Exploration of North America
Timeline Cards
Introduction

c. 30,000–c. 15,000 BCE: Estimated range of time when first peoples arrived in North America and lived as hunter-gatherers.
Introduction

In c. 1000 CE, Leif Eriksson and his crew landed in North America.
Big Question: What were European explorers searching for when they sailed west?
Big Question: What were European explorers looking for when they sailed west?
CHAPTER 2: De Soto’s Long March

Big Question: What regions in North America did de Soto explore, and what was he looking for?

During the expedition of 1539–1541, Hernando de Soto and his men became the first Europeans to see the Mississippi River.
CHAPTER 3: The Search for El Dorado

In 1540, Francisco Vásquez de Coronado and his men searched for the Seven Cities of Cibola.

Big Question: Why did Coronado and others explore what is now the American Southwest?
Big Question: Why did the Spanish decide to build settlements in North America, north of Mexico?
Native Americans struggled to stop the Spanish from taking their land. In 1680, a Pueblo healer named Popé led a Pueblo revolt against the Spanish.

**Big Question:** Why did the Spanish decide to build settlements in North America, north of Mexico?
During the 1700s, the Spanish established settlements in the Southwest. Roman Catholic priests established missions throughout the region, and in California.

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In 1497, John Cabot landed in northeastern Canada (Newfoundland), part of the continental landmass later known as North America.

**Big Question:** What were John Cabot and Henry Hudson looking for?
In 1609–1610, Henry Hudson explored what is now the area of New York as well as a strait and a bay in northern Canada.

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Samuel de Champlain searched for the Northwest Passage and, in 1608, established the Canadian trading post of Quebec on the St. Lawrence River.

**Big Question:** What were some of the things that Champlain noticed about the St. Lawrence River Valley that made it a good place to settle?
During the 1600s, the French established more settlements along the St. Lawrence, leading to the French colony that became known as New France.

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