

## TOPICAL ANALYSIS (AMERICA FOUR HUNDRED YEARS AGO).

1. **Physical Features.** { Eastern part : forest, small clearings.  
Beyond the Mississippi, wild prairies.  
Pacific slope, mountains, fertile valleys.  
Harbors, rivers, climate, soil fitted it for dense population.
2. **First Americans.** { The Peruvians of S. A. } Exhibited rude civili-  
The Aztecs of Mexico. } zation.  
Pueblo tribes in Southwest. }  
Savages called Indians inhabited most of conti-  
nent.
3. **Classification of Indian Tribes.** { East of Miss. R. } Iroquois — New York.  
Algonquins — New Eng. to S. C.  
Mobilians { Creeks, } South.  
Cherokees, etc. }  
West of Miss. R. { Dakotas.  
Sioux.  
Comanches.  
Apaches.
4. **Personal Appearance.**
5. **Home Life.** { Wigwams.  
Occupation of women.  
Occupation of men.  
Condition of children.
6. **Totem:** Its significance.
7. **Government.** { Sachem.  
War Chief.
8. **Religion.** { Manitou.  
Medicine Man.  
Happy Hunting Grounds.
9. **Indian Wars.** — Tribal Antagonisms; Weapons.
10. **Treatment of Captives.** { Running the gauntlet.  
Scalping.  
Adoption of captives.
11. **Relations with Whites.** { Friendly at first.  
Became hostile through encroachments of whites.
12. **Character of Indians.** — Their good traits; their bad traits.
13. **Modern Indians.** { West of Miss. R., Ind. Ter., and other reservations.  
Number: about 300,000.  
Supported chiefly by U. S. Government.
14. **Mound Builders.**

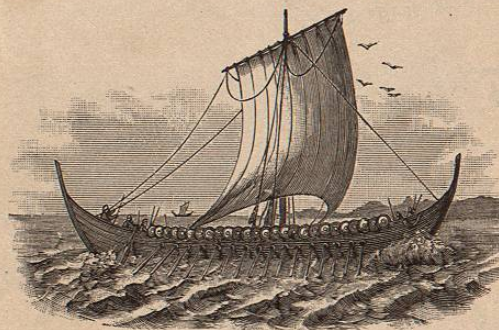
## PERIOD OF DISCOVERY AND EXPLORATION.

## THREE GREAT VOYAGERS.

## I. LEIF ERICSON.

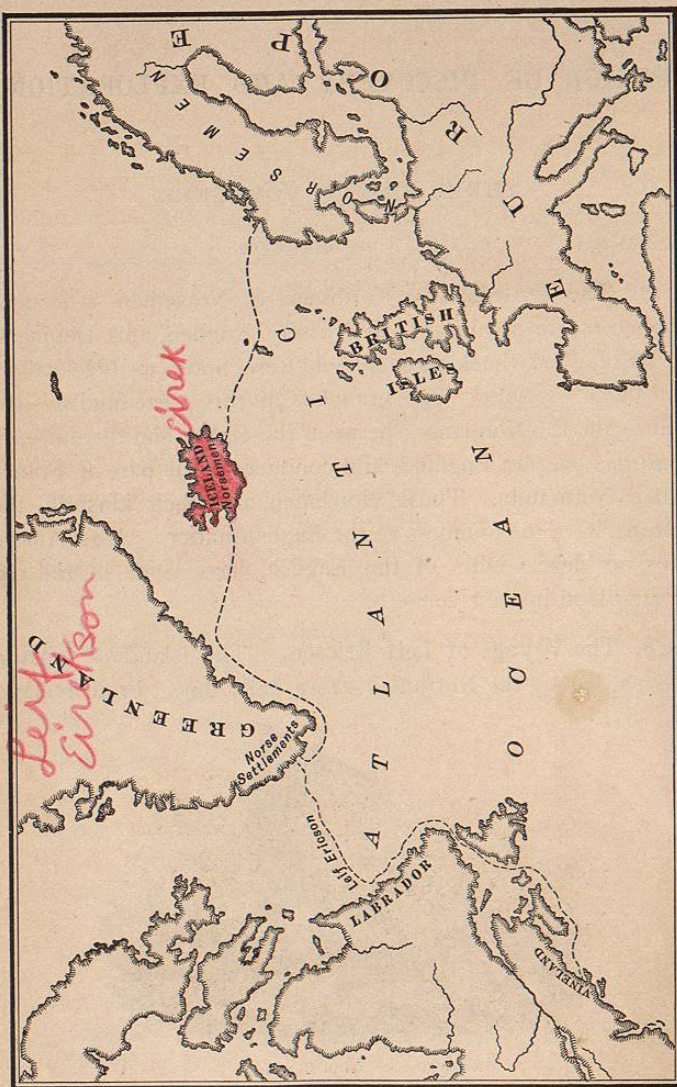
17. **The Northmen.** — Northmen, or Norsemen, is a name applied to the inhabitants of Norway, Sweden, and Denmark. In the earliest times these people were noted as bold sailors and fierce warriors. Two branches of this great family—the Danes and the Normans—between the eighth and the eleventh centuries overran England, and conquered that part of France called Normandy. These Northmen and their kinsfolk, the Saxons, were the founders of the English nation. Most Americans, as descendants of the English, have some of the old Norse blood in their veins.

18. **The Voyage of Leif Ericson.** — The island of Iceland was settled by the Northmen at an early day. From Iceland



Norse Ship of Tenth Century.

these Norsemen made their way to Greenland, and established a few settlements in that frozen country. In about the year



Route of Norse Voyagers.

1000, Leif Ericson, a native of Iceland, sailed from Greenland with thirty-five men in search of a land which a fellow-country-

man, Bjarni, claimed to have seen from his ship some years before. Sailing to the southwest, Ericson came in sight of the bleak shores of Labrador. He coasted toward the south, probably as far as Massachusetts. Finding the climate mild and the country inviting, he landed and spent the winter. From the quantity of grapes which he found, he named the country Vinland.

**19. Result of Leif Ericson's Visit.** — Leif Ericson's discovery attracted but little attention among his people. Several voyages were made to the region he had visited, but no permanent settlement was effected. The Northmen probably regarded Greenland as a part of Norway, and Vinland as an adjacent island. After a while the settlements in Greenland perished and were forgotten. Except to a few Northmen, Ericson's great voyage was not known and had no effect upon the civilized world. Measured by its results, Leif Ericson's visit to America had no historic importance.

**20. The Norse Sagas.** — Authority for the account of Leif Ericson's voyage is found chiefly in the "Norse Sagas." The



Norse Ruins in Greenland.

Sagas are rude stories, half poems, in which the family histories of that early time were preserved. They were at first memorized and thus handed down from father to son; in later years

they were committed to writing. Like the ballad literature of early England, they often contained, with much exaggeration, a solid basis of truth. The unquestioned fact that flourishing settlements of Northmen existed in Greenland, the nearness of Greenland to the continent of America, and the well-known adventurous spirit of the Norse sailors, all serve to confirm the record of the Sagas.

## II. CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS.

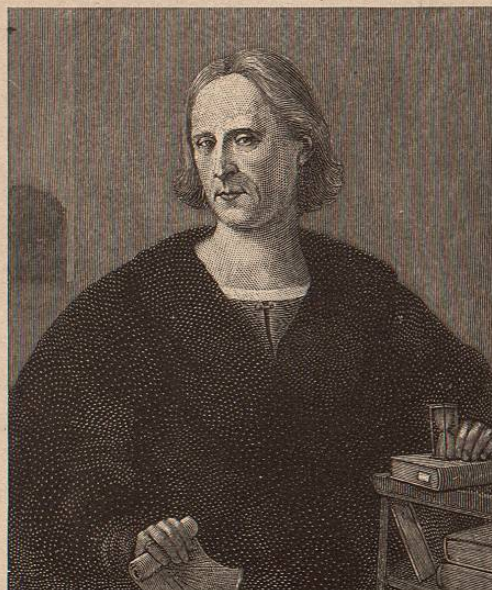
21. **The Times in Which He Lived.**—The early part of the fifteenth century belongs to the period known as the "Dark



Routes of Trade between India and Cities of Southern Europe.

Ages" of the world. Everywhere the common people were oppressed by the nobles, and governments exercised little restraint upon the rich and powerful. In southern Europe some enlightenment was found, but in most lands dense ignorance prevailed. There were few schools and no printed books

The maps of that time show that the shape and extent of the great continents of Africa and Asia were unknown, as was the extent of the seas. It was commonly believed that the earth was flat. A few learned men had advanced the theory that its shape was that of a sphere, but the suggestion was generally looked upon as absurd. The Mediterranean Sea was the great



Columbus.

highway of commerce, and few ships ventured to sail beyond its waters. About the middle of the century printing was invented, and the compass came into general use. As books became plentiful and cheap, the world began to awaken from its long sleep of ignorance. Marco Polo, an Italian, published an account of his travels in India and China. His book was widely read, and directed the attention of merchants and traders to those distant lands. A profitable commerce had already

sprung up between India and the cities of southern Europe, but goods had to be carried part of the journey overland, and this was expensive, troublesome, and even dangerous. The great question of the time was, "Is there a water-route to India?"

**22. His Home.**— Four hundred years ago Genoa was one of the richest cities on the Mediterranean coast. Situated on the northwest shore of Italy, hemmed in to the sea by mountains, her people devoted themselves to commerce, and sailed their ships to distant lands. In this city Christopher Columbus was born. To a young man of Genoa the sea was the only road to fame and fortune, and so Columbus at fourteen years of age became a sailor. He not only visited the principal places on the Mediterranean, but sailed out into the Atlantic, and coasted along the western shores of Europe.

**23. His Plan and How He Came to Form It.**— Columbus was attracted to Portugal by the fame of her sailors and geog-



This Map shows how Columbus (not knowing that America lay in the way) hoped to reach Asia and the East Indies by sailing West.

raphers. In the intervals between his voyages, he earned a living in that country by making maps and charts. His travels and studies convinced him that the earth was round, and

that the great problem of a water-route to India could be solved by sailing west. He determined to risk his life on the unknown ocean, and prove by actual experiment what learned men before him had advanced as mere theory. There were two errors in his calculations that made the proposed voyage seem shorter and less dangerous than it actually was. He underestimated by several thousand miles the distance around the earth; and he overestimated the size of Asia, making it extend too far to the east. Thus he thought that a voyage of about three thousand miles would bring him to India. We know now that this was about the distance to the then undiscovered continent of America, while India was more than three times as far as Columbus supposed.

**24. His Disappointments.**— But Columbus was too poor to hire a ship and to employ sailors for so long a voyage. He applied for aid first to the government of his native city, Genoa. Failing there, he next made application to the king of Portugal, a monarch whose sailors were then exploring the western coast of Africa, to see how far that continent extended, and to find out if India could be reached in that way. King John submitted the plan of Columbus to a council of learned men. They declared it absurd. Not disheartened, Columbus decided to appeal to King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella, sovereigns of the newly-united kingdoms of Arragon and Castile in Spain. These monarchs were in the midst of a

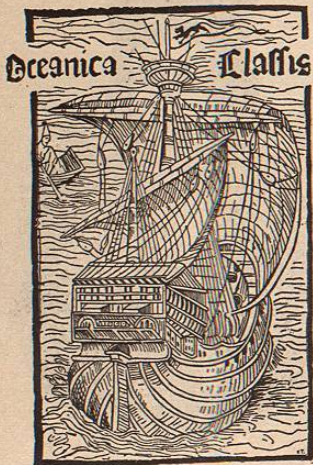


Queen Isabella.

war with the Moors on their southern border, and had no time for the enterprise. They listened to Columbus with politeness, but put off giving him a final answer. For five years he waited and hoped. At last, concluding that nothing could be accomplished in Spain, he started to leave the country.

**25. Queen Isabella's Aid.**— Before Columbus reached the Spanish frontier, Queen Isabella had been induced to give him another hearing. He hastened back, and with all his eloquence presented to the queen the arguments in support of his theory, picturing the glory and wealth which the success of the undertaking would bring to Spain. The noble and sympathetic heart of Isabella was touched by his appeal. It is said she even offered to pledge her jewels in order to raise the money to buy and equip vessels for the voyage.

**26. The Voyage.**— Three small sailing-vessels were procured, the largest, called the Santa Maria, probably not more than



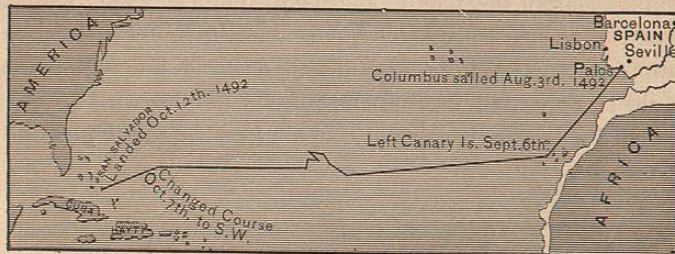
Caravel of Fifteenth Century.

63 feet long and 20 feet broad. On Friday, August 3d, 1492, the little fleet set sail from the harbor of Palos, Spain, amid the tears and prayers of friends on shore, who never expected to see their loved ones again. Columbus first sailed southwest and stopped at one of the Canary Islands.<sup>1</sup> Then he struck boldly out towards the west on the unknown ocean. Weeks passed, and no land was seen. The trade-winds bore them steadily onward. The sailors in alarm began to

<sup>1</sup> On the maps of Columbus, Cipango (Japan), a supposed outlying island of India, was due west of the Canary Islands.

ask, "How can we ever return in the face of this changeless wind?" And then the compass began to vary, the needle no longer pointing toward the North Star. The frightened men threatened to turn back. But the courage of Columbus never faltered. By artifices, bribes, and threats he prevailed upon the sailors to continue on their course.

**27. Discovery of America.**— At last a carved stick and limbs of trees were seen floating on the water. The king and queen had promised a large sum of money to the sailor who should first discover land. Columbus added the offer of a vel-



Map of Columbus's Route on his great Voyage across the Ocean.

vet coat. At two o'clock one morning, as Columbus was anxiously looking out from his ship, he saw far away in the distance a light moving to and fro, like a torch carried by some one on shore. To the great joy of all, when daylight came, land was seen—Friday, October 12th, 1492.

**28. The New Land.**— The land proved to be one of the Bahama Islands, possibly that now known as Guanahani, or Cat Island. Columbus named it San Salvador (Holy Saviour). He landed and took possession of the country in the name of the king and queen of Spain. Believing that he had reached islands near the coast of India, he called the natives who came crowding around him Indians. Several months were spent in coasting among the West India Islands. At last he set out on

his return, carrying with him specimens of the strange plants and savage men of the lands he had visited.

**29. His Return.**—Columbus's return voyage was a stormy one. He lost one of his vessels and became separated from the other. Fearing that his ship might be wrecked and the news of his discovery forever lost, he wrote a full account of his voyage and sealed it in a water-tight cask, hoping that if his vessel sank this cask might float to land and tell the story of his great achievement. Finally, after an absence of nearly eight months, his two storm-beaten vessels reached once more the little harbor of Palos. The report that Columbus had returned alive and successful quickly spread and caused great enthusiasm. The king and queen received him with distinguished honor, and everywhere windows and balconies were thronged with people eager to catch a glimpse of the great discoverer.

**30. Other Voyages.**—Columbus made three other voyages. He established a settlement on the Island of Hayti, and explored most of the West India group. In 1498 he discovered the mainland of South America, near the mouth of the Orinoco River. He never realized, however, that he had found a new continent, and died believing that he had reached India and its outlying islands.

**31. Last Days of Columbus.**—According to agreement with Ferdinand and Isabella, Columbus was made governor of the lands he discovered. His Spanish colonists, however, were many of them wicked, lawless men. They hated Columbus because he was an Italian, and they defied his authority. Finally they succeeded in having him removed from his office, and he was sent back to Spain in chains. Although he was soon set at liberty, yet his powerful friends deserted him. The good Queen Isabella died, and he was allowed to pass his last days

a poor man, unknown and forgotten. He was buried at Valladolid, Spain; afterward his bones were removed to Havana, Cuba; at the close of the Spanish-American War they were taken back to Spain and interred in the cathedral at Seville.

**32. Results of Columbus's Discovery.**—It was years after the death of Columbus before people ceased to believe that the new lands were a part of India. Yet to Christopher Columbus justly belongs the glory of discovering the "New World." By his genius, courage, and perseverance he conquered the terrors of the unknown sea and gave to civilization a continent. The recently invented art of printing spread the news of his voyages. Sailors from all lands steered their ships toward the West, anxious to win fame and wealth by some new discovery. Spain, following up the advantage Columbus had given her, hastened to take possession of the new country, and soon became the richest nation in the world. Intelligent men everywhere began to ask themselves whether other beliefs of their time were not as false as had been that of the shape of the earth. They determined to investigate for themselves the right and justice of long-established customs. The result was a mighty impetus to the liberty, Christianity, and enlightenment of mankind.

### III. JOHN CABOT.

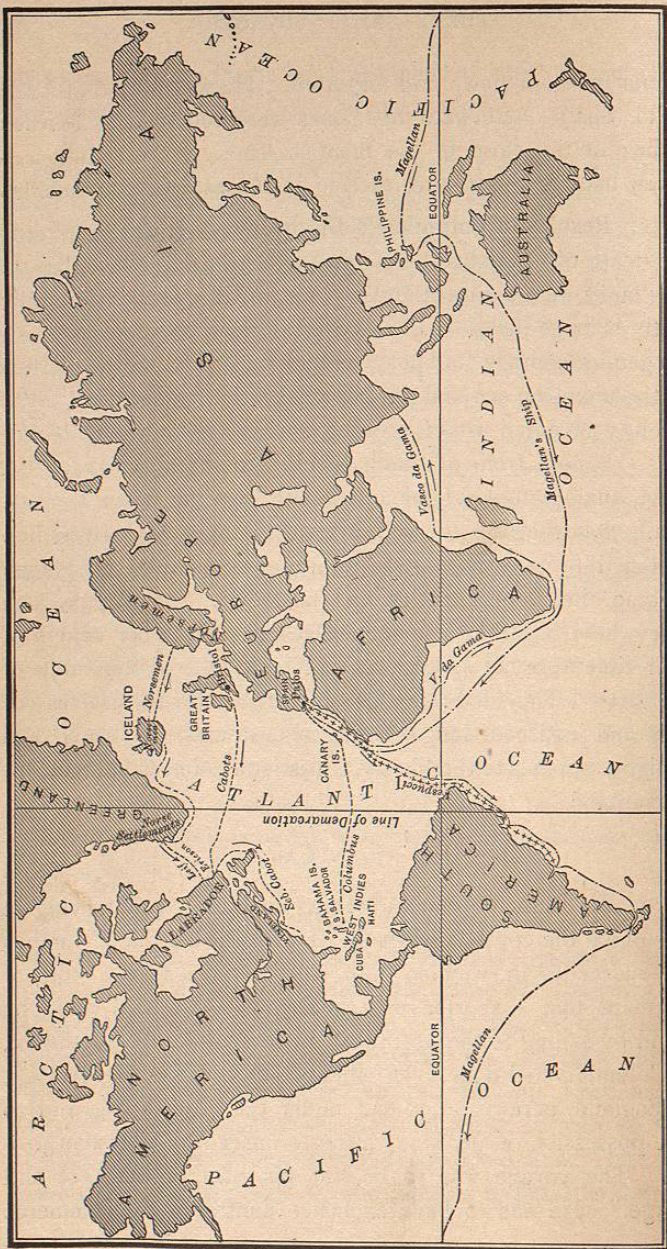
**33. His Plan.**—John Cabot was an Italian sailor living in Bristol, on the coast of England. Having heard that Columbus had succeeded in reaching India, he concluded from a study of his maps that a shorter route to that coveted land could be found by sailing to the northwest, instead of to the southwest, as Columbus had done. He obtained from King Henry VII., of England, permission to sail under the English flag, and to take possession of any lands hitherto unseen by Christian people. The voyage was to be "at his own proper cost and charge." He was to have exclusive control of the commerce

with the countries he might discover, and was to pay to the king one-fifth of all the profits.

**34. His Voyage and Discovery.**—In 1497, John Cabot set sail from Bristol with one small vessel and eighteen persons. His little ship crossed the ocean in safety, and reached the coast of Labrador. Cabot landed, and erecting a cross with two flags, — one of England, the other of Venice, his native city, — claimed the country for the English king. This was the first discovery of the mainland of America, and was more than a year before Columbus reached the shores of South America. Cabot sailed along the icy and barren coast until his provisions gave out, and then returned to England. (See map, p. 24.)

**35. The News in England.**—The news that Cabot had reached India and the territories of the "Great Cham" caused excitement in England. He was treated with honor, and was known as the "Great Admiral." The king presented him with a small sum of money, and promised him an annual pension. Although he had found no gold nor seen any human beings, yet he believed that the famous Island of Cipango (Japan), described by Marco Polo as rich in gold and precious jewels, lay near the land he had reached. So he found no trouble in obtaining permission to make a second voyage.

**36. Sebastian Cabot's Explorations.**—It is probable that John Cabot died before preparations for his second voyage were completed. His son, Sebastian, took charge of the expedition, and with six ships and three hundred men set sail on the track of the former voyage. Reaching the shores of Labrador, he coasted toward the north, hoping to find a western passage around the land. At last his course was stopped by floating ice. Turning his ships, he followed the coast toward the south, as far, perhaps, as North Carolina. He landed in several places, and found the country inhabited by Indians. His fleet



Bradley & Foster, N.Y.  
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Map showing Routes of Six Important Voyages.

returned to England after an absence of six months.<sup>1</sup> Sebastian Cabot, like his father, believed that he had explored the coast of Asia.

**37. Result of the Discoveries of the Cabots.**— John Cabot first reached the mainland of America, and discovered what was for a hundred years the shortest route known across the Atlantic (§ 68). After his voyage sailors were no longer afraid to leave the southwesterly track of Columbus, but struck out boldly into every part of the ocean. On the discovery of John Cabot and the explorations of his son, Sebastian, were based the claims of England to the continent of North America. The English were slow to take possession of the new country, allowing more than a hundred years to pass before a permanent settlement was made. Yet their title to the soil thus acquired was not forgotten. When we remember that in later years England outstripped all other nations in the struggle for ownership of North America, and that now Englishmen, or their descendants, control the continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and from the Gulf of Mexico to the Arctic Ocean, we can better realize the great importance of the discoveries of the Cabots.

**38. Summary.**— *Leif Ericson*, a Norseman, in about the year 1000 sailed from Iceland to Greenland, and thence to the continent of America, landing probably on the coast of Massachusetts. No permanent occupancy of the country followed. His voyage was known only by his own countrymen, and was soon forgotten by them. Centuries afterward vague and imperfect accounts of Leif Ericson's visit were found in the Norse Sagas.

*Christopher Columbus*, an Italian sailor, believing in the unproved theory of the roundness of the earth, sailed from Spain under the authority of the

<sup>1</sup> Afterward Sebastian Cabot entered the service of King Ferdinand of Spain, and was made Pilot Major of the Kingdom. In his old age he returned to England and was granted a liberal pension by King Edward VI. Unlike Columbus, the Cabots wrote no account of their voyages, and we have to depend upon uncertain reports of conversations with Sebastian Cabot. Even the burial places of these great mariners, who gave to England a continent, are unknown.

Spanish king and queen to find a westerly route to India. He reached one of the Bahama Islands on October 12, 1492. On a subsequent voyage, six years later (1498), he discovered the continent of South America, but died believing that he had reached the coast of Asia. His voyages were the means of revealing the American continent to the civilized world.

*John Cabot*, an Italian seaman, sailing from England under the authority of the king, first discovered the mainland of America in 1497. His son, Sebastian, explored the coast from Labrador to Chesapeake Bay. On their discoveries and explorations the English claim to North America was based.

**39. Thought Questions.**— Find on the map the home of the Northmen; give two reasons, from the situation of their country and its climate, why the Northmen were great sailors. Measure, by a scale of miles, the distance from Norway to Iceland; from Iceland to Greenland; from Greenland to Labrador. To what nation does Greenland now belong? Did Leif Ericson's voyage or that of Columbus require the greater heroism? Explain why. How do you account for the slight effect produced in the Old World by the discoveries of the Northmen? If the art of printing had been in use in the year 1000, what might have been the result? *Debate*: Resolved that Leif Ericson rather than Columbus should be called the discoverer of America. Show how Marco Polo's description of the wealth of India hastened the discovery of America. Which of the great discoverers were Italian? Why were they not employed by their own government? How did the United States celebrate the 400th anniversary of Columbus's discovery?

Copy and fill out the following tabular statement; write as many "Results" as you can, and underline the most important:

THE THREE GREAT VOYAGERS.

NAME	Native Country.	Government (if any) authorizing voyage.	Date of Discovery.	Land Discovered.	RESULTS.
Leif Ericson					
Christopher Columbus					
John Cabot					



## TOPICAL ANALYSIS (THE GREAT VOYAGERS).

- |   |                                      |                           |  |
|---|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| LEIF ERICSON.                                 | 17. His People.                      | { Home.                   |  |
|   |                                      | { Achievements.           |  |
|   | 18. Voyage.                          | { Object.                 |  |
|   |                                      | { Equipment.              |  |
|   |                                      | { Route.                  |  |
|   | 19. Results.                         | { Discovery.              |  |
|   |                                      | { Upon his own country.   |  |
|   |                                      | { Upon civilized world.   |  |
|   | 20. Norse Sagas.                     |                           |  |
|   | 21. Condition of his Time.           | { Ignorance of geography. |  |
| { Revival of learning.                        |                                      |                           |  |
| { Water-route to India.                       |                                      |                           |  |
| 22. His Home.                                 | { City of Genoa.                     |                           |  |
|   | { Early life.                        |                           |  |
| 23. His Plan.                                 | { His belief.                        |                           |  |
|   | { Errors in his calculations.        |                           |  |
| 24. His Disappointments.                      | { His native city.                   |                           |  |
|   | { King John of Portugal.             |                           |  |
|   | { Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain.   |                           |  |
| 25. Success. Queen Isabella's aid.            |                                      |                           |  |
| 26. The Voyage.                               | { Equipment; start.                  |                           |  |
|   | { Course.                            |                           |  |
|   | { Discouragements.                   |                           |  |
| 27, 28. Discovery.                            | { Land sighted.                      |                           |  |
|   | { Claim made.                        |                           |  |
| 29. The Return.                               | { Stormy weather.                    |                           |  |
|   | { Reception in Spain.                |                           |  |
| 30. Three Other Voyages.                      | { Settlement on Hayti.               |                           |  |
|   | { South America discovered.          |                           |  |
| 31. Last Days. His poverty; his grave.        |                                      |                           |  |
| 32. Results.                                  | { A new world revealed.              |                           |  |
|   | { Enlightenment of mankind hastened. |                           |  |
| 33. John Cabot.                               | { Nativity and home.                 |                           |  |
|   | { Conditions of his voyage.          |                           |  |
| 34. His Voyage.                               | { Equipment.                         |                           |  |
|   | { Land discovered.                   |                           |  |
| 36. Sebastian Cabot. Voyage and explorations. |                                      |                           |  |
| 37. Results.                                  | { Shorter route across Atlantic.     |                           |  |
|   | { Basis of England's claim.          |                           |  |

## EXPLORATIONS AND SETTLEMENTS.

## THE NAME OF THE CONTINENT.

40. Some years after Columbus' discovery, Amerigo Vespucci (called in Latin, Americus Vesputius), an Italian navigator, employed first by Spain, afterward by Portugal, made several voyages to the New World. While in the service of Portugal, in 1501, Vespucci explored the coast of Brazil far enough to discover that that country was not part of India, as the northern lands visited by Columbus and the Cabots were still supposed to be. His explorations proved the existence of a new continent in the southern hemisphere. The news created almost as great an impression in the Old World as had Columbus' supposed discovery of a western route to Asia. Müller, a German printer, who published Vespucci's description of this new southern continent, suggested that the country be called "Terra Americi," the Land of Americus. The suggestion was seized upon by geographers, and the name America, first restricted to South America, was afterward applied to the entire continent.

## SPANISH EXPLORATIONS.

41. Spain's Advantage.—The discoveries of Columbus were magnificent triumphs for Spain, and gave her an advantage over the other nations of Europe in the race of discovery and exploration that now followed. Portugal was Spain's greatest rival on the seas. To prevent the two nations from quarreling over the new lands in the west, the Pope issued a decree fixing a dividing line between their possessions. He selected a meridian 370 leagues west of the Cape Verde Islands, and declared that all heathen lands west of this meridian should belong to Spain; all east of it, to