The Pueblos killed 21 Franciscan friars and more than 400 Spanish colonists. Many others fled. Popé gave orders that churches and religious decorations be destroyed. He announced punishments for those who continued to speak Spanish or exhibited other influences from the Spanish.

In 1692, Spanish soldiers arrived to put down the rebellion and retook the territory. However, the Spanish gave the Pueblos more freedom to practice their religion and customs upon their return, and even today there are still influences of both groups in the area.

C. The Search for the Northwest Passage

Background

By the 1520s, Europeans were beginning to realize that Columbus had not found the Indies. Explorers began to look for an all-water route through North America. This much-sought-after route was known as the “Northwest Passage.”

Geography

The explorers thought that their best chance for an all-water route lay to the north of the present-day United States, in Canada. They saw the St. Lawrence River and the Great Lakes as a possible Northwest Passage to Asia.

The St. Lawrence River links Lake Ontario with the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The Great Lakes are freshwater lakes that form a chain from western New York State to northern Minnesota. From east to west the lakes are Ontario, Erie, Huron, Michigan, and Superior. Today, the lakes are connected by a series of rivers, canals, and locks. They provide a navigable waterway from Minnesota to the Atlantic Ocean. However, this was not true when Europeans, trying to find an all-water route to Asia, explored them. The explorers found no water connections between Lakes Erie and Ontario.

One outcome of the interest in finding a Northwest Passage was the French claim to Canada and the northeastern and upper midwestern sections of what is today the United States. Beginning in 1608 (when the settlement of Quebec was founded), the territory claimed by France steadily grew. By 1682, Robert Cavalier, Sieur de La Salle, had claimed all the lands in the Mississippi River Valley for France, and the colony of New France reached all the way down the center of the continent to the Gulf of Mexico. In 1663 Quebec became its capital. France lost the colony to Great Britain in 1763 after the French and Indian War.

Cabot and the Search for the Northwest Passage

Although an Italian by birth and a citizen of Venice, John Cabot made his voyages of exploration in the service of the English monarch Henry VII. Cabot had the same dream as Columbus: to reach Asia by sailing west. He thought the best chance of sailing to Asia would be to sail at a northern latitude, where the distance around Earth would be substantially shorter than the distance at the Equator. King Henry VII gave Cabot a charter to explore and claim land for England.

Cabot's first attempt in 1496 was a failure. He evidently had a disagreement with some members of his crew. Also, he was short of food and ran into bad
II. Early Exploration of North America

Teaching Idea

Make an overhead of Instructional Master 30, The Search for the Northwest Passage, to orient students to the voyages of the explorers looking for an all-water route through North America to Asia.

If you have already taught about the Vikings, remind students that the Vikings had established a short-lived settlement on Newfoundland about 600 years before Champlain explored the area. 

weather, so he decided to turn back. He tried again in 1497, with a single ship and a crew of 18. This time he reached land, which he thought was Asia, but which turned out to be the coast of North America. It is not known exactly where he first sighted land; it may have been the coast of Newfoundland. Cabot spent a short time exploring the coast, and it is possible that he sailed as far south as the Chesapeake Bay. At any rate, Cabot's men became the first European expedition to see the landmass now known as the North American continent.

Cabot sailed back to England with his news. Certain that he had found a new, shorter route to Asia, Cabot was able to gain support for another, much larger, expedition. This expedition of 1498 left England, but it never returned. Nobody knows what happened to Cabot and his men. In time it became clear that Cabot had not, in fact, located the Northwest Passage. However, England based its later claims to North American territory on his explorations. When Cabot had first sighted land, he had gone ashore and claimed the land for England.

Champlain and New France

The Frenchman Samuel de Champlain also searched for a Northwest Passage for many years. Champlain's father was a captain in the navy, and Champlain spent some time sailing to the West Indies, Central America, and Mexico. During these years he suggested that the Atlantic and Pacific might be connected by digging a channel, or canal, through Panama—an idea that would be realized hundreds of years later.

In the early 1600s Champlain turned his attention to North America, hoping to find a passage through the continent to Asia. He explored the St. Lawrence River, northern New York (where he discovered the lake that bears his name), and the Great Lakes Huron and Ontario. From 1604 to 1607, he explored Nova Scotia. In 1608, he founded the settlement of Quebec, which is the oldest city in Canada. The first winter he and his men spent in this new trading post was so brutally cold that only 9 of the 33 men in the party survived.

During his explorations Champlain came into contact with many native peoples, including the Algonquins, the Hurons, and the Iroquois. In several skirmishes Champlain helped the Algonquins and Hurons fight against the Iroquois.

Champlain published a number of books on Canada and his voyages, which contained many observations of the lands he explored and the native peoples he met. His explorations were the basis for French claims to the colony of New France, of which Champlain later became governor. Champlain died in Quebec in 1635.

Henry Hudson

Henry Hudson was an Englishman. In 1607 he was chosen to lead an expedition that hoped to sail across the Atlantic Ocean from the North Pole to China. This expedition ran up against impassable polar ice fields and was unsuccessful. A second voyage also failed.

In 1609, Hudson obtained a contract from the Dutch East India Company to search for a Northwest Passage. He first explored along the lower coast of North America around what is now New York and came across the mouth of the river
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that now bears his name. He sailed north on it to what is now Albany. Finding no passage, he returned downstream. His voyage of exploration was the basis for the Netherlands's claim to the area.

In 1610, Hudson, again sailing for his native England, tried a more northerly route. Sailing north and then west around Newfoundland, he found a strait and sailed through it into a huge bay. Both the strait and the bay are now named for him. Hudson spent many weeks exploring the bay. Eventually winter came and his ship was frozen in the bay. When food ran low, his crew mutinied and put Hudson, his son, and seven others in an open boat with no oars and no supplies of any kind. When spring came, the bay thawed, and the crew sailed back to England, but Hudson, his son, and his loyal crew were never heard from again.

America

In 1507, the cartographer Martin Waldseemüller created a new map on which he used the name America for the continent we now call South America. This is the first known use of the term America. Where did the name come from? Many people believe the name is derived from the name of the explorer Amerigo Vespucci. Between 1499 and 1502, Vespucci explored the coasts of North and South America. He was the first to recognize that South America was a continent. However, not everyone believes that the continents are named for Vespucci. One alternative theory speculates that the name may come from the Amerique Mountains, an area in Nicaragua that Columbus learned about during one of his voyages.

Review

Below are some additional ideas for ongoing assessment and review activities. These are not meant to constitute a comprehensive list. Teachers may also refer to the Pearson Learning/Core Knowledge History & Geography series for additional information and teaching ideas.

- Invite students to do a little additional research on an explorer of their choice. Then practice writing paragraphs by using the information they learned. Each paragraph should include a topic sentence, supporting details, and a concluding sentence.
- Have students design the front page of a newspaper describing the voyages and exciting discoveries of one explorer from this section. Have each student choose an explorer and identify the country for which the explorer worked. Then have students design the front page of a newspaper from that country. Students will design the illustrations and write articles about the explorer. Make sure that students include why the explorer left the country and what he hoped to find. You may want to bring in some newspapers to review the parts of a newspaper story.
- Invite students to speculate about what might have happened to one of the lost explorers, either Cabot or Hudson, or what it might have been like to be a member of one of the expeditions described in this section. This can be the basis for an imaginative writing assignment.

The Big Idea in Review

Spanish explorers criss-crossed the Americas in search of gold and riches; other European explorers searched for a route through the Americas to Asia.