Pipeline

New sources of oil also became very important. This included the huge pool of oil discovered under Prudhoe Bay, Alaska. A pipeline over 800 miles long was planned to bring the oil to Valdez, Alaska, for shipment by tanker to refineries along the west coast.

Environmental concerns

The energy crisis also produced an environmental crisis. For the first time, Americans faced difficult questions about the price of prosperity. How would it be if we destroyed the world while producing the energy we needed? This possibility became very real when America experienced two serious environmental accidents.

On March 31, 1979, an energy disaster occurred at Three Mile Island near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. A failure at the nuclear power plant almost led to a *meltdown* of the reactor. That would have released a tremendous amount of life-killing radiation into the atmosphere. A catastrophic nuclear explosion might even have occurred.

Then, on March 24, 1989, the 987-foot long oil-tanker "Exxon Valdez" went aground in Alaska. It released 1,260,000 barrels of crude oil into Prince William Sound. It was the largest oil spill in American history.

What do you suppose happened to the oil?

End of the Cold War

In 1980 Ronald Reagan became the 40th president of the United States. He served in that office for eight years that included one of the most important events of recent history: the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end to the Cold War that started in 1946.

The end of 1989 saw the end of the Berlin Wall that had separated East and West Berlin for so many years. The reunification of Germany was a sign of new hope for a long-lasting peace. But many challenges remained.

Recent years have seen American military engagements in Grenada, Haiti, Libya, Kuwait, Iran, Iraq, and Somalia. They demonstrate America's role in world affairs. They are almost current events! We say they are "recent history." You can read about them in newspapers and magazines at your community library.

Mount St. Helens erupts

As terrible as a nuclear blast may be, the power of nature is far greater. Nothing made that more clear than the awesome eruption of Mount St. Helens in the state of Washington on May 18, 1980. The force of the explosion was estimated at 500 times that of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima, Japan, in 1945!

At least 26 people were killed and volcanic ash fell like snow for more than 100 miles.

First Gulf War

The OPEC oil embargo of 1973 had made it clear to America's leaders that in addition to Israel the United States needed strong Arab friends in the Middle East. American diplomats spent years building relationships with many Arab countries including Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Kuwait. Everything changed in August of 1990 when these nations got into a fight.

Kuwait and Iraq are neighbors who share a common border, common language and an oil field. Both countries are also members of OPEC and are supposed to follow OPEC rules for their oil production. Iraq accused Kuwait of pumping more than their allowance of oil and possibly stealing Iraq's oil as well. On

August 2, 1990 Iraq decided to invade Kuwait and take over the country. It only took 3 days for the invasion to be over and it appeared that Iraq was considering attacking Saudi Arabia next.

World leaders demanded that Iraq leave Kuwait. They went to the United Nations and discussed the problem. The United Nations agreed the Iraq should leave and authorized a joint effort by member nations, including America, to free Kuwait. American soldiers, airmen and sailors were soon on their way to the Middle East.

The war started on January 17, 1991 with airstrikes all across Iraq. On February 23, 1991 the ground troops were sent in. The war was over very quickly. In less than 100 hours (4 days) Iraq's army had been totally defeated and U.S. President George H. Bush declared a cease fire. Kuwait had been liberated! The allies stopped short of forcing Iraq's President, Saddam Hussein, to step down though. Soon they would regret this.

September 11

Few dates stick in the American mind like September 11, 2001. Mention it to anyone who was old enough to understand what was happening on that day and they will be able to tell you exactly where they were when they found out that terrorists had attacked the United States and killed nearly 3,000 people in just a few hours.

Terrorists had hijacked four airliners full of passengers and fuel. They took over the controls and crashed the three of the planes into buildings. One each into the two towers of the World Trade Center in New York City and one into the Pentagon in Washington, DC. The towers of the World Trade Center were the tallest buildings in New York City. The planes hit near the tops of each tower and started huge fires. Eventually the towers collapsed into giant piles of rubble. When they heard what was happening the passengers on the fourth plane decided to fight the hijackers. The hijackers crashed their plane into a field before the passengers could stop them. Many people think that the hijackers wanted to crash the plane into the White House.

The terrorist group Al-Qaeda claimed responsibility for the attacks. They said they did it to punish America for supporting Is-



This is all that was left of the Twin Towers in New York. Each tower had more than 100 floors.

Photo by Jim Watson

rael, helping defend Saudi Arabia and attacking Iraq. American President George W. Bush, George H. Bush's son, vowed to punish Al-Qaeda and any other people who helped the attacks.

War on Terrorism

After the 9/11 attacks America tried to find out where Al-Qaeda had their training camps and bases. Many of them were in the country of Afghanistan. The United States demanded that Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden be handed over for trial. The Afgans refused and on October 6, 2001 American soldiers were sent into Afghanistan to try to stop Al-Qaeda and force the government of Afghanistan to change. American soldiers were sent to Iraq for the second time in March of 2003 in another part of the War on Terrorism. The fight against terrorism goes on today all around the world.

EXTRA!

Mytown, America, Now

The last issue of "Our Land of Liberty" is being read and studied by 21st century pioneers. Now it will be their turn to make the news. Surely our nation is in good hands!

Liberty and Justice for all

In our study of America, we have seen our nation's pioneering spirit conquer one frontier after another. What began as an effort merely to survive on this continent 400 years ago is now an effort to survive in space.

Along the way, Americans built the world's greatest nation and the most stable political system. The United States became the model for freedom loving peoples world-wide and provided the strength to assure the survival of democracy.

America has also become the world's leader in *technology*. From space travel to medicine, from computers to communication, from kitchen appliances to highways, from education to entertainment, America leads the world.

Much of America's growth has been accomplished because of freedoms and rights directly or indirectly guaranteed by the Constitution. One way to remind yourself of this is to remember the last line of the Pledge of Allegiance. The pledge describes America as "*one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.*" Liberty and justice are freedoms which we must work to protect and strengthen or else they get weaker. One day soon this will be your job as well!

What can you do that will help assure that liberty and justice grow for all of us in the years to come?

OTHER NEWS BULLETINS OF 1969-NOW

Here are some other names and events you may want to explore:

- 1970 First "Earth Day" focuses on our environment.
"Feminist" movement becomes widespread.
- 1974 110 story Sears (now Willis) Tower finished in Chicago. World's tallest structure.
OPEC lifts embargo on oil exports to America relieving America's energy crisis.
- 1976 Bi-centennial celebrations held nation-wide.
- 1980 Americans are held hostage in Iran until Jan. 1981.
- 1981 First space shuttle flies successfully.
IBM produces personal computer.
- 1982 First artificial heart transplant.
- 1983 America intervenes in political crisis in Grenada.
- 1986 Catastrophic failure of Challenger space shuttle results in death of all crew members.
U.S. bombs Libya in retaliation for terrorism.
- 1990 Iraq invades Kuwait as dictator Saddam Hussein boasts of "Mother of all Wars."
- 1991 United Nations forces led by the U.S. score decisive victory over Hussein's Iraqi forces in operation designated as "Desert Storm."
- 2001 The September 11 terrorist attacks on New York, Washington and Pennsylvania kill nearly 3,000.
- 2001 Afghanistan invaded by a group of countries led by the U.S. in an attempt to break up Al-Qaeda and capture Osama bin Laden.
- 2003 America sends troops into Iraq for the second time. Saddam Hussein is eventually captured. He is put on trial by Iraq's new government and later executed.
- 2009 Barak Obama becomes the first African American to become President of the United States

REACTION TIME!

1. Is the space program important to America? Why, or why not?
2. Did anyone in your family serve in Vietnam, Iraq or Afghanistan? If so, discuss it with them and write a brief report.
3. Look up the three world religions of the Middle-East (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam) and explain their differences.
4. What can **you** do to assure that America will be the Land of Liberty for your children?

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