

Filling the Earth



Who were the first people in North America?

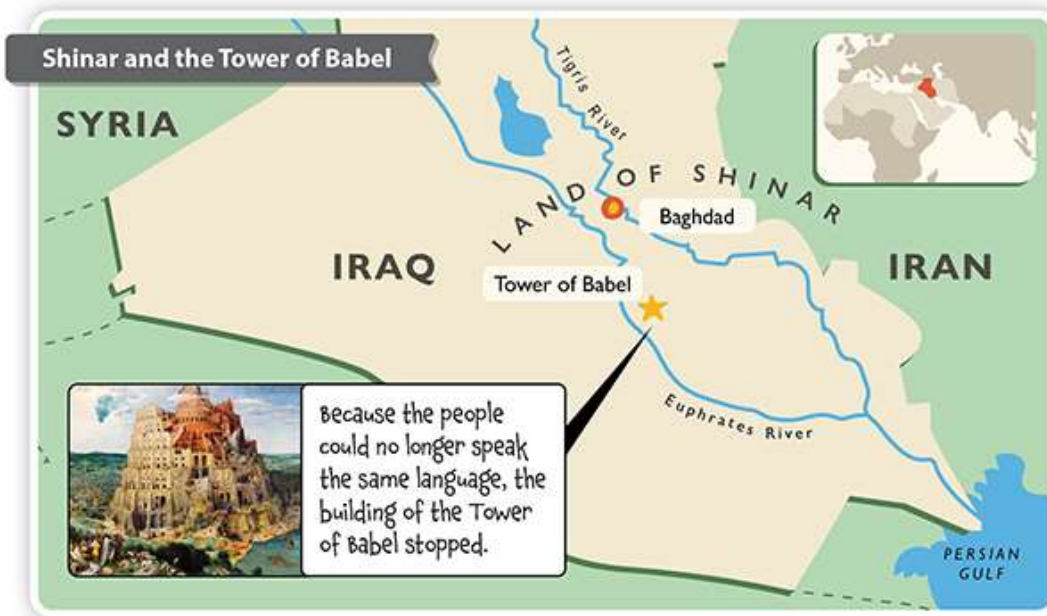
The Creation Mandate

God created Adam and Eve and placed them in the Garden of Eden. He told them, “Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth” (Genesis 1:28). He also told them they could eat the fruit of any tree except one. But Adam and Eve sinned. They ate the forbidden fruit, bringing sin and death into the world.

Man’s sin grew so bad that God decided to flood the earth. But Noah lived to please God. God told him to build an ark. Noah and his family were safe on the ark during the Flood.

After the Flood, God told Noah and his sons, “Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth” (Genesis 9:1). But instead of filling the earth, Noah’s descendants settled in Shinar.

The people decided to build a tower that reached to heaven. They did not want to spread across the earth. God saw their disobedience. He made them speak different languages so they could no longer work together. People formed groups based on the language they could speak. Each group moved in a different direction away from Shinar. In this way God forced the people to fill the earth (Genesis 11:9).



Shinar was in modern-day Iraq.

The New World

First Peoples and Explorers

As people spread over the earth, some migrated across Asia and crossed the Bering Strait to Alaska. Others may have sailed across the ocean. People spread across the land that would become the United States. Today we call these people Native Americans.

For many years no one else knew about the people or land of the Americas. Vikings were

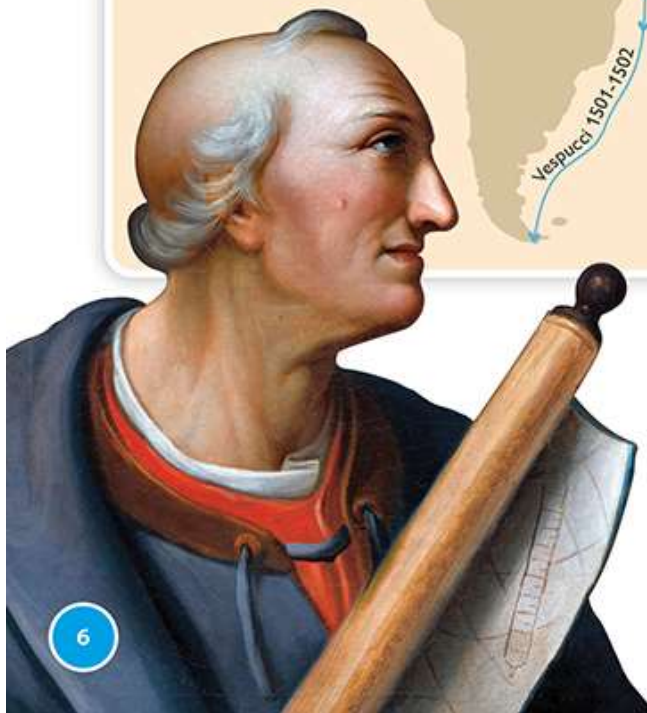
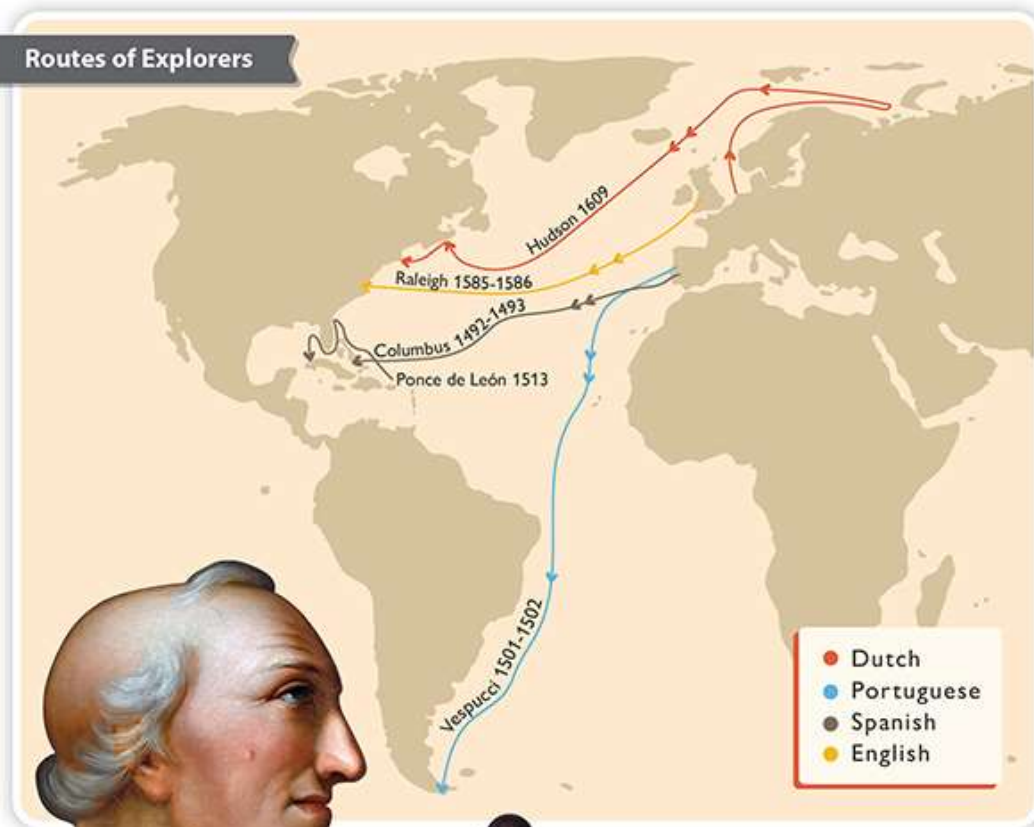
the first European explorers to reach this land. They settled in Greenland and explored the coast of Canada, but they did not communicate their discovery with others. So, this land and its people remained unknown to the rest of the world.



Christopher Columbus is credited for discovering this “new world.” He landed on the island of San Salvador in 1492 and claimed the land for Spain.

European sailors came to the New World. Men like Ponce de León, Amerigo Vespucci, Sir Walter Raleigh, and Henry Hudson also came to explore the land.

Routes of Explorers



Fun Fact

The New World was named America by a German mapmaker in honor of Amerigo Vespucci.

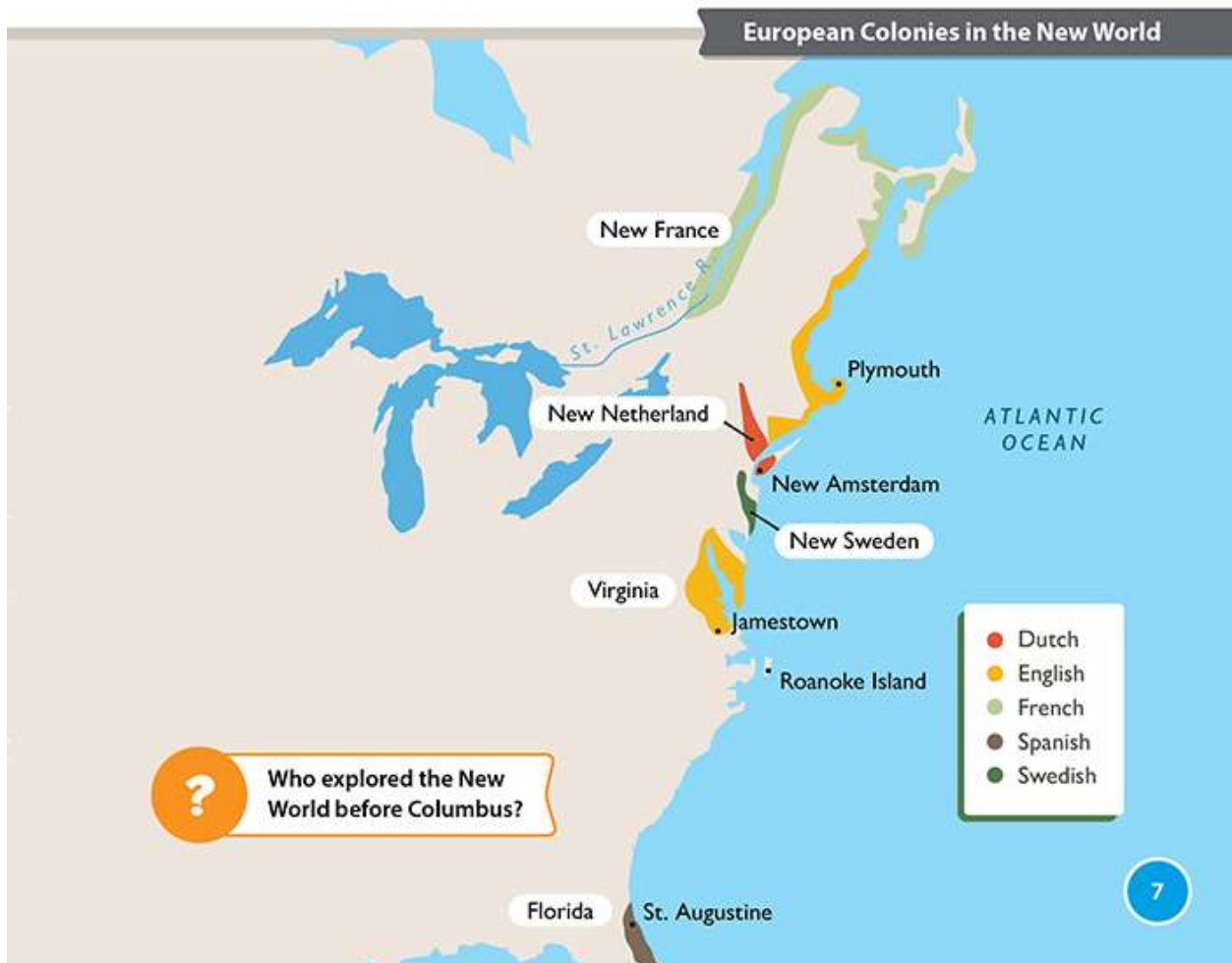
The Colonies

Many European countries claimed land in North America. In 1565 the Spanish established the first permanent European settlement, St. Augustine, Florida.

The English claimed land along the Atlantic coast. They started Roanoke Colony in 1587. The settlers mysteriously disappeared, and Roanoke became known as the Lost Colony. Jamestown, Virginia, was settled by the English in 1607. It became North America's first permanent English settlement.

The French settled along the St. Lawrence River. The Dutch and the Swedes formed colonies on the Atlantic coast. These would later be controlled by the British. Russians settled in Alaska.

The largest settlements in colonial America were the thirteen English colonies. English colonists came to America for many reasons. They wanted to make more money and have religious freedom. They also wanted political freedom, self-government, and useful farmland. The colony of Georgia was started to help the poor and those in debt.



The Revolutionary War



How did the United States begin?

Causes

In 1763 Britain defeated France in the Seven Years' War. To pay for the war, Britain taxed the American colonists. By then most of the colonies had their own local governments. They also had no one representing them in the British Parliament.

Parliament passed the Stamp Act. It taxed everything printed in the colonies. Colonists refused to pay these taxes. They chanted "no taxation without representation." The Stamp Act was **repealed**, or withdrawn, after one year.

Colonists were required to purchase a stamp like this and place it on all printed materials.



Then Britain passed the Townshend Acts to tax other items. The colonists were angry and refused to buy taxed items. One day colonists in Boston began shouting and throwing snowballs and other objects at British soldiers, called **redcoats**. The redcoats fired into the crowd. Five colonists died and others were wounded in the Boston Massacre. Britain repealed all the Townshend Acts except one—the tax on tea.

British tea was sent to the colonies. The colonists refused to accept it. But the governor of Massachusetts decided that three ships of tea should be unloaded. He also said the taxes should be paid. Sixty colonists showed their disapproval. Dressed as Native Americans, they crept onto the ships and dumped the tea overboard. Responding to the Boston Tea Party, Britain passed the Intolerable Acts to punish the colonists.

Patriots dumped 340 tea chests into Boston Harbor in December of 1773. They destroyed over ninety-two thousand pounds of tea in one night.

War

Britain wanted more control over the colonists. Redcoats were sent to Concord, Massachusetts, to destroy the colonists' weapons and ammunition. Colonists discovered the plan. Men secretly rode to Concord to warn the **militia**. A militia is a group of citizen soldiers.

Militiamen met the redcoats in Lexington. No one knows who fired "the shot heard round the world." But in the conflict that followed, eight colonists died, and one redcoat was injured. The Revolutionary War had begun. The redcoats eventually reached Concord. But the **Patriots**, colonists who opposed British rule, had already removed their supplies.

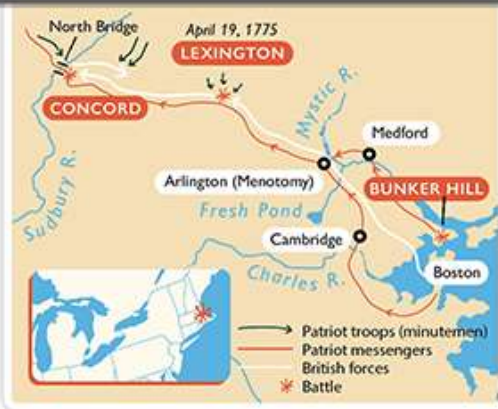
The Continental Congress formed to unite the colonies. Congress formed the Continental Army led by George Washington.

The first major battle was the Battle of Bunker Hill. Colonists controlled Breed's Hill nearby. Redcoats tried three times to take the hill. The third time they were successful, but only because the colonists had used up all their gunpowder. Colonists were encouraged because the British lost more soldiers.

Because Britain did not listen to colonists' concerns, the colonies decided to separate from Britain. Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence, and the Congress signed it. This announced to the world that the colonies were "free and independent states." Now colonists began fighting for their freedom.

The Battles of Saratoga were important for the colonies. The American troops blocked the redcoats from marching toward Albany, New York. Later they attacked and surrounded the redcoats, who surrendered. This was an important victory for two reasons. First, the colonists defeated the British. Second, this victory convinced France to help America fight the British.

Battles of Lexington, Concord, and Bunker Hill



Battles of Saratoga



The winter of 1777–78 was rough. Washington camped his men at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. Many died from hunger and sickness. But the army also received military training. By spring they were more organized and united. And they were ready to fight the British.

Britain won several victories in the south over the next few years. But eventually, American and French troops began pushing the British north. British general Charles Cornwallis marched his army north from South Carolina. Reaching Yorktown, Virginia, he stopped and set up camp. American and French troops blocked the city by land. French ships blocked the city by sea. Yorktown was under **siege**. On October 19, 1781, Cornwallis surrendered. The fighting was over.



US Land after the Revolutionary War



Results

The Treaty of Paris officially ended the war. It was signed in Paris, France, on September 3, 1783. According to the treaty, the states were free and independent. And American **Loyalists**, colonists who had sided with Britain, were to be treated fairly. At the same time, Britain gave Florida to Spain.

TERRITORIES

- United States
- Spanish
- British
- Russian
- French
- Disputed

Timeline of the Revolutionary War

	Feb. 10, 1763	End of the Seven Years' War
Mar. 22, 1765		Stamp Act
	June 1767	Townshend Acts
Mar. 5, 1770		Boston Massacre
	Dec. 16, 1773	Boston Tea Party
1774		Intolerable Acts
	Apr. 19, 1775	Battles of Lexington and Concord
June 1775		Continental Army formed
	June 17, 1775	Battle of Bunker Hill
July 4, 1776		Declaration of Independence
	Dec. 25, 1776	Washington crosses the Delaware
Sept. 19, 1777		First Battle of Saratoga
	Oct. 7, 1777	Second Battle of Saratoga
Dec. 1777–June 1778		Winter at Valley Forge
	Mar. 1, 1781	Articles of Confederation
Sept. – Oct. 1781		Siege of Yorktown
	Oct. 19, 1781	British surrender
Sept. 3, 1783		Treaty of Paris
	Sept. 17, 1787	US Constitution signed



Why did the colonies declare their freedom from Britain?