

Chapter 31 - Exploring New Worlds

Vespucci and Magellan

1. Which explorer first realized that Columbus's new land was not India or Asia, but a whole new continent?

2. Where did Amerigo Vespucci sail?

3. Why did more people read about Amerigo's voyages?

4. The new land was named after Amerigo Vespucci. What was it called?

5. What journey did Ferdinand Magellan hope to complete?

6. How did Magellan plan to get through South America?

7. How did Magellan finally get through South America?

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8. What did he call the ocean on the other side of South America?

9. What do we call the river that cuts through the southern tip of South America?

10. Magellan reached two groups of islands before his ship got to India. Name at least one of them.

11. Did Magellan's ship ever reach India?

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The Mayans of Central America

1. Why do we sometimes still call Native Americans "Indians"?

2. What is the bridge of land that links North and South America called?

3. What was the name of the first great empire of Central America?

4. What peninsula did the Mayans live on?

5. Who lived in the Mayan cities?

6. Name one way the Mayan kings looked "godlike."

7. How much power did the Mayan kings have?

8. What unpleasant duty did the king have before a battle?

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9. What happened to the losers of the Mayan ball game?

10. Name two reasons the Mayan cities crumbled away into the jungle.

The Marvelous City of Tenochtitlan

1. Why did the Aztecs decide to build Tenochtitlan in the middle of a lake?

2. Name at least two of the three ways that the Aztecs made the island dry enough to build houses on.

3. What were the streets of Tenochtitlan like?

4. How did the Aztecs of Tenochtitlan get food?

5. How did the Aztecs grow crops on the lake?

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6. What did the Aztecs eat?

7. What brand-new food from cacao plants did the Aztecs learn how to make?

8. How could the Aztecs keep people from crossing over the earthen roads into their city?

9. Were the Aztecs well-liked by the neighboring tribes?

The Incas

1. Where did the Incas live?

2. What do we call this area today?

3. Why did the Incan god Inti send his son and daughter to the earth?

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4. According to the legend, how did Manco Capac know where to build the city Cuzco?

5. Repeat at least one part of the description of the city of Cuzco.

6. What did the Incan king Huayna Capac build that made trade and travel easy within the empire?

7. Name at least two kinds of goods traded by the Incas.

8. How did Huayna Capac's city governors send messages to one another?

9. Why was the Incan empire so weak when the Spanish explorers arrived?
