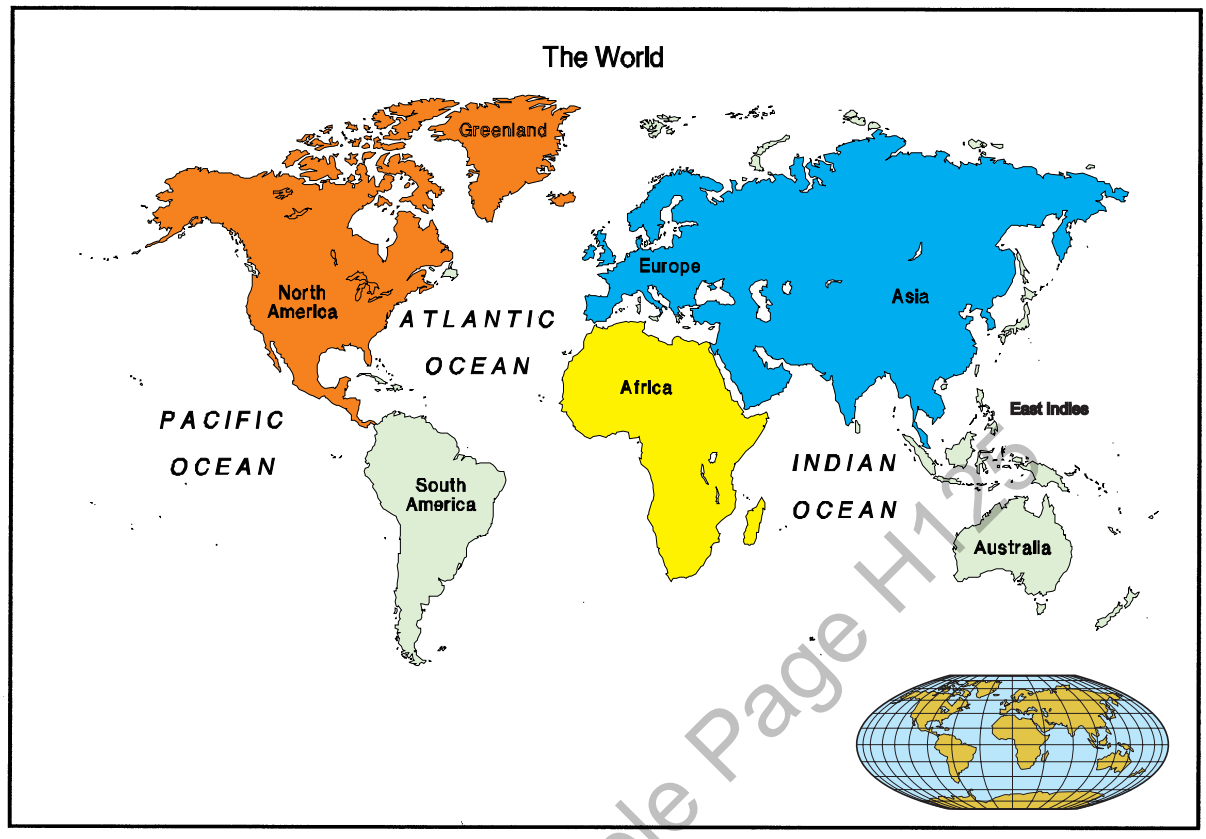


In Columbus' Days, People Thought the World to Be Flat.

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At that time not half of the world had been discovered. Europe, Asia, and a small part of Africa were the chief areas known. The maps of Columbus may have shown the earth shaped like a ball; but he supposed it to be much smaller than it really is. No one then had sailed around the globe. No one then knew what lands lay west of the broad Atlantic Ocean; for this reason we should look in vain, on one of the maps drawn by Columbus, for the great continents of North and South America or for Australia or the Pacific Ocean.

The Plan of Columbus for Reaching the Indies by Sailing West

While living in Lisbon, Columbus made up his mind to try to do what no other man at that time dared attempt — that was to cross the Atlantic Ocean. He thought that by doing so, he could get directly to Asia and the Indies, which, he believed, were opposite Portugal and Spain. If successful, he could open up a very **profitable** trade with the rich countries of the East, from which spices, drugs, and silk were brought to Europe. The people of Europe could not reach those countries directly by ships, because they had not then found their way around the southern point of Africa.

Columbus Tries to Get Help in Carrying Out his Plans

Columbus was too poor to fit out even a single ship to undertake such a voyage as he had planned. He asked the King of Portugal to **furnish** some money or vessels toward it, but he received no encouragement. At length he determined to go to Spain and see if he could get help there.

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On the southern coast of Spain there is a small port named Palos. Within sight of the village of Palos, and within plain sight of the ocean, there was a **convent**, which is still standing, called the Convent of Saint Mary.

One morning a tall, fine-looking man, leading a little boy by the hand, knocked at the door of this convent and begged for a piece of bread and a cup of water for the child. The man was Columbus, whose wife was now dead, and the boy was his son.



Columbus Begging at the Convent

It chanced that the **guardian** of the convent noticed Columbus standing at the door. He liked his appearance and, coming up, began to talk with him. Columbus frankly told him what he was trying to do. The guardian of the convent listened with great interest, then he gave him a letter to a friend who, he thought, would help him to lay his plans before Ferdinand and Isabella, the King and Queen of Spain.

Columbus Gets Help for His Great Voyage

Columbus left his son at the convent and set forward on his journey, full of bright hopes. But Ferdinand and Isabella could not then see him and, after waiting a long time, the traveler was told that he might go before a number of learned men and tell them about his **proposed** voyage across the Atlantic.

After hearing what Columbus had to say, these men thought that it would be foolish to spend money in an attempt to reach the other side of the ocean.

People who heard what this captain from Lisbon wanted to do, began to think that he had lost his reason; and the boys in the streets laughed at him and called him crazy. Columbus waited for help seven years; he then made up his mind that he would wait no longer. Just as he was about to leave Spain, Queen Isabella, who had always felt interested in the brave sailor, resolved to help him. Two rich sea captains who lived in Palos also decided to take part in the voyage. With the **assistance** that Columbus now received, he was able to fit out three small vessels. He went in the largest of the vessels — the only one that had an entire deck — as admiral, or commander of the fleet.

Columbus Sails

Early on Friday morning, August 3, 1492, Columbus started from Palos to attempt to cross the ocean that men then called the "Sea of Darkness," a name that showed how little they knew of it, and how much they **dreaded** it.

We may be pretty sure that the guardian of the convent was one of those who watched the sailing of the little fleet. From the upper windows of the convent he could plainly see the vessels as they left the harbor of Palos.

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Week 14

George Washington, Part I

Lesson 1

Write the definitions from the glossary for the following vocabulary terms.

1. plantation _____

2. cipher _____

3. major _____

4. earnest _____

5. acquaintance _____

6. survey _____

7. congress _____

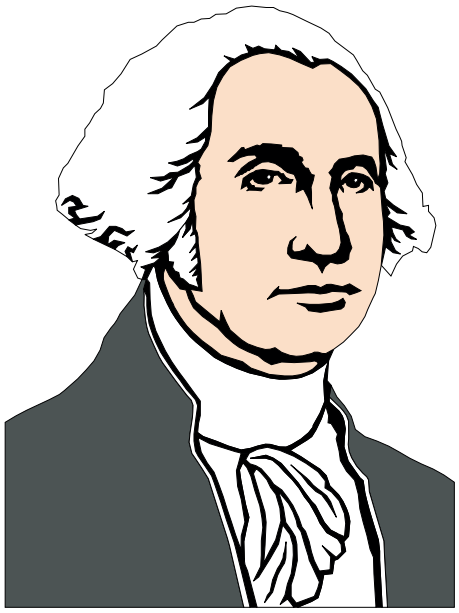
8. necessity _____

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Read the following text for good understanding.

(1732-1799)



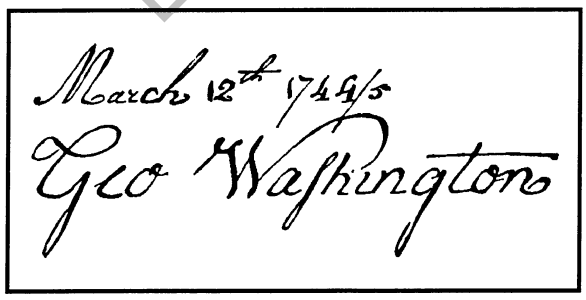
A Virginia Boy; What He Became; What He Learned at School; His Writing-books

In 1732, when Franklin was at work on his newspaper, a boy was born on a **plantation** in Virginia who was one day to stand higher even than the Philadelphia printer.

That boy when he grew up was to be chosen leader of the armies of the Revolution, he was to be elected the first President of the United States, and before he died he was to be known and honored all over the world. The name of that boy was George Washington.

Washington's father died when George was only 11 years old, leaving him, with his brothers and sisters, to the care of a most excellent and sensible mother. It was that mother's influence, more than anything else, that made George the man he became.

George went to a little country school, where he learned to read, write, and **cipher**. By the time he was 12, he could write a clear, bold hand. In one of his writing books he copied many good rules or sayings. Here is one: "Labor to keep alive in your breast that little spark of celestial (heavenly) fire called conscience."



Washington's Signature at the Age of Twelve

Washington's Sports and Games; Playing at War; "Captain George"

But young Washington was not always copying good sayings, for he was a tall, strong boy, fond of all outdoor sports and games. He was a well-meaning boy, but he had a hot temper, and at times his blue eyes flashed fire. In all trials of strength and in all deeds of daring, George took the lead; he could run faster, jump further, and throw a stone higher than anyone else in the school.

When the boys played "soldier," they liked to have "Captain George" as commander. When he drew his wooden sword, and shouted "Come on!" they would all rush into battle with a wild hurrah. Years afterward, when the real war came, and George Washington drew his sword in **earnest**, some of his school companions may have fought under their old leader.

The Great Battle with the Colt, and What Came of It

Once, however, Washington had a battle

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