

1000

1250

1500

1000
Leif Ericsson
reaches North
America

About 1350
The Renaissance
begins

1420s
Prince Henry
sends
Portuguese
ships to Africa

1498
Vasco da G
reaches Indi



European Explorers

PREVIEW

Focus on the Main Idea
In the 1400s European explorers developed sea routes to Africa and Asia.

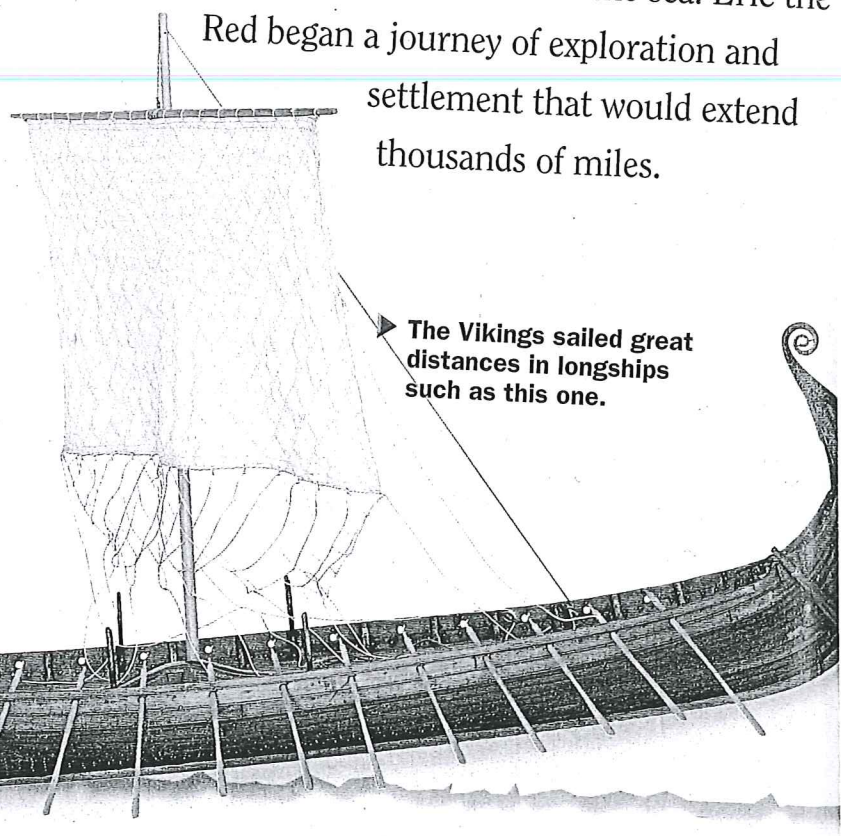
- PLACES**
Greenland
Vinland
Portugal
Cape of Good Hope

- PEOPLE**
Eric the Red
Leif Ericsson
Johann Gutenberg
Prince Henry
Bartolomeu Dias
Vasco da Gama

- VOCABULARY**
saga
Renaissance
navigation
slave trade

You Are There

Eric the Red had a lot of enemies. He was quick to anger and quick to use his sword. In about 965, the Viking people had had enough. They forced Eric to leave his homeland. But where would he go? Like many Vikings before him, he took to the sea. Eric the Red began a journey of exploration and settlement that would extend thousands of miles.



The Vikings sailed great distances in longships such as this one.

Draw Conclusions As you read, draw conclusions about the reasons that European explorers sought to find new routes to Africa and Asia.

The Vikings


The Vikings were skilled sailors. Their homeland was Scandinavia in northern Europe. In their sleek wooden boats, powered only by sail and oars, they sailed as far east as Asia, as far south as North Africa, and as far west as North America.

Eric the Red sailed west to the island of Iceland. But Eric was soon thrown out of Iceland too. So he sailed west again, and in about 982, he came to a place he called **Greenland**. Despite the name, it was a very cold land. But Eric wanted the place to sound like a good land to settle. He called it Greenland to encourage Icelanders to come.

Eric's son, **Leif Ericsson**, was interested in rumors of a land still farther west. In 1000, he sailed to find it. When he and his crew set foot upon North America, they were probably the first Europeans to do so.

Ericsson had landed on Newfoundland on the east coast of what is today Canada. According to legend, his men found grapes growing there. So they called the place **Vinland**, or "Land of Wine." Soon groups of Vikings came to settle in Vinland. But conflict broke out with the American Indians living there. By about 1015, those Viking settlers who survived had returned home.

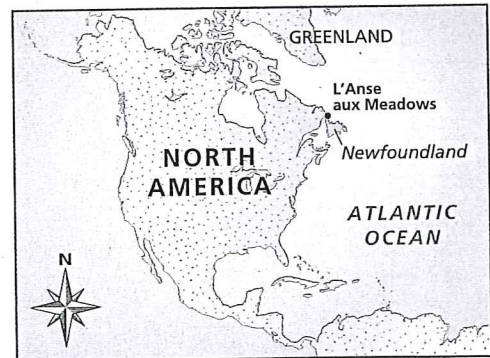
The Vikings did not have a written language. So how do we know about these adventures of a thousand years ago? They created long spoken tales called **sagas**, repeated from one generation to the next. Later, these sagas were written down. Archaeological evidence also tells us about these early explorers, as you will read below in the Then and Now feature.

REVIEW In one sentence, describe the most important information this page tells you about the Vikings.  Summarize



A Viking Settlement

At the northern tip of Newfoundland, you can visit a historic site called **L'Anse aux Meadows** (LOHNS oh meh dohz). There archaeologists have found the remains of a Viking settlement. Ruins of Viking huts, jewelry, lamps, and tools have been dug up and are on display.



The Renaissance

For centuries, the Vikings had shown a spirit of adventure and curiosity about the rest of the world. By about 1350, a similar spirit was emerging far to the south of Scandinavia, in Italy. There, a new age was beginning that would last about another 250 years. It was known as the **Renaissance** (REN uh sahns) a word that means "rebirth."

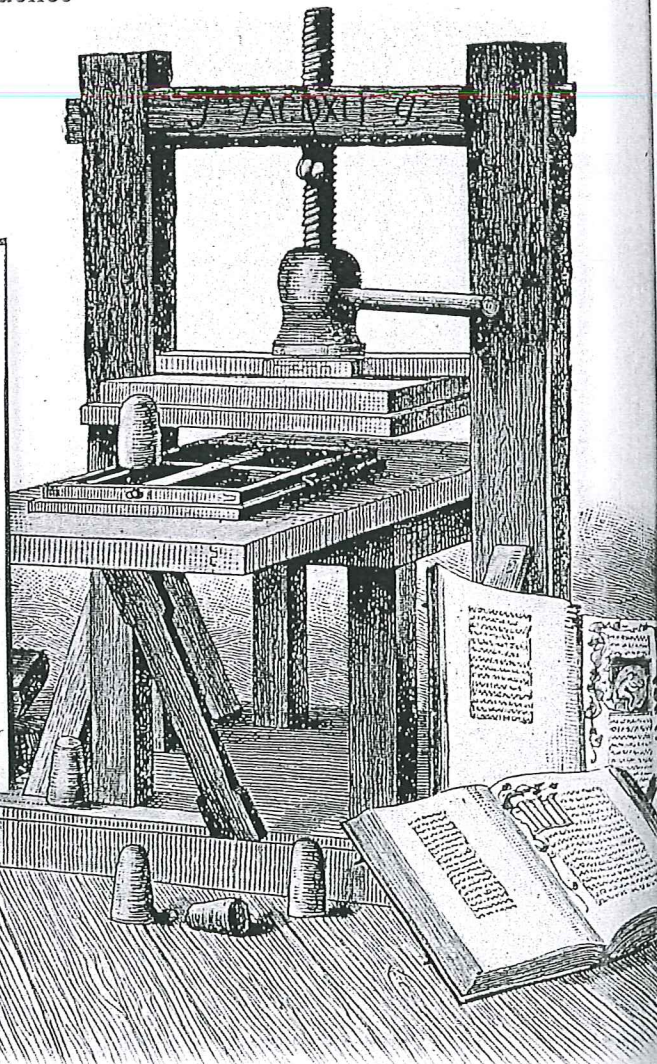
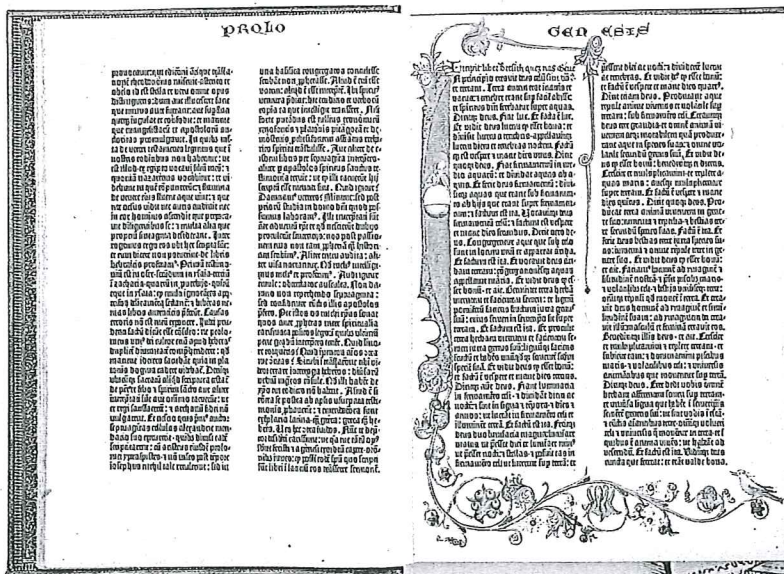
Why was the Renaissance a "rebirth"? Because it marked a new beginning in arts and sciences and a desire to learn more about the world. Earlier in this chapter you read about Marco Polo. Italian cities like Venice had become centers of trade with places in other parts of the world. The wealth this trade created helped to support the arts and learning. Italians studied the learning of ancient European cultures, such as the Greeks and Romans, and of other cultures in the world, such as the Chinese and Arabs.

The Renaissance spread to other parts of Europe. In Germany, in about 1450, **Johann Gutenberg** developed a printing press, a

machine that made it possible to print large numbers of books rapidly. Until this time in Europe, books had to be written and copied by hand, one copy at a time. This was a very slow process and made books scarce and expensive. Thanks to the inventions of Gutenberg and other early printers, books became available to many more readers. Now new ideas could spread more quickly.

Other advances came in ship design and ship building. Europeans adopted improvements from other cultures, such as the magnetic compass from the Chinese and the astrolabe from Muslims. Continuing to improve their ships, Europeans made them faster and safer to sail than ever before. As their ships improved, they were able to venture farther and farther from Europe.

REVIEW Where did the Renaissance begin, and what places did it spread to next?
Sequence



► This Bible was one of the first books Gutenberg printed on his printing press.

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The Portuguese Explore the African Coast

By the early 1400s, the demand of Europeans for goods from Asia, especially spices, was stronger than ever. But Europeans could not get these goods easily. The Silk Road and other land routes were long and dangerous. They were often controlled by merchants who charged a high price for trade.

These problems sparked a drive to find new trade routes to Asia—sea routes. Beginning in the 1420s, the country of **Portugal** took the lead. The king's son, **Prince Henry**, gathered together the best and most experienced sea captains, mapmakers, ship designers, and other experts from many countries. They shared their knowledge to hire crews and design ships that could develop new sea routes. And to guide ships along the way, the experts improved methods of **navigation**. This is the science sailors use to plot their course and find their location far from land. Soon, Henry became known as "Prince Henry the Navigator."

Though Henry did not go himself, he began sending Portuguese ships south along the Atlantic coast of Africa. On each voyage, explorers traveled farther than the

last, mapping the African shore and reporting sailing conditions. Portugal's ships began bringing home African gold.

The Portuguese also profited from the **slave trade**, the buying and selling of human beings. Slavery had existed throughout the world for thousands of years.

For example, slavery had existed among the Aztecs and in the West African kingdom of Mali. Slave traders took captured people into and out of Africa along the Sahara trade routes. Many Arabs, Africans, and Europeans all participated in the slave trade by capturing people and forcing them into slavery.

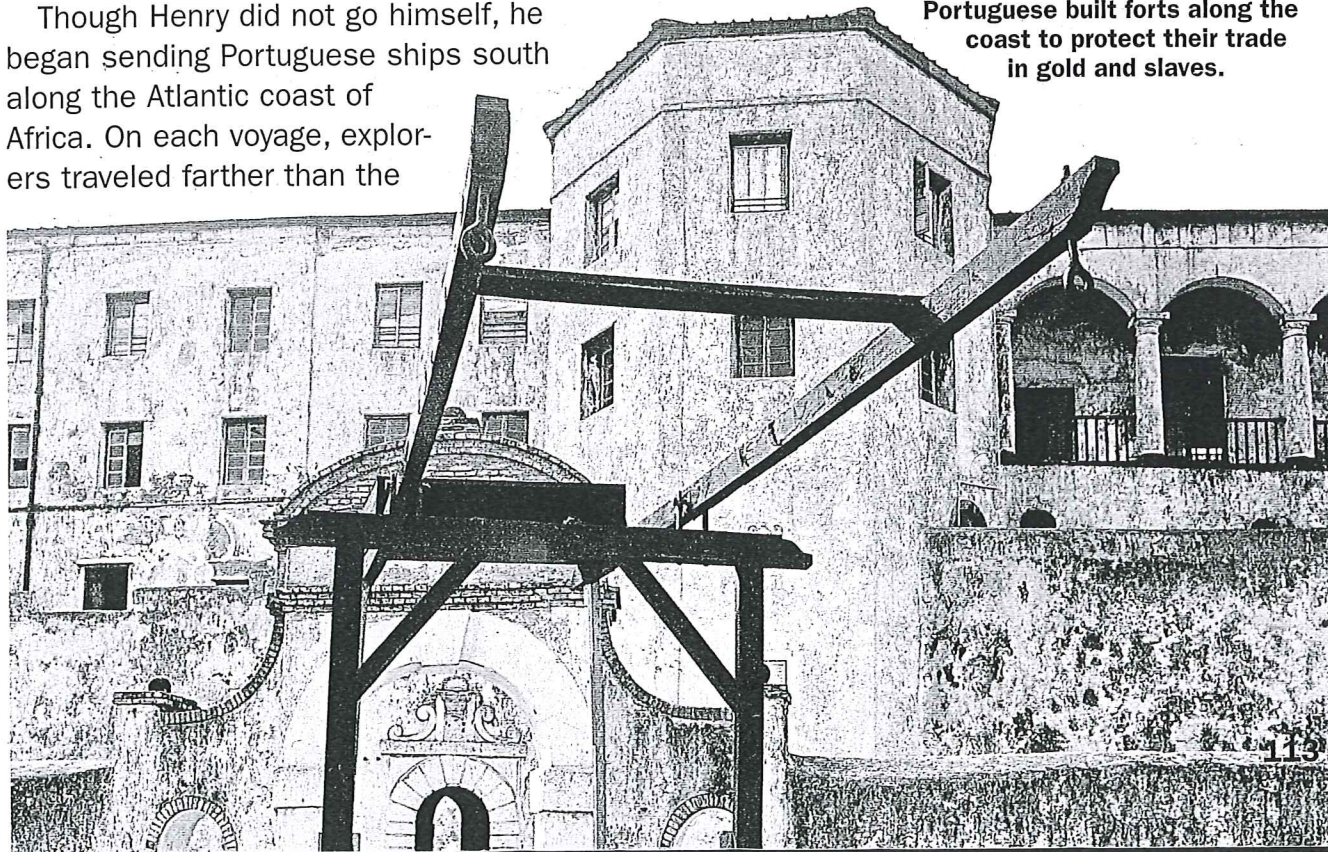
In the 1400s, the slave trade grew.

The Portuguese, and later other Europeans, began transporting African captives to Europe, where they became servants or slaves. A slave, unlike a servant, is owned by a person and has no freedom.



REVIEW Name two effects of Prince Henry's drive to explore the coast of Africa.
Cause and Effect

- **Under Prince Henry (above), Portugal took the lead in exploring the West coast of Africa. The Portuguese built forts along the coast to protect their trade in gold and slaves.**



A Sea Route to India

After Prince Henry died in 1460, Portuguese exploration continued. In 1488, Portuguese explorer **Bartolomeu Dias** (bahr too loo MAY oo DEE ush) and his three ships sailed within about 500 miles of Africa's southern tip. Then violent storms lashed the tiny fleet for many days. By the time the fierce winds let up, Dias made a startling discovery. His ships had been blown around the southern tip of Africa. They had reached the Indian Ocean. But his crew, far from home and frightened, refused to go on. So Dias turned back for Portugal.

Dias reported that he had found the tip of Africa, which he called the "Cape of Storms." But the king of Portugal renamed it the

Cape of Good Hope. This name showed the Portuguese hope for sea routes to Asia.

Almost ten years later, in 1497, another Portuguese explorer left Portugal to sail around the Cape of Good Hope. **Vasco da Gama** and his four ships rounded Africa, sailed east across the Indian Ocean, and reached India in 1498. Before long, Portuguese merchants settled there in Calicut, India. There they bought spices at low prices and shipped them back to Europe. Portugal's sea routes made it a rich trading empire. Trace these sea routes in the Map Adventure on this page.

REVIEW Why did the king of Portugal name the southwestern tip of Africa the "Cape of Good Hope"? **Main Idea and Details**

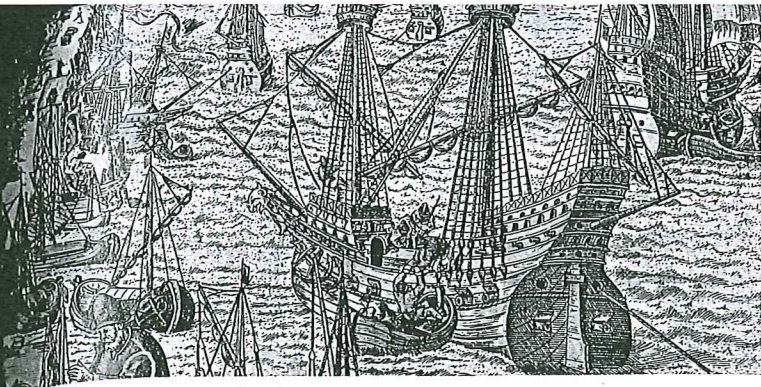
Map Adventure

Vasco da Gama Sails to India, 1497-1498

You are a member of the crew aboard da Gama's flagship, the *Saint Gabriel*. You sail from your home port in Portugal on July 8, 1497.

1. You drop anchor in the Cape Verde Islands on July 26. How long has it taken you to get there?
2. After you round the Cape of Good Hope, in which direction are you sailing?
3. From what African port do you sail to cross the Indian Ocean? What port do you reach? How many miles is this part of the journey?





► A busy Portuguese harbor in the late 1400s.

Exploration Continues

You have read in this chapter how trade and exploration continued to increase among the peoples of Asia, Africa, and Europe. Of course, trade was nothing new. Caravans had traveled over land routes for centuries. Boats had always carried goods from place to place, often along coastal waters. Advances in sailing gradually increased how far and how fast ships could travel.

By the late 1400s, Europeans had established new ocean trade routes to Africa and

Asia. Soon they would be taking even longer sea journeys—journeys that brought them into contact with the peoples of the Americas. The Eastern Hemisphere and the Western Hemisphere were coming into lasting contact with each other.

REVIEW What was different about trade in the 1400s from trade in earlier periods?
Compare and Contrast

Summarize the Lesson

1000 Vikings under Leif Ericsson reached North America, but soon abandoned their settlement.

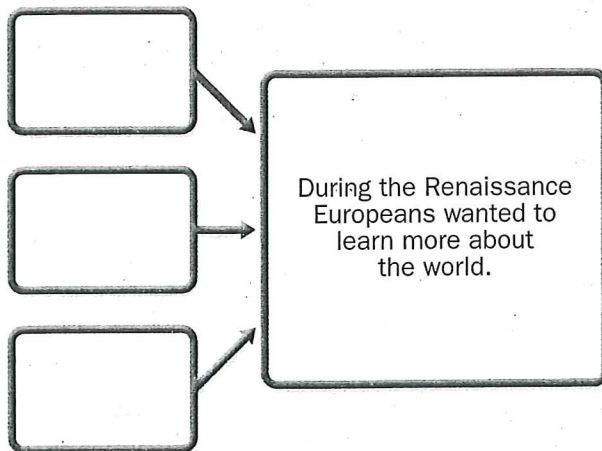
About 1350 The Renaissance, a rebirth of learning, began in Europe.

1498 Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama established a sea route to India around the southern tip of Africa.

LESSON 3 REVIEW

Check Facts and Main Ideas

1. Draw Conclusions On a separate sheet of paper, list facts which lead to the conclusion shown.



2. What were some of the effects of the Renaissance?

3. What was the effect of Johann Gutenberg's new machine? What did it make possible?
4. **Critical Thinking: Cause and Effect** How did Prince Henry make Portugal the leading European country in the drive to explore other parts of the world?
5. What records of their attempt to settle North America did the Vikings leave behind?

Link to Reading

Make Illustrated Manuscripts Before the printing press, people could only read manuscripts—books written, and often illustrated, by hand. Choose a passage from a book that you like and copy it. Use your most beautiful handwriting. Illustrate the passage.