

NEW WORLDS: FIRST NATIONS AND FIRST EXPLORERS FLIP CARD

Big Idea: America's First Nations arrived from Asia by way of a land bridge and adapted to the varied environments in North and South America thousands of years ago.

During the last Ice Age, between 40,000 and 10,000 years ago, much of the water on Earth's surface was contained in huge masses of ice covering the poles. This meant that parts of the Earth's surface normally covered by water were exposed and tribes could walk across a **land bridge** from one continent to the other. The migration of these early Americans may have been the result of their following herds for food in their **hunter-gatherer** culture.

As the frozen glaciers and ice caps began to melt, water filled the seas and raised the levels so the land bridge fell below sea level at the **Bering Strait**.

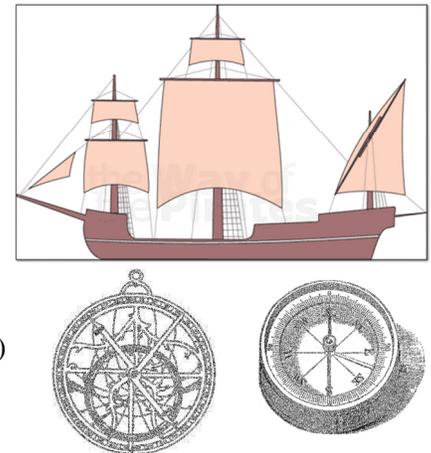
Once the early people crossed the bridge, they continued to move in search of food and water. Groups settled in areas all over the new continent. **Through the centuries they developed different ways of life because their food and shelter solutions adapted to each environment.**



Groups studied in 4 th Grade	Types of Houses	How they used the land	Culture and Contributions
Arctic —cold temperatures, harsh climate, limited choices for shelter and food. Nomads moving along the edges of land and sea ice. Inuit & Eskimo.	Shelters of packed snow or chopped ice (igloo).	Seal skin stretched over bone or wood frames for small boats (kayaks); hunted and fished in marine ecosystem.	Nomads. Rich storytelling traditions, and intricate decorative work on parkas and bone tools.
Pacific Northwestern --Cool, rainy climate, lots of trees and fast moving rivers. Makah, Kwaikutl, Tlingit, Haida.	Plank houses to take advantage of huge forests and provide shelter during harsh winters.	They hunted, gathered, fished (including fish weirs (cages made from branches) in rivers), trapped furs.	Built totem poles to tell stories of heroes and traditions, round of potlatches in winter to maintain friendships with other tribes.
Plains -- They lived on the vast treeless plains of middle North America. They were nomads following herds. Cheyenne, Sioux (Lakota).	Temporary houses called tepees that could be taken down and put back up again quickly – covered with hides of animals.	They hunted and gathered berries, fruits, and root crops on the plains. Followed herds, camping by rivers.	Domesticated (trained) dogs to work and hunt. After the 1700s, developed horse culture. Used every part of buffalo, wasted nothing.
Southwestern -- They lived along canyon walls to take advantage of shade and limited water resources. Hopi, Navajo (Dinee).	Built adobe or mud houses (pueblos) on the sides of cliffs for protection and coolness.	Farmers and hunters, used pottery for storage, decoration, and cooking. Decorative jewelry made with beads and turquoise.	Maize culture depending on corn crop –when rain scarce they would perform Snake Dance ceremony.
Eastern Woodlands -- lived in the wooded area of eastern North America, all up and down the eastern coast. Iroquois, Algonquin.	Permanent houses built in different shapes with wood frames and covered with hides, bark, and branches (longhouses).	Hunted and farmed (Agriculture —corn, beans, & squash). Fished in rivers and streams.	Iroquois League (5 tribes) Representative tribal council selected by older women, walls around villages called palisades, lived in small groups called clans.
Southeastern -- Lived in warmer climate, fewer clothes, water transportation important	Open houses allow breezes to cool, bark or palm over wood frame (wigwams).	They hunted, farmed, fished in streams and the ocean if close enough.	Creek, Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Catawba, Seminole. Used boats for travel and fishing

Big Idea: Much later, 500 years ago, European explorers touched the edges of the North and South American continents in search of a trade route to Asia before realizing they had encountered a whole “New World.” Some tried to find ways to “just go around it” to get to Asia for trade, while others mapped the land and claimed portions for their home country.

As Europe developed in the early Renaissance (rebirth of culture and learning), there was great competition between rulers of the nations to **increase trade and claim territory. New shipbuilding methods, new instruments to measure distance and direction, and new mapmaking skills developed.** The shipbuilders of the 15th century invented a new combination of triangular lateen sails for catching wind at angles and square sails for speed which allowed ships to move when there was little wind or sail into the wind by tacking back and forth. An astrolabe (Arab device measuring the angle of the stars above the horizon) and compass (Chinese use of magnetized metal to point North) vastly improved navigations skills and knowledge of explorers’ locations.



Nations and Explorers	Motivation	Accomplishments
Vikings -built very sturdy ocean going vessels that could travel long distances. Erik the Red settled in Iceland after being driven out of Scandinavia, then moved on to Greenland . His son, Leif Eriksson , explored North America .	New lands to live in because their old land was so harsh. Greenland (986) was mostly ice; Helluland , a land of flat rocks; Markland , a land of little trees; and Vinland , a land where grapes grew by the year 1000.	Other Vikings came after, but difficult living conditions and conflicts with Native Americans caused them to abandon North America within a few years and Greenland by 1300 . Because Scandinavia culture had few peaceful contacts with other European nations, other European writers and thinkers remained unaware of their discoveries, recorded in long poems, or sagas .
Portugal -jumped ahead because of Prince Henry’s School of Navigation and location on the ocean, surrounded by Spain.	Explore new lands, open trade with other nations, gain riches and fame.	Bartholomeu Dias explored the African coast to the Cape of Good Hope (southern tip of Africa) in 1488. Vasco de Gama reached India in 1498. Mapped large areas of the world, improved methods of navigation, began trade with coastal Africa and India.
Spain –Christopher Columbus discovered a new world—two continents in 1492—but died in 1506 thinking he had reached the Indies . (<i>He was NOT the first to think the Earth was round, but the first to risk the voyage (he underestimated the distance by a multiple of 3)</i>).	Explore new lands, open trade with other nations, gain riches and fame, spread the Christian religion. Tried westward route due to Portuguese claims to African coast colonies south and east. Ferdinand Magellan’s 1519-1522 expedition was the first to reach Asia and return, but with terrible loss of life.	Hernando deSoto’s expedition in the southeast (1539-42) and Francisco Coronado’s (1540-1542) southwest expedition allowed Spain to claim these area of North America. Spain gained great wealth from gold and silver mining in Mexico and South America and spread the Christian religion, but also began slavery in North America in addition to spreading diseases in early contacts with Native Americans.
England —sent explorers John Cabot and Henry Hudson in search of a passage around or through the continent, later colonized the lands the explorers charted, in modern Canada.	Seeking to gain wealth from a Asia or the new continents and be able to trade with Spain and Portugal on even terms. When the search for wealth failed, they turned to settlement.	While John Cabot’s voyages (1497-1499) and Henry Hudson’s voyage (1610-1611) failed to find a passage around North America to the north, they did provide English claims to modern Canada . England then opened the land to colonization and settlement due to limited lands at home in their island country.
France They explored the northern part of the New World. Robert, Sieur de La Salle , explored the Great Lakes region and the Mississippi, claiming the Louisiana Territory for France in honor of Louis XIV in 1682.	Also seeking an all-water route to India and China, but then focused on what the land had to offer, especially furs. Later established Christian missions with many tribes.	The French explored northern Canada trying to find a way to sail to the East. Settled in Quebec and explored all along the rivers of North America, trading with Native peoples and trapping valuable furs to send home to France . The French got along well with most Native American groups, and established Christian missions. Their claims to the Mississippi region blocked English expansion westward.
The Dutch, or the Netherlands (Holland) . Motivated by trade, not as interested in colonization.	Interested primarily in trade, either with Asia using a Northwest Passage through North America or with the Native Americans themselves.	Hired English captain Henry Hudson , who explored the river named for him in present-day New York in 1608-1609. The Dutch would settle in this region and name it New Netherlands , with a trade capital at New Amsterdam (modern New York City).