

# The New World

## How Did America Begin?

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North and South America were unknown to the rest of the world until the end of the fifteenth century. When Europeans sailed from Europe to Asia, they first had to sail around Africa. This made the journey very long and very dangerous. People began to wonder whether there was a shorter route to Asia. A few believed that sailing west from Europe would be the shortest route. When Columbus attempted this, instead of Asia he found a new land—the Americas.

Not everyone agrees about who discovered the New World first. Some say it was a Scandinavian, Leif Erickson, around 1000 A.D. Many believe it was Christopher Columbus. He was sent in 1492 by the Spanish king and queen to find a western route to Asia. Instead, he found islands that today we call the West Indies.

Because some believed he had landed in India, the people who lived on these islands were called Indians. Today, we often use the word *Indians* to describe the native residents of the New World. But a more proper term is *Native Americans*.

If Columbus or Erickson discovered the New World, why is it called *America*? The answer to that question is simple: An Italian sailor, Amerigo Vespucci, traveled to the New World after Columbus. His name became connected with the new land, and today we call the regions of the western hemisphere North America, Central America, and South America.

A few decades after Columbus' discovery, people began traveling to America to find their fortune there or just to begin a new life. The English Pilgrims landed at Plymouth, Massachusetts, in 1620 and started a settlement there. They were looking for religious freedom. They struggled through cold winters and hot summers, but with the help of Native Americans, their community survived and began to grow.

They celebrated their good harvest with a feast of thanksgiving. That tradition continues today. All Americans celebrate Thanksgiving on the fourth Thursday of November.

## Important Words

Learn the meaning of these new words. Say a sentence using each new word.

unknown = no one knows about this

century = 100 years

sail = travel by ship

journey = a trip

dangerous = unsafe and difficult

attempt = try

instead of = in place of something

discover = find

route = road, way

island = land surrounded by water

resident = a person who lives somewhere

western hemisphere = continents of the New World

decade = 10 years

community = town, neighborhood

“The answer is unknown to me.”

“My family has lived here for a century.”

“Columbus sailed west.”

“The journey from Spain was long.”

“Life was dangerous in the new land.”

“They attempted to travel across the Atlantic.”

“I bought a truck instead of a car.”

“Who discovered America?”

“I travel this route to work.”

“Puerto Rico is an island.”

“I am a resident of the United States.”

“Canada is in the western hemisphere.”

“I lived in Mexico two decades ago.”

“My community is on the east side of the city.”

harvest = things grown on farms (noun); to pick the things grown on farms (verb)

survive = live through

north, south, east, and west = the four points on a compass

“Farmers take the corn harvest in the fall.” or “Farmers harvest the corn in the fall.”

“My son survived a terrible accident.”

“Which direction should we go? North, south, east, or west?”

## Write Your New Words

In the blank of the first sentence, write the missing word. In the second sentence, write the same word from memory.

1. North America was unknown to the world.

North America was \_\_\_\_\_ to the world.

North America was \_\_\_\_\_ to the world.

2. Europeans sailed around Africa to Asia.

Europeans \_\_\_\_\_ around Africa to Asia.

Europeans \_\_\_\_\_ around Africa to Asia.

3. Some believed it was the shortest route.

Some believed it was the shortest \_\_\_\_\_.

Some believed it was the shortest \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Columbus found a new land instead of Asia.

Columbus found a new land \_\_\_\_\_ of Asia.

Columbus found a new land \_\_\_\_\_ of Asia.

5. Today, we call these regions the western hemisphere.

Today, we call these regions the western \_\_\_\_\_.

Today, we call these regions the western \_\_\_\_\_.

6. Did Columbus discover America?

Did Columbus \_\_\_\_\_ America?

Did Columbus \_\_\_\_\_ America?

7. We are residents of California.

We are \_\_\_\_\_ of California.

We are \_\_\_\_\_ of California.

8. I lived here for more than a decade.

I lived here for more than a \_\_\_\_\_.

I lived here for more than a \_\_\_\_\_.

9. The harvest was good this year.

The \_\_\_\_\_ was good this year.

The \_\_\_\_\_ was good this year.

10. They were looking for religious freedom.

They were looking for \_\_\_\_\_ freedom.

They were looking for \_\_\_\_\_ freedom.

## Important Questions and Answers

1. What was unknown to the world in the fifteenth century? (North and South America)
2. Around what continent did Europeans sail to Asia? (Africa)
3. What kind of route to Asia did people want? (a shorter route)
4. What did Columbus discover when he sailed west? (a new land, the New World)
5. What is a better term for *Indians*? (Native Americans)
6. Why is the New World called *America*? (It is named for Amerigo Vespucci, a sailor.)
7. Why did people begin traveling to the New World? (to begin a new life, to find their fortune)
8. When did Columbus sail to the New World? (in 1492, fourteen ninety-two)
9. In what hemisphere is America located? (western)
10. Who landed at Plymouth, Massachusetts, in 1620? (Pilgrims)
11. What were the Pilgrims looking for in the New World? (religious freedom)
12. What holiday celebrates a good harvest? (Thanksgiving)

## Is It TRUE or FALSE?

Say TRUE if the sentence is correct. Say FALSE if it is incorrect.

1. The shortest route to Asia was around South America.
2. The New World was unknown until the fifteenth century.
3. The journey to America was easy and pleasant.
4. Some believed that sailing west was the shortest route to Africa.
5. No one knows who discovered America first.
6. The Spanish king and queen sent Columbus to find a western route to Asia.

7. Instead of Asia, Columbus found the West Indies.
8. Columbus came to India in 1492.
9. North America is in the western hemisphere.
10. Native Americans helped the Pilgrims in many ways.
11. Native Americans were once called *Pilgrims*.
12. The Pilgrims found religious freedom in the new land.
13. Native Americans came to Plymouth, Massachusetts, in 1620.
14. Americans celebrate Thanksgiving in July.

## Answers

- |          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. False | 8. False  |
| 2. True  | 9. True   |
| 3. False | 10. True  |
| 4. False | 11. False |
| 5. True  | 12. True  |
| 6. True  | 13. False |
| 7. True  | 14. False |

## Let's Look at Some Important Sentences

Circle the letter of the word or phrase that completes the sentence.

1. The New World was unknown until the fifteenth \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. community
  - b. century
  - c. journey
  - d. attempt
2. The journey to America was \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. shortest
  - b. around Africa
  - c. dangerous
  - d. east
3. The people in the West Indies were called \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Indians
  - b. Pilgrims
  - c. sailors
  - d. Scandinavians

4. Native Americans were the residents of the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Africa
  - b. Spain
  - c. Asia
  - d. New World
  
5. The word \_\_\_\_\_ comes from a sailor's name.
  - a. America
  - b. Pilgrim
  - c. Indian
  - d. hemisphere
  
6. \_\_\_\_\_ is in the western hemisphere.
  - a. Central America
  - b. Spain
  - c. Asia
  - d. Europe
  
7. Columbus traveled to \_\_\_\_\_ in 1492.
  - a. the hemisphere
  - b. Spain
  - c. the New World
  - d. Plymouth
  
8. Pilgrims came from \_\_\_\_\_ and settled in Massachusetts.
  - a. England
  - b. Spain
  - c. Central America
  - d. the community
  
9. The Pilgrims' settlement was called \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Plymouth
  - b. West Indies
  - c. North America
  - d. Thanksgiving
  
10. \_\_\_\_\_ helped the Pilgrims survive the cold winters.
  - a. English
  - b. Amerigo Vespucci
  - c. the king and queen
  - d. Native Americans
  
11. Thanksgiving is a celebration of a good \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. journey
  - b. route
  - c. harvest
  - d. decade

## Answers

- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1. b | 7. c  |
| 2. c | 8. a  |
| 3. a | 9. a  |
| 4. d | 10. d |
| 5. a | 11. c |
| 6. a |       |

## Let's Write the New Words

In the blank, write the word or phrase that completes the sentence. Look at the words in parentheses. They will help you.

1. Their ship slowly \_\_\_\_\_ into the west. (traveled by ship)
2. The New World was \_\_\_\_\_ for many centuries. (no one knows about this)
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ across the ocean took many weeks. (a trip)
4. It was \_\_\_\_\_ to sail to America in the fifteenth century. (unsafe and difficult)
5. He discovered a new land \_\_\_\_\_ Asia. (in place of something)
6. Many believe that Leif Erickson \_\_\_\_\_ America. (found)
7. I am now a \_\_\_\_\_ of this city. (a person living here)
8. She worked in this factory for more than a \_\_\_\_\_. (10 years)
9. Hawaii is a state made up of \_\_\_\_\_. (lands surrounded by water)
10. The Pilgrims had a religious \_\_\_\_\_. (town, neighborhood)
11. Native Americans helped them \_\_\_\_\_ the bad weather. (live through)
12. New York is in the north, and Miami is in the \_\_\_\_\_. (a point on the compass)

## Answers

- |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1. sailed     | 7. resident   |
| 2. unknown    | 8. decade     |
| 3. journey    | 9. islands    |
| 4. dangerous  | 10. community |
| 5. instead of | 11. survive   |
| 6. discovered | 12. south     |

## Life in Colonial America

Several European nations established colonies in North America. The Spanish were the first to come here, but soon after, England, the Netherlands, and France also had colonies here. Most of the colonies were located near the Atlantic coast. The first British colony in America was founded at Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607.

The Dutch founded New York. At that time it was called New Amsterdam, but when it became an English colony, it was renamed to New York.

The American colonists were dependent upon England for manufactured goods, and they sent back to Europe raw materials plus furs, tobacco, and cotton. The relationship worked well for a long time.

Most of the colonists were immigrants from Europe. Many slaves also had been brought from Africa. By 1770 there were about 2 million people in Great Britain's 13 colonies. Nearly 20 percent of them were African slaves.

The original 13 colonies were (from north to south):

Rhode Island	Pennsylvania
Connecticut	Maryland
New Hampshire	Virginia
Massachusetts	North Carolina
New York	South Carolina
New Jersey	Georgia
Delaware	

During the colonial period, Americans considered themselves Englishmen and subjects of the king. But the English parliament decided to impose special taxes on the colonists. This caused the relationship between America and England to change. Americans began to protest the new taxes. Parliament thought the Americans were being disobedient. And as the relationship between the two sides grew worse, violence began to break out.

One of the taxes the Americans hated was the tax on tea. One day when a cargo of English tea arrived in Boston harbor, a group of men boarded the ship and threw the tea into the harbor as a protest. This was called *the Boston Tea Party*.

## Important Words

Learn the meaning of these new words. Say a sentence using each new word.

located = situated, found

dependent upon = relying on

manufactured goods = things made in a factory

raw materials = things used to make a new product

relationship = connection or bond with someone

found = set up, create

rename = give a new name

colonist = person sent to live in a new place

immigrant = newcomer from another country

slave = servant in bondage

original = the first one, genuine

parliament = legislature of England

“The factory is located in the city.”

“Children are dependent upon their parents.”

“Our company makes many kinds of manufactured goods.”

“Wood and steel are some of the raw materials we use.”

“The relationship between England and the colonies was growing weak.”

“The Dutch founded New Amsterdam.”

“They renamed our school John F. Kennedy High School.”

“The Pilgrims were early colonists of Massachusetts.”

“I came to America as an immigrant.”

“There were slaves in America for many years.”

“This is an original painting by Picasso.”

“Parliament governed the colonies.”

tax = money owed the government  
protest = complain  
violence = fury, dangerous and unlawful force  
harbor = port, anchorage  
cargo = goods on a ship

“I pay my taxes every year.”  
“The colonists protested the unfair taxes.”  
“Violence broke out in the streets.”  
“There were two ships in the harbor.”  
“The men threw the cargo into the harbor.”

## Write Your New Words

In the blank of the first sentence, write the missing word. In the second sentence, write the same word from memory.

1. The English established a settlement in Virginia.

The English \_\_\_\_\_ a settlement in Virginia.

The English \_\_\_\_\_ a settlement in Virginia.

2. The colonies were located on the coast.

The colonies were \_\_\_\_\_ on the coast.

The colonies were \_\_\_\_\_ on the coast.

3. New Amsterdam was renamed New York.

New Amsterdam was \_\_\_\_\_ New York.

New Amsterdam was \_\_\_\_\_ New York.

4. The first British colony was Jamestown.

The first \_\_\_\_\_ colony was Jamestown.

The first \_\_\_\_\_ colony was Jamestown.

5. They founded Plymouth colony.

They \_\_\_\_\_ Plymouth colony.

They \_\_\_\_\_ Plymouth colony.

6. Many colonists came to America.

Many \_\_\_\_\_ came to America.

Many \_\_\_\_\_ came to America.

7. The Americans were dependent upon England for many things.

The Americans were \_\_\_\_\_ upon England for many things.

The Americans were \_\_\_\_\_ upon England for many things.

8. The colonies sent back raw materials to Europe.

The colonies sent back raw \_\_\_\_\_ to Europe.

The colonies sent back raw \_\_\_\_\_ to Europe.

9. The Parliament imposed a tax.

The \_\_\_\_\_ imposed a tax.

The \_\_\_\_\_ imposed a tax.

10. I pay my taxes every year.

I pay my \_\_\_\_\_ every year.

I pay my \_\_\_\_\_ every year.

11. Twenty percent of the people were slaves.

Twenty percent of the people were \_\_\_\_\_.

Twenty percent of the people were \_\_\_\_\_.

12. There were 13 original English colonies.

There were 13 \_\_\_\_\_ English colonies.

There were 13 \_\_\_\_\_ English colonies.

13. Soon violence began to break out.

Soon \_\_\_\_\_ began to break out.

Soon \_\_\_\_\_ began to break out.

## Important Questions and Answers

1. What nations established colonies in North America? (European nations)
2. What nation came first to North America? (Spain)
3. In what year did the English found Jamestown? (1607)
4. What was New York's original name? (New Amsterdam)
5. What did the colonists receive from England? (manufactured goods)
6. What did the colonists send to England? (raw materials, furs, tobacco, cotton)
7. From what continent did the American colonists come? (Europe)
8. What percent of the colonial population were African slaves? (twenty percent)
9. What did Parliament impose on tea? (a tax)
10. What happened when the relationship between England and the colonies grew worse? (violence broke out)
11. What was the Boston Tea Party? (a protest)
12. Where did the men throw the tea at the Boston Tea Party? (into the harbor)

## Is It TRUE or FALSE?

Say TRUE if the sentence is correct. Say FALSE if it is incorrect.

1. African nations established colonies in North America.
2. The Spanish were the last to come to the New World.
3. France's first colony was called Jamestown.
4. New Amsterdam was renamed New York.
5. Most of the colonists in America were immigrants from Europe.
6. The American colonies depended upon France.
7. The colonies sent manufactured goods to England.
8. Great Britain had 13 colonies in North America.
9. The Americans imposed a tax on Parliament.
10. England thought the colonists were disobedient.
11. The colonists liked the tax on tea.
12. The relationship between the colonists and England grew worse.
13. Men boarded a ship in Boston harbor and threw the tea cargo into the water.

## Answers

- |          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. False | 8. True   |
| 2. False | 9. False  |
| 3. False | 10. True  |
| 4. True  | 11. False |
| 5. True  | 12. True  |
| 6. False | 13. True  |
| 7. False |           |

## Let's Look at Some Important Sentences

Circle the letter of the word that completes the sentence.

1. Several nations \_\_\_\_\_ colonies in the New World.
  - a. locate
  - b. established
  - c. brought
  - d. sent back

2. Most colonies were located near the Atlantic \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. coast
  - b. continent
  - c. world
  - d. harbor
  
3. A British colony called Jamestown was \_\_\_\_\_ in 1607.
  - a. locate
  - b. renamed
  - c. dependent
  - d. founded
  
4. New York was part of an English \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. parliament
  - b. colony
  - c. city
  - d. protest
  
5. America \_\_\_\_\_ upon England for manufactured goods.
  - a. helped
  - b. sent
  - c. depended
  - d. buy
  
6. The colonies sent \_\_\_\_\_ to England.
  - a. tobacco
  - b. slaves
  - c. immigrants
  - d. tea
  
7. Nearly 20 percent of the population were \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. slaves
  - b. immigrants
  - c. Englishmen
  - d. French
  
8. The English \_\_\_\_\_ imposed a tax on tea.
  - a. Parliament
  - b. immigrants
  - c. slaves
  - d. violence
  
9. The \_\_\_\_\_ between England and America began to change.
  - a. protest
  - b. colonial period
  - c. taxes
  - d. relationship

10. The English thought the colonists were \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. immigrants
  - b. dependent
  - c. disobedient
  - d. subjects of the king
11. Soon \_\_\_\_\_ broke out in several towns.
- a. cargo
  - b. violence
  - c. raw materials
  - d. taxes
12. The Boston Tea Party was a \_\_\_\_\_ against the tax on tea.
- a. party
  - b. cargo
  - c. celebration
  - d. protest

## Answers

- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1. b | 7. a  |
| 2. a | 8. a  |
| 3. d | 9. d  |
| 4. b | 10. c |
| 5. c | 11. b |
| 6. a | 12. d |

## Let's Write the Answers

In the blank, write the word or phrase that completes the sentence. Look at the words in parentheses. They will help you.

1. America received \_\_\_\_\_ from England. (things made in a factory)
2. The colonists were \_\_\_\_\_ England for many things. (relying on)
3. For a long time the \_\_\_\_\_ between England and America was good. (connection or bond with someone)
4. Jamestown was \_\_\_\_\_ near the Atlantic coast. (situated, found)
5. The Netherlands \_\_\_\_\_ New Amsterdam. (set up, created)
6. Many who lived in the colonies were \_\_\_\_\_. (servants in bondage)
7. \_\_\_\_\_ began to impose new taxes. (legislature of England)
8. The \_\_\_\_\_ hated the tax on tea. (persons sent to live in a new place)

9. Soon the colonies \_\_\_\_\_ the new taxes. (complained about)
10. \_\_\_\_\_ broke out in many places. (fury, dangerous and unlawful force)
11. The men threw the \_\_\_\_\_ into the harbor. (goods on a ship)
12. England imposed a heavy \_\_\_\_\_ on tea. (money owed the government)
13. *The Boston Tea Party* happened in Boston \_\_\_\_\_. (port, anchorage)

## Answers

- |                       |              |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| 1. manufactured goods | 8. colonists |
| 2. dependent upon     | 9. protested |
| 3. relationship       | 10. Violence |
| 4. located            | 11. cargo    |
| 5. founded            | 12. tax      |
| 6. slaves             | 13. Harbor   |
| 7. Parliament         |              |

## Some Tips About English

- English verbs in the present tense are easy. Only the third person singular (he, she, and it) has a different ending (-s). The only exception is the verb *to be*. Some examples follow:

	<i>to be</i>	<i>to come</i>	<i>to protest</i>	<i>to see</i>
I	am	come	protest	see
you	are	come	protest	see
he, she, it	is	comes	protests	sees
we	are	come	protest	see
they	are	come	protest	see

- Careful! There is a difference between *to find* and *to found*. *Find* means *to discover* or *to locate*:

I *find* some money under the table.

Who *found* my wallet?

*To found* looks like the past tense of *to find*. But it is a different verb. *Found* means *to set up, establish* or *create*:

The Pilgrims *founded* a settlement in Massachusetts.

America was *founded* on principles of democracy.

Notice that *find* is an irregular verb, and *found* is a regular verb. Look at them in the present and past tenses:

	<i>Find</i>	<i>Found</i>
Present Tense	I find, he finds	I found, he founds
Past Tense	I found, he found	I founded, he founded

- Some important words in this chapter are *irregular verbs*. Their past tense form does not follow the regular pattern. Regular verbs in the past tense end in *-ed*. Irregular verbs make other kinds of changes to form the past tense:

	<b><i>Regular Verbs</i></b>	<b><i>to be</i></b>	<b><i>to begin</i></b>
<b>Present Tense</b>	I help, he helps	I am, you are	I begin, he begins
		he is	
<b>Past Tense</b>	I helped, he helped	I was, you were	I began, he began
		he was	
	<b><i>to send</i></b>	<b><i>to grow</i></b>	<b><i>to know</i></b>
<b>Present Tense</b>	I send, he sends	I grow, he grows	I know, he knows
<b>Past Tense</b>	I sent, he sent	I grew, he grew	I knew, he knew
	<b><i>to break</i></b>	<b><i>to bring</i></b>	<b><i>to think</i></b>
<b>Present Tense</b>	I break, he breaks	I bring, he brings	I think, he thinks
<b>Past Tense</b>	I broke, he broke	I brought, he brought	I thought, he thought