

# Core Lesson 3

## VOCABULARY

settlement  
epidemic  
circumnavigate

### Vocabulary Strategy

circumnavigate

The prefix **circum-** comes from a word that means "circle." To **circumnavigate** means to travel in a circle around something.

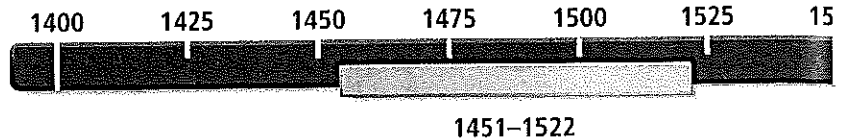
## READING SKILL

### Compare and Contrast

List ways in which the voyages of the explorers in this lesson were alike and different.

ALIKE	DIFFERENT

# Europeans Arrive in the Americas



**Build on What You Know** Many people today like spicy food. In the 1400s, European countries had very few spices. Europeans traveled far to bring spices and other riches back to Europe from distant lands.

## Christopher Columbus

**Main Idea** Christopher Columbus sailed to the islands of the West Indies trying to reach Asia.

Christopher Columbus was born in 1451 near Genoa, in Italy. Columbus studied navigation and believed he could reach Asia by a new route. He wanted to sail west across the Atlantic Ocean, instead of south around Africa. He did not know that North and South America were between Europe and Asia.

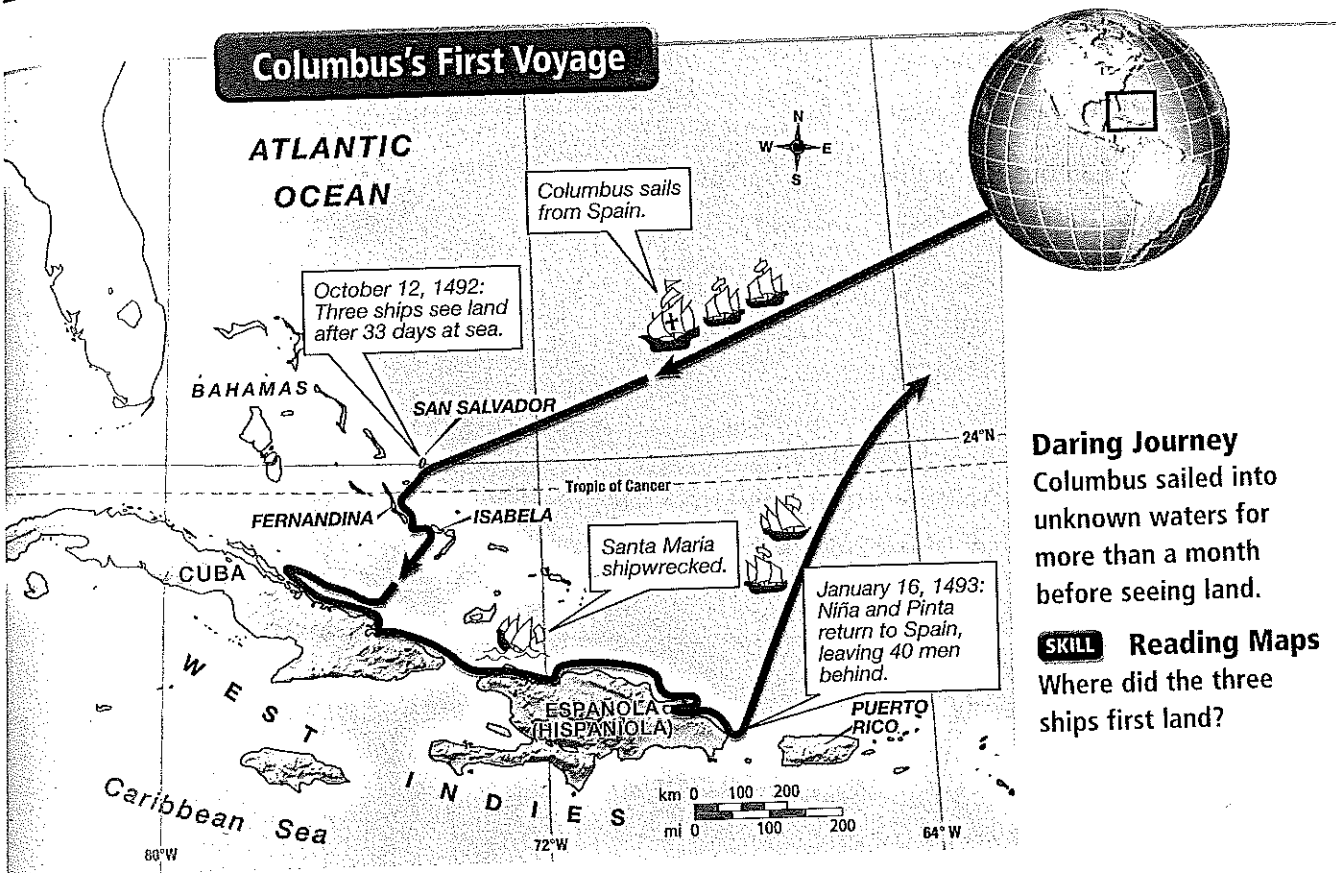
In 1486, Columbus asked **King Ferdinand** and **Queen Isabella** of Spain to pay for a westward voyage to Asia. Ferdinand and Isabella didn't have money for exploration at that time. They were fighting to take back southern Spain from North African Muslims, who had ruled the region for 700 years.

Spain's attempt to push the Muslims out was called the **Spanish Reconquista** (reh con KEY sta).



**Christopher Columbus** This explorer wanted to find a new route to India.

## Columbus's First Voyage



### Daring Journey

Columbus sailed into unknown waters for more than a month before seeing land.

#### **SKILL** Reading Maps

Where did the three ships first land?

### Columbus Sails West

Six years later, in 1492, Columbus again asked Ferdinand and Isabella for money. This time they agreed. Spain had won the Reconquista and needed to pay for it. Ferdinand and Isabella hoped to make money from the gold and spices they believed Columbus would find in Asia. They also wanted to teach others about their religion, Roman Catholicism.

Columbus set sail from Palos, Spain, on August 3, 1492. He carried enough supplies for a year. Close to 90 men traveled in three ships named the Niña, the Pinta, and the Santa María. The sailors did not know how long the trip would take or where they would land. Shortly after midnight on October 12, 1492, a sailor aboard the Pinta saw land.

The ships had arrived at an island in the Caribbean Sea that Columbus named San Salvador. This island is part of the present-day Bahamas, east of Mexico.

Columbus mistakenly believed he had reached land off the coast of Asia, near India. He named the islands the West Indies and the people living on them Indians.

The sailors on this expedition were the first Europeans to meet people of the Caribbean. These people called themselves the Taíno (TY noh), which means "good." The Taíno were peaceful and fought only to defend their villages from attacks. More than 600,000 Taíno lived in the Caribbean at the time of Columbus's visit.

After meeting the Taíno and trading with them, Columbus sailed on with his crew. They visited two other large islands, Cuba and Hispaniola, before returning home.

**REVIEW** Why did Ferdinand and Isabella finally agree to give Columbus money for his voyage in 1492?

## The Columbian Exchange

**Main Idea** Columbus carried new plants and animals to and from the Americas and Europe.

Columbus made three more voyages to the Caribbean and the coasts of Central and South America. Ferdinand and Isabella wanted him to start settlements and to search for gold. A **settlement** is a small community of people living in a new place. Columbus sailed a fleet of 17 ships back to the island of Hispaniola. He also explored and claimed more islands in the West Indies for Spain.

Columbus and the settlers with him brought ships filled with horses, cows, pigs, wheat, barley, and sugar cane plants to the Western Hemisphere. These animals and plants did not live in the Americas before Columbus brought them there. Some European crops were able to grow in places where local crops could not.

The arrival of Europeans in the West Indies had many harmful effects. Europeans cut down rain forests on Caribbean islands and built sugar plantations. Many American plants and animals were destroyed. The Europeans also brought diseases that the Taíno had never had before. Many Taíno died from epidemics. An **epidemic** is an outbreak of disease that spreads quickly and affects many people. Within 50 years of Columbus's arrival, almost no Taíno people were left.

Columbus returned to Spain with plants no one in Europe had seen. These included maize (corn), peanuts, potatoes, tomatoes, cacao (chocolate), and certain peppers, beans, and squashes.



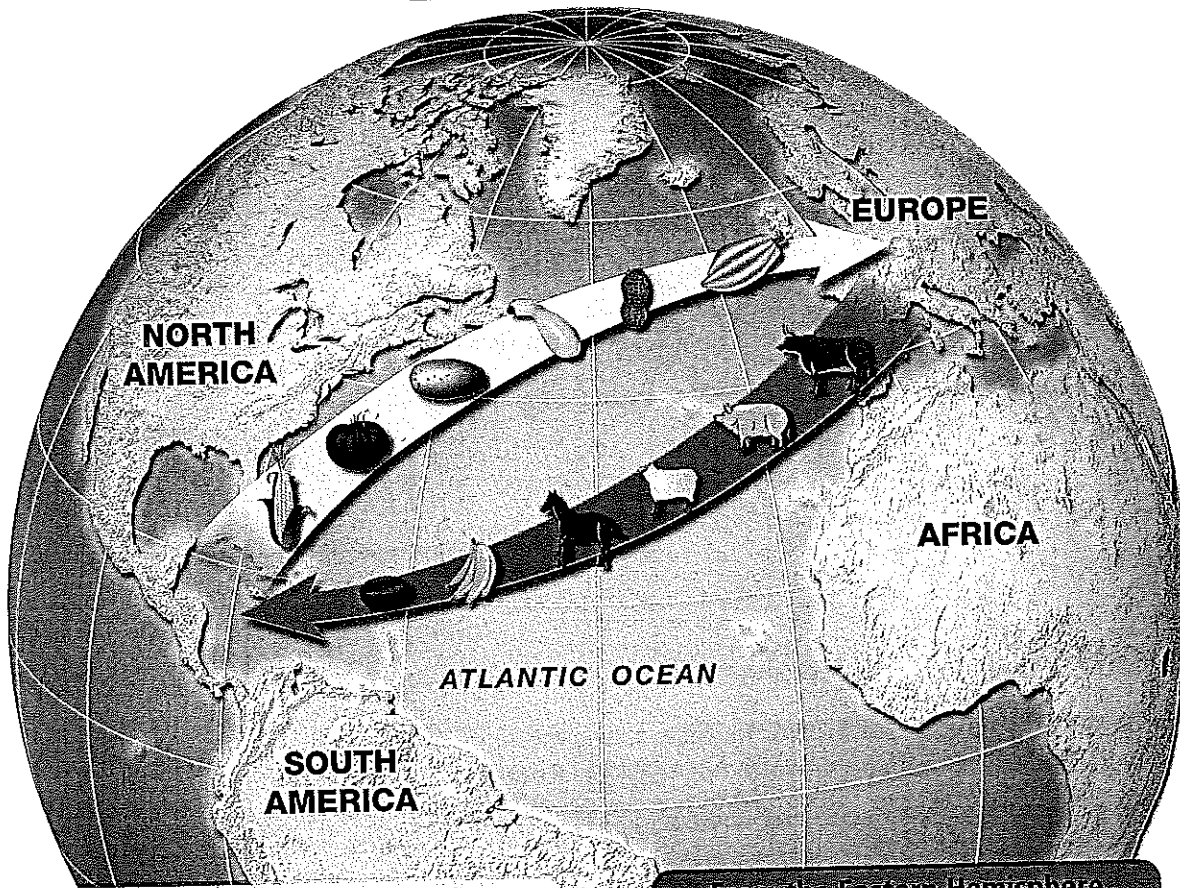
**Columbus Lands** This woodcut from the 1500s shows Columbus meeting the Taíno people in the Caribbean.

This movement of plants, animals, and people between the Eastern and Western Hemispheres is known as the Columbian Exchange.

The Columbian Exchange benefited people all over the world. Potatoes from the Americas became an important food for most Europeans. Corn became an important crop in Africa. Sweet potatoes were grown as far away as China. Today, tomatoes, peanuts, and American beans and peppers are grown in many lands.

**REVIEW** How did the Columbian Exchange change the diet of Europeans?

# Columbian Exchange



## From the Western Hemisphere

These foods came from all over the Americas.



Corn



Squash



Tomato



Peanuts



Potato



Cacao

## From the Eastern Hemisphere

Products went west from many parts of Europe, Africa, and Asia.



Cattle



Horses



Pigs



Bananas



Sheep

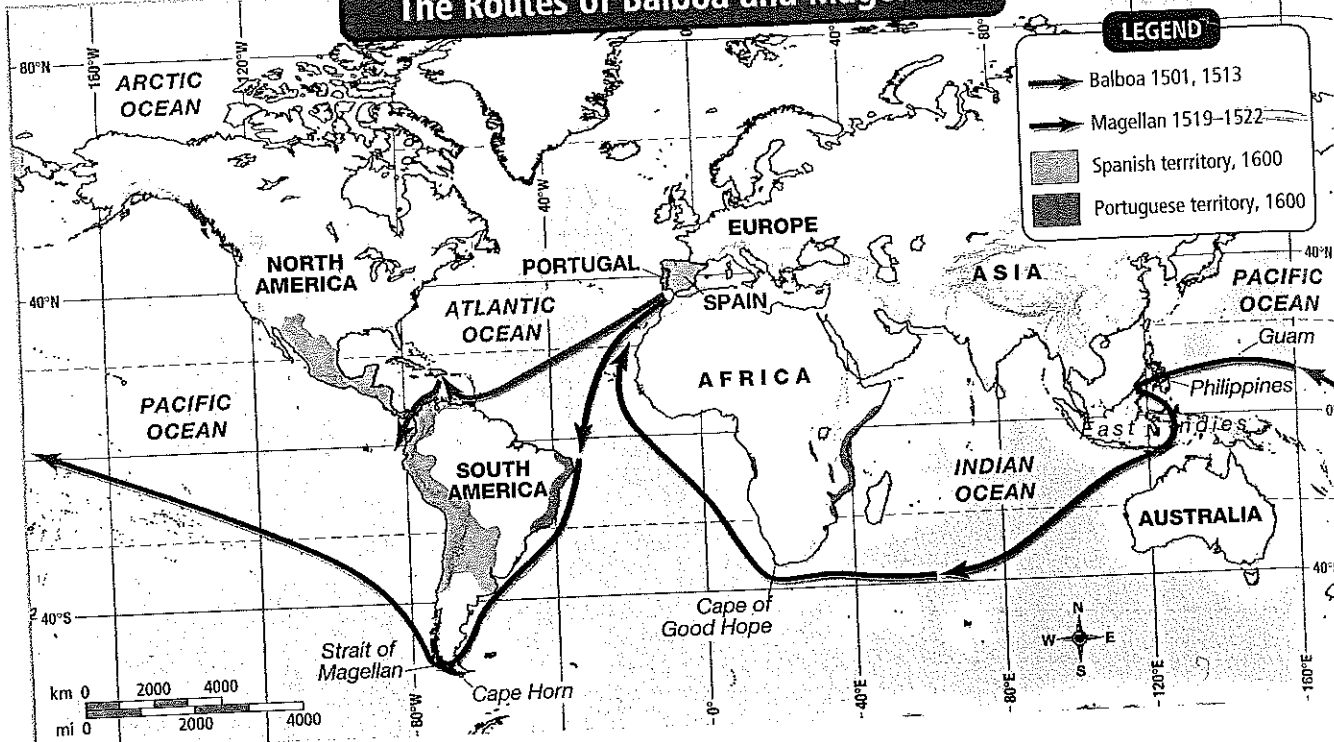


Coffee beans

**Mustangs** These wild horses, called mustangs, were brought to the Americas by Spanish explorers.



## The Routes of Balboa and Magellan



**Magellan Sails Around the World** This map shows the route of Magellan and his crew during the first round-the-world trip. **SKILL** Reading Maps How long did Magellan's voyage take?

## Exploration Continues

**Main Idea** Explorers continued to sail to the Americas to search for new routes to Asia.

Word of Columbus's voyage spread throughout Europe. European rulers soon sent their own explorers to the Americas.

Pedro Alvarez Cabral (ka BRAHL) explored eastern South America in 1500 and claimed it for Portugal. An Italian named Amerigo Vespucci (vehs POO chee) made several voyages to South America and the Caribbean. A Spanish explorer, Vasco Núñez de Balboa, (VAS coh NOON yez deh bal BOH ah) sailed to present-day Panama in Central America. In 1513, he crossed the mountains and jungles of Panama and reached the Pacific Ocean.

## Magellan

Ferdinand Magellan was a Portuguese soldier and sailor who sailed for Spain. Magellan had a daring idea. He believed that he could sail west, go around South America, cross the Pacific Ocean, and end up back in Spain.

Magellan left Spain in September 1519 with five ships and about 250 men. He crossed the Atlantic Ocean and arrived on the coast of present-day Brazil. The crew spent the winter on the coast of present-day Argentina. Magellan then sailed south down the east coast of South America. In November 1520, his ships entered the Strait of Magellan. He named it Pacific, which means "peaceful," because it looked so calm. Magellan and his crew had no idea how large the Pacific was.



### Ferdinand Magellan

His voyage proved people could sail around the world.

Sailing west, Magellan and his crew did not see land for more than three months. Many sailors died of disease and starvation along the way. When they reached the Philippine Islands off the coast of Asia, Magellan was killed in a battle with people on the islands.

Only one ship of the original five survived the trip. It arrived back in Spain in September 1522. It was loaded with valuable spices. Of the 250 men who began the journey, about 18 remained. Magellan's crew became the first explorers to circumnavigate the world.

To **circumnavigate** is to sail completely around something. Although Magellan did not survive the voyage, he proved that Columbus's theory about sailing west to Asia was correct.

**REVIEW** Who named the Pacific Ocean and why?

### Lesson Summary

Columbus first landed in the Caribbean in 1492.

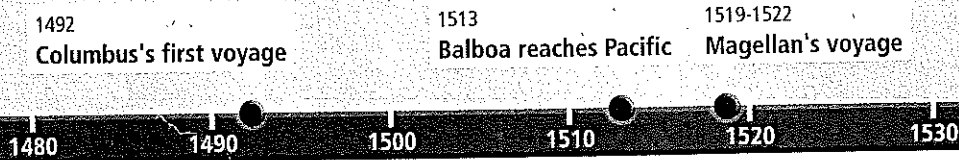
Other explorers, including Vespucci and Balboa, traveled to the Americas.

Magellan's crew was the first to circumnavigate the world.

### Why It Matters . . .

The search for a route to Asia gave Europeans new knowledge of the world's size and geography.

### Lesson Review



- VOCABULARY** Use the words **settlement** and **epidemic** in a paragraph about the Columbian Exchange.
  - READING SKILL** What qualities do you think the explorers probably had in common?
  - MAIN IDEA: Geography** What kinds of food went from the Americas to Europe?
  - MAIN IDEA: History** What was Magellan's goal? Did he succeed? Why or why not?
  - PEOPLE TO KNOW** Who was **Christopher Columbus**, and what did he think was the best way to sail to Asia?
  - TIMELINE SKILL** In what year did the first European see the Pacific Ocean?
  - CRITICAL THINKING: Evaluate** What were the effects of Columbus's journeys in Europe and the Americas?
- WRITING ACTIVITY** Using what you have learned in this lesson, write an entry for a ship's log, or diary, summarizing Magellan's journey.