

学英语·品文化

# 探险家的足迹

——北美神奇沃土发现之旅

主 编 田 耀 夏 颖

足不出户  
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## 内 容 简 介

本书采用中文导读和英语介绍相结合的方式,由一个个妙趣横生的小故事组成,从早期欧洲探险家、殖民者的生平故事出发,生动地再现当初美洲大陆发现与美国建立的历史过程。本书采用简练、准确和精美的语言,配上必要的词汇和讨论,使读者在轻松愉快、节奏明快的享受中扩展视野,提高英语语言的修养,加深对北美大陆历史的了解,是学习美国历史的必备辅导材料。

本书可作为高等学校英语专业、非英语专业大学英语选修课教材,也可作为英语爱好者的阅读材料。

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# 前 言

探索未知的火焰燃烧在一代又一代探险家心里,也燃烧在每个人的心里,它点燃了探险家的梦想,带他们进入丛林、沙漠等未知的区域。

本书按照时间先后顺序详细地介绍了从公元 10 世纪到美国独立战争之前的主要探险家的生平故事及主要探险活动。从第一个踏上北美冒险之旅的冰岛探险家雷夫·埃里克森到达今天的纽芬兰岛,到四次远航的哥伦布发现新大陆,开辟横渡大西洋到美洲的航路,再到第一个穿越密西西比河的费尔南多·德·索托,以及建立首个英属永久殖民地的约翰·史密斯,还有许多探险家,他们创造了一段段惊心动魄的北美大陆探险史,为后来美国的建立和崛起奠定了坚实的基础。本书由一个个妙趣横生的小故事组成,采用中文导读和英语介绍相结合的方式,从早期欧洲探险家、殖民者的生平故事出发,生动地再现当初美洲大陆发现与美国建立的历史过程。同时,本书采用简洁、准确和精美的语言,配上必要的词汇和讨论问题,使读者在轻松愉快、节奏明朗的阅读享受中扩展视野,提高英语语言的修养,加深对北美大陆历史的了解。该书是学习美国历史的必备辅导材料。

通过阅读本书,读者首先可以加深对北美历史的了解,进一步了解美国社会的价值形态、政治体制等诸多内容。同时,读者能逐步了解到今日这个超级大国是如何从一片荒芜之地变为当今法制制度最健全、民主制度最发达的国家,为今后如何处理中美关系等方面提供借鉴材料。

本书在学术上,用介绍早期北美洲的探险家来反映历史是一个进步,能够引起历史研究者的强烈反思。同时,本书还是在校学生和英语爱好者学习美国历史,尤其是美国早期历史的首选读本。

编 者  
2011 年 2 月



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# Unit 1 From the 10<sup>th</sup> to the early 16<sup>th</sup> Century

## 第 1 章 10 世纪至 16 世纪初

### 1. Leif Erikson 雷夫·埃里克森

There is always something thrilling and exciting about traveling, exploring, and sailing, getting through the bridges, walking across the woods, sailing on the **boundless** oceans without knowing where you will arrive. The exploring genes seemed to be in a **Norwegian** family of the late 8<sup>th</sup> century A. D. where Leif Erikson came from.

Leif Erikson was the first European to set foot in the New World, opening a new land rich with resources for the Vikings to explore. But for some unknown reason, the Vikings only made a few voyages to the New World after Leif. Unfortunately, this caused his discovery to remain unknown to nearly all of Europe, which was in the midst of the Crusades.

Leif Erikson's father, also known as **Erik the Red**, was an explorer, navigator, as well as a sailor. He lived in Iceland, but he was **outlawed** twice because of murdering, and was **exiled**. Then Erik tried to venture out and search other places for his family during his three years of exile. It was during this time (between 970 and 980 A. D. ) that Leif was born to Erik the Red. For the next three years, Erik, **accompanied** by his wife and Leif, sailed west and discovered the huge land where it was full of fjords and green grass, so Erik gave the land name of "Greenland" because of the abundance of grass. When the family returned to Iceland, they told people about their explorations and adventures there. Soon, a flux of people headed there to find more land. Leif accompanied his father to lead the group to the new land. Leif grew up in the atmosphere of adventure and sailing.

Leif was probably around 16 when he was out and saw a young polar bear on an ice flow. He decided to capture the bear but there was a strong current between the ice flow and land. So using his knowledge of the sea, he went "upstream" from the polar bear and let the current carry his boat into the ice flow. After capturing the bear he used the same tactic to get back to land, impressing the people on shore.

When Leif was 20, he had a strong urge to travel and explore. More trading occurred between Greenland and Norway, so Leif got an opportunity to explore. He sailed to Norway in around 1000 where he was converted to Christianity by **King Olaf**, who sent him back to Greenland to **convert** the settlers there.



## [ 探险家的足迹 ]

北 / 美 / 神 / 奇 / 沃 / 土 / 发 / 现 / 之 / 旅

Some years before 1000 A. D. , Bjarni, an adventurer, **relayed** exciting news of a new land to the west. Leif bought Bjarni's ship, gathered a **crew** of 35 and sailed westward as Bjarni had instructed. With favorable weather and winds, Leif and his crew were soon following the outlines of the new lands that they had heard of. They continued onward, stopping only briefly at the other two lands, which were Helluland ( thought to be today's **Baffin Island** ) and Markland ( probably today's **Labrador Island** ) until they reached the third new land.

Then Leif sailed southeast for two days and came to an island with a mainland behind it. On this land the dew on the grasses seemed as sweet as honey. Here Leif had some booths or temporary shelters built. But, the land here was so rich that he decided to build at least one large house for the winter. On this land there were **salmon** bigger than any the Vikings had ever seen before, there were also very rich pastures there for their cattle and there were rich forests covering this land.

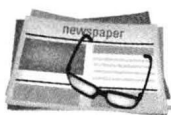
There, they came **ashore** and constructed shelter, and later a large house for the winter. They found their winter to be frost-free, and agreed that **fodder** and other food, that normally would need to be kept during the cold harsh winter for the animals, would be unnecessary here. Also, the rivers and lakes were filled with salmon and a large variety of other fish. And the earth! It seemed to be black and rich, where they could easily grow their crops. So pleased was Leif by the land and its bounty, he named it **Vinland** which means that there were a lot of grapes.

In the spring, Leif and his crew returned to Greenland. On his return journey, Leif came upon a wrecked trading vessel whose crew he rescued; for this deed he received the entire rich **cargo** and gained the nickname "Leif the Lucky". A year later Leif settled on Brattahlid taking over his father's farm.

Unfortunately that was the last voyage to Vinland Leif ever took. When he returned from Vinland with the rescued crew he invited them all to his house. With all the overcrowding, when a disease hit the house, half of the men died, including Leif's father. This cut off the chance for further exploration in Vinland because he had to **take over** his father's duties. Leif had to manage the colony his father had set up and make new laws. This was not the last of Leif's involvement and connection with Vinland however. Leif's brothers, Thorwald and Thorstein, both took voyages to Greenland and explored even more extensively than Leif. Thorwald was killed by an Indian arrow and Thorstein, who went to Vinland to get Thorwald's body, was blown off his course and died shortly after returning to Greenland. After this, two men arrived in Greenland and one of them was a friend of Erik. So, Leif invited them to stay with him and provided them with the best Christmas any of them had ever had as well as with talk and directions to Vinland. Leif's slaves accompanied the next voyage to Vinland by Thorfin, the main sailor who had stayed with Leif. Thorfin decided not to stay in Vinland after being attacked by the Native Americans there. Little else is known about Leif, who is thought to have died around 1020.

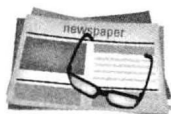
Leif was a smart man who once said, "If two men think alike then one of them is not thinking." This shows his **mindset** of finding new things, not being content with the old. He was one of the most famous explorers of the Viking period and beat Columbus to North America by almost half a millennium! Leif spread Christianity, practiced hospitality, and took over his

father's duties even though he wanted to return to his Vinland.



### Introduction to the character

**雷夫·埃里克森(970—1020)** 约在公元1000年发现北美洲的欧洲探险家。他的父亲是挪威流亡海盗——红发埃里克(Eric the Red),母亲是丝奥迪德。父亲开拓了挪威人拓荒的路线,分东西线,位置都在以他父亲命名的格陵兰(Greenland)海域上。雷夫在挪威长大,信奉基督教。后来他回到格陵兰时,开始探索格陵兰的蛮荒。他买了船并驾船向船主比雅尼·何尔约夫森曾探险过的区域航行。雷夫有两个兄弟和一个妹妹。



### Notes

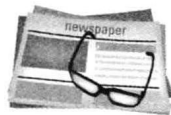
**Erik the Red 红发埃里克(950—1003)** 也称“红胡子埃里克”,维京探险家。他发现格陵兰,并在那里建立了一个斯堪的纳维亚人的定居点。埃里克出生于挪威罗加兰(Rogaland),他的儿子雷夫·埃里克森后来也成为一名著名的探险家。

**King Olaf 奥拉夫国王** 挪威国王。年轻时,他曾是横行海上的劫掠武士的首领。早在1009年至1013年间,他即前往不列颠参与那里盎格鲁—撒克逊人与丹麦人的激战。1014年,奥拉夫在法国的鲁昂接受洗礼,从此便坚定不移地信仰基督教。1015年,他成为国王后,开始在挪威强制推行基督教。为使长期信奉北欧神灵的臣民改宗,他不惜采取一些残酷的政策。1027年奥拉夫二世联合瑞典进攻克努特大帝统治的丹麦,惨败后逃亡。

**Baffin Island 巴芬岛** 加拿大西北地区东北部的一个岛屿,位于格陵兰岛西部,是世界第五大岛屿。

**Labrador Island 拉布拉多岛** 加拿大的一个地区,位于大西洋沿岸,与一海之隔的纽芬兰岛组成加拿大的纽芬兰及拉布拉多省。拉布拉多是该省的陆地部分,位于拉布拉多半岛东北部。

**Vinland 文兰岛** 文兰是当时维京人口口相传的一个传说之地:温暖丰饶的大地,牧草充足,牛羊遍野。文兰是美好的,但历史学家却在这里发现了一个悲惨的结局:加拿大北部气候恶劣,维京人住在这里大概居住了两年,最后一名维京移民1540年死于格陵兰岛。



### Vocabulary

boundless

adj. 无限的;无量的;无穷的

Norwegian

adj. 挪威的

outlaw

v. 宣布某人为不法之徒

exile

v. (尤指因政治原因而)放逐

accompany

v. 陪伴

convert

v. 使转化;使改变(宗教或信仰)



## [ 探险家的足迹 ]

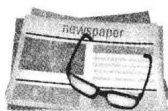
北 / 美 / 神 / 奇 / 沃 / 土 / 发 / 现 / 之 / 旅

relay	v. 传达; 传递
crew	n. 全体船员
salmon	n. 三文鱼; 大马哈鱼
ashore	adv. 在岸上; 向岸上
fodder	n. 饲料
cargo	n. (船、飞机、卡车等装载的) 一批货物
take over	接管; 接受
mindset	n. 思维方式



### Background information

**格陵兰岛** 世界最大岛, 面积 2 166 086 平方千米, 在北美洲东北, 北冰洋和大西洋之间。格陵兰岛无冰地区的面积为 341 700 平方千米, 但其中北海岸和东海岸的大部分地区几乎是人迹罕至的严寒荒原。有人居住的区域约为 150 000 平方千米, 主要分布在西海岸南部地区。该岛南北纵深辽阔, 地区间气候存在重大差异, 位于北极圈内的格陵兰岛出现极地特有的极昼和极夜现象。格陵兰属阴冷的极地气候, 仅西南部受湾流影响气温略高。该岛冰冷的内地上空有一层持久不变的冷空气, 冷空气上方常有低压气团自西向东移动, 致使天气瞬息多变, 时而阳光普照, 时而风雪漫天。982 年, 挪威人埃里克(Erik the Red)因杀人罪被驱逐出冰岛, 于是来格陵兰定居。985 年, 埃里克返回冰岛, 为了使人们乐意到这块新发现的土地上去, 将它命名为格陵兰。



### Questions

1. How did Leif's father, Erik the Red, influence his exploring life?
2. Besides the adventure spirits inherited from Leif's father, what else was supposed to be influential factors in Leif's exploration life?
3. What does Leif mean by saying "If two men think alike then one of them is not thinking"?
4. What contributions did Leif make to the later explorations initiated by a bunch of navigators, sailors and explorers such as Christopher Columbus?
5. What have you learnt from Leif Erikson's life story?

## 2. Christopher Columbus 克里斯托弗·哥伦布

Christopher Columbus (1451—1506) was a navigator, colonizer and explorer. Born in **Genoa**, the son of a weaver, Columbus spent some of his early years at his father's trade and later became a sailor at 14. After a number of voyages in the Mediterranean, where the greatest



mariners of antiquity were bred, at the age of 24, Columbus settled in Lisbon, the center of European oceanic enterprise. Columbus married the well-born Filipa Perestrello e Moniz, whose father was a wealthy Portuguese navigator. As the result of the experience as a sailor as well as the study of charts and maps, Columbus firmly believed that by sailing west across the Atlantic he could reach the East easier than by the dangerous route of around Africa.

Columbus's **uniqueness** lay rather in the persistence of his dream and his determination to realize the “**Enterprise** of the Indies”, as he called his plan. Seeking for support for his project, he was repeatedly **rebuffed**, first at the court of **John II of Portugal** and then at the court of **Ferdinand II and Isabella I** of Spain. After nearly 7 years of **supplication**, having completed an expensive War in the **Iberian Peninsula** and desperate for a competitive edge over the European countries in trade with the East Indies, the Spanish rulers decided to risk the enterprise and agreed that Columbus should be granted 3 ships built and maintained at the crown's expense. According to the agreement that Columbus made with King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella, if Columbus discovered any new islands or mainland, he could receive many high rewards, including both of governmental powers and the rights of making profits.

In 1492, Columbus set sail with three ships and about 90 men; the first voyage was so much easier than sailing east. On October 12, 1492, Columbus landed in India. He named the native people of the Island Indians. In the following years, Columbus made 3 more trips to the new lands, which were all documented by National Geographic and opened a whole new business of tourism for the country of Spain.

On August 3, 1492, Columbus sailed from Palos, Spain, with three small ships. After halting at the Canary Islands, Columbus sailed due west, and on October 12, he landed on a small island in the Bahamas. Columbus took possession for Spain and discovered other islands in the neighborhood. On Christmas Eve Columbus leaving men there to found a colony, hurried back to Spain on the Niña. His reception was just like he wished, according to the contract with the Spanish sovereigns, Columbus was made “**admiral** of the ocean sea” and governor-general of all new lands he had discovered or should discover.

Fitted out with a large fleet of 17 ships, with 1,500 colonists aboard, Columbus began his second voyage in October, 1493. The landfall this time was made in the Lesser Antilles, and his new discoveries included the Leeward Islands and Puerto Rico. After discovering Jamaica, Columbus returned to Hispaniola and found the colonists, interested only in finding gold, completely disorderly; Columbus's attempts to enforce strict discipline led some to seize vessels and return to Spain to complain of his administration. Columbus returned to Spain in 1496, leaving his brother Bartholomew in charge at Hispaniola.

In 1498, on the third expedition, Columbus was forced to transport convicts as colonists. This time, Columbus sailed across the mouth of the Orinoco River (in present Venezuela) and realized that he saw a continent, and without further exploration he hurried back to Hispaniola to administer his colony. In 1500, Isabella and Ferdinand sent an independent governor as the result of reports on the **wretched** conditions in the colony (During Columbus's stint as governor and **viceroy**, he had been accused of governing **tyrannically**). Columbus was sent back to Spain in



## [探险家的足迹]

北/美/神/奇/沃/土/发/现/之/旅

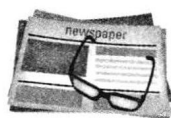
chains. The admiral was immediately **released**, but his favor was on the wane; other navigators had been in the New World and established much of the coast line of South America.

It was in 1502 that Columbus finally gathered together four ships for a fourth expedition, by which he hoped to reestablish his reputation. Columbus hoped he might still find lands answering to the description of Asia or Japan by sailing past the islands and far enough westward. After suffering terrible hardships, he reached the Gulf of Darién. Columbus was **marooned** on Jamaica while returning to Hispaniola. After his rescue, Columbus was forced to abandon his hopes and return to Spain.

Funded by Isabella I of Castile, Columbus's four voyages to the Americans, preceded by the Norse, led by Leif Ericson, who built a **temporary** settlement 500 years earlier, however, opened the western **Hemisphere** to European exploration and colonization. Columbus **initiated** widespread contact between European and **indigenous** Americans. It was his voyages that revealed the existence of this so-called New World to the great powers of Europe. While he had always given the conversion of non-believers as one reason for his exploration, Columbus became increasingly religious in his later years. Also, Columbus demanded that the Spanish Crown give him 10% of all profits made in the new lands, according to earlier agreements, however, the crown did not feel bound by those contracts and rejected. At Columbus's death, he was still convinced that his journeys had been along the east coast of Asia. Actually, America was discovered by Columbus purely by accident. People now honor Columbus for doing something that he never intended to do and never knew that he had done.

As a navigator of extraordinary skill, Columbus was often daring, courageous, imaginative but inflexible, greedy and jealous at the same time. As a colonial administer, Columbus finally was stripped of all his authority in the Americas and died in Valladolid, on May 20, 1506.

In the opinion of revisionist historians, Columbus voyages symbolize the more brutal aspects of European colonization and represent the beginning of the destination of Native American peoples and culture. However, it could not be erased that his voyages gave rise to an era of European domination of the world and saw the spread of European religious, political, and economic ideas to all part of the earth and led to general European awareness of the American continents in the western Hemisphere.



### Introduction to the character

**克里斯托弗·哥伦布(1451—1506)** 生于热那亚共和国(现意大利境内),一生从事航海活动。哥伦布相信大地球形说,认为从欧洲西航可达东方的印度和中国。为实现自己的理想,哥伦布到处游说了十几年。直到1492年,在西班牙国王支持下,哥伦布先后四次出海远航,发现美洲大陆,他也因此成为名垂青史的航海家。哥伦布开辟了横渡大西洋到美洲的航路,证明了大地球形说的正确性,促进了旧大陆与新大陆的联系。哥伦布的发现成为新大陆开发和殖民的新纪元,是历史上一个重大的转折点。



## Notes

**Genoa 热那亚** 热那亚共和国大约在1100年开始建立,位于意大利西北海岸利古里亚地区的独立城邦,1805年被拿破仑统治下的法国吞并。虽然在拿破仑被打败后的1814年,热那亚曾经复国,但之后热那亚只存在一段很短时间,最终共和国被萨丁尼亚王国吞并。现在位于意大利境内,为意大利北部的港口城市。

**John II of Portugal 葡萄牙若昂二世**(又译为约翰二世)(1455—1495) 葡萄牙和阿尔加维国王(1481—1495)。

**Ferdinand II 斐迪南二世**(1452—1516) 阿拉贡国王(1479年—1516年在位),卡斯蒂利亚国王(1474年—1504年在位,称斐迪南五世)。他也是西西里国王(1468年起,称斐迪南二世)和那不勒斯国王(1504年起,称斐迪南三世)。通过与卡斯蒂利亚女王伊莎贝拉一世的婚姻,斐迪南二世实际上是统一的西班牙的第一个国王。

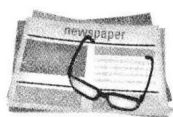
**Isabella I 伊莎贝拉一世**(1451—1504) 是卡斯蒂利亚的女王。她及其丈夫斐迪南二世完成了收复失地运动,为日后他们的外孙查理五世统一西班牙奠定了基础。

**Iberian Peninsula 伊比利亚半岛** 位于欧洲西南角,东和南临地中海,西边是大西洋,北临比斯开湾。比利牛斯山脉在半岛东北部,与欧洲大陆连接。南部隔着直布罗陀海峡与非洲相望。



## Vocabulary

uniqueness	<i>n.</i> 唯一性;独特性
enterprise	<i>n.</i> 事业;计划
rebuff	<i>vt.</i> 断然拒绝;冷落
supplication	<i>n.</i> 恳求;祈求;哀求
admiral	<i>n.</i> 海军将领;舰队司令
wretched	<i>adj.</i> 恶劣的
viceroys	<i>n.</i> (代表国王管辖行省或殖民地等的)总督
tyrannically	<i>adj.</i> 专横的;暴君似的
release	<i>vt.</i> 免除或解除(某人的职责、责任或合同)
maroon	<i>vt.</i> 把某人放逐到孤岛;使孤立
temporary	<i>adj.</i> 临时的;暂时的;短时间的
hemisphere	<i>n.</i> 半球
initiate	<i>vt.</i> 开始;着手;发起;创始
indigenous	<i>adj.</i> 土生土长的;生来固有的



### Background information

**波多黎各** 全称波多黎各自由联邦, 原为印第安人居住地。1493 年, 哥伦布第二次远航发现此地。波多黎各位于加勒比海大安的列斯群岛东部, 面积为 8 897 平方千米, 人口 337 万, 其中西班牙人和葡萄牙人的后裔占 99.9%。官方语言为西班牙语, 通用英语。居民多信奉天主教, 首府圣胡安。目前, 波多黎各维持美国联邦领土地位, 但宪法地位问题(即与美国关系的法律地位问题)仍是内部争执的焦点, 主要争执点是维持目前的美国联邦领土地位还是成为美国的一个州。波多黎各十分注重与加勒比地区和拉美国家发展经济关系, 致力于将本岛建成拉美国家面向美、加自由贸易区成员的制成品加工中心。但其主要经济部门仍被以美国为主的外国资本控制。波多黎各为加勒比地区空运中心, 旅游业发达。国内人民生活水平在拉丁美洲居于首位, 货币使用美元。



### Questions

1. What nationality was Christopher Columbus? When did Columbus leave for Lisbon?
2. What kind of theory about the earth and route of sailing did Columbus strongly stick to?
3. Can you list out at least three important voyages and expeditions of Columbus during his life time as an explorer and navigator?
4. Was Columbus's fourth voyage a successful one? Why or why not?
5. What special and significant influence did Columbus's voyages have on the field of exploration in the world?

## 3. Amerigo Vespucci 阿美利哥·韦斯普奇

Amerigo Vespucci, who is also known by the name of Americus Vespucci, was one of the early explorers of the New World, and the continents of North and South America were named in his honor.

Amerigo Vespucci was born in a small village near Greve in Chianti, south of Florence in 1454. From the time he was a small boy he was very interested in astronomy, maps, explorers as well as their adventures.

Amerigo's father died in April of 1478, therefore, Amerigo became the bread earner of the family. He was given a chance to show his business expertise because he became the manager of the firm to the money of **the Medici family**. Amerigo was an agent of the Medici family for sixteen years; he struggled with affairs of trade, buying and selling. At this time, Amerigo accumulated a wealth of money. And then in 1492 he was sent to Spain. Spain was a land full of many business opportunities. In Spain, Amerigo acted as a merchant for the Medici family. He

established many contacts in Spain; he needed to stay in Spain to conduct business for the Medici family. In Spain, Amerigo was in the midst of the Columbus' voyages, which he heard much about (as a merchant he probably invested in Columbus' second voyage). Around 1489, Vespucci was told to transfer the business of the Medici family to Gonzalo Berardi; Vespucci and Berardi would become close friends.

Vespucci had become increasingly interested in the voyages of Columbus. After Columbus' third voyage, which he had not yet discovered a passage to Asia; Vespucci felt it was time he should do some exploring himself. Amerigo had all the qualifications to be a sailor, such as his family connections, family tradition of sailing, and his skill in trade, business, **cosmography**, mathematics, and astronomy.

In May 1499, Vespucci was to set sail with **Alonso de Hojeda**. Amerigo went as an astronomer and "as a merchant". Vespucci was given two ships, and the freedom to steer them where he wished as long as Hojeda gave his permission. However, Vespucci had other plans. Columbus' ships sighted Brazil in June 27, 1499; this would be the first view Europeans had ever had of Brazil. His ships had also sailed to **the Amazon River**. On this voyage, Vespucci studied the stars in order to find the south **celestial** pole. This voyage would insight a transformation in Vespucci from businessman to scholar. Vespucci thought he was close to finding a route westward to Asia, however, Vespucci's ships would sail back to Spain in June of 1500 because they were not **seaworthy** anymore.

Once Amerigo returned to Spain from his first voyage with Hojeda, he wrote his first letter to **Lorenzo de Medici**. In this letter, he described his route across the Atlantic Ocean and wrote about the animals he saw, and he wrote about the stars of the sky that he used to plot where he was. Vespucci wrote about the people he had encountered. He wrote that his men had docked on the island of Espanola, which Columbus had discovered; here Vespucci made **provisions** for the ships. However, Vespucci said his men were getting tired from being at sea for over a year, so they set sail to return to **Castile**. When Vespucci arrived in Europe, he would soon find disappointment because the Portuguese sailor **Vasco da Gama** had sailed around Africa, to the famous part of the East. Amerigo set to sail on another expedition for Spain; the Spanish government offered him three ships and supplies for another voyage. However, although the steps are unknown, Vespucci declined the offer of the Spanish king, which led him to the conclusion that the only way he could have a successful voyage would be to sail under the Portuguese flag. Vespucci was given three Portuguese ships and complete power over the ships. The Portuguese ships were quicker, faster, stronger, and more trustworthy than Spain's. On May 31, 1501, Amerigo set sail to find the Strait of Catigara, which **Ptolemy** had thought led to Asia. However, Vespucci's voyage sailed along the coast of what is now South America; he sailed almost all the way to the southern tip of South America.

This voyage would make Vespucci famous because he knew he was not in Asia or anywhere near Asia; Vespucci made a geographical discovery that would set him apart from any man in history. He had discovered a new continent. Vespucci was aware of the **inconsistencies** between accepted notions of traditional geography. "He had discovered a new continent in the only way it



## [探险家的足迹]

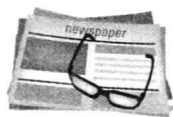
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was possible at that time to discover it, by extensive exploring coupled with **well-grounded deductions in line with a remarkably near to accurate conception of the circumference** of the Earth." Vespucci took geography to a new level; he made it known that there was another ocean that had to be crossed to get to Asia.

About the 1499—1500, Vespucci joined an expedition in the service of Spain, with Alonso de Hojeda as the fleet commander. The intention was to sail around the southern end of the African mainland into the Indian Ocean. After hitting land at the coast of what is now Guyana, the two seem to have separated. Vespucci sailed southward, discovering the mouth of the Amazon River and reaching, before turning around and seeing Trinidad and the Orinoco River and returning to Spain by way of Hispaniola. The letter, to Lorenzo di Pierfrancesco Medici, claims that Vespucci determined his longitude celestially on August 23, 1499, while on this voyage. However, that claim may be fraudulent, which could cast doubt on the letter's credibility.

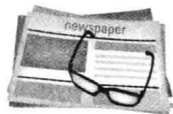
Although Vespucci had visions for more trips, he had to teach all pilots of Spain in skills of navigation and cosmography under the command of **King Ferdinand** in 1508.

Amerigo Vespucci would die in Seville on February 22, 1512. However, the achievements of Amerigo Vespucci are numerous. Vespucci was the first European to reach the shores of Brazil, and the first to explore its coastline; he was the first on the coasts of Columbia, Uruguay, and Argentina. He discovered three of the world's largest rivers: the Amazon, the Pavia, and the Plata, and he explored an estimated 6,000 miles of coastline, which was more than anyone ever had. He was the first to record the existence of the **equatorial** current. He also was able to determine precise **longitude** using the **lunar** cycle. Most important, was that he realized that he had arrived at a new continent that was not Asia. The most controversial part of Amerigo Vespucci's life was not his fault. The controversy lies in how many voyages Amerigo actually made across the Atlantic. Some say he made four, while others say he made only three. I will supply you with the information I have. My own opinion is that Amerigo Vespucci made three voyages to the New World.



### Introduction to the character

**阿美利哥·韦斯普奇(1454—1512)** 意大利的商人、航海家、探险家和旅行家,很多地理学家和历史学家普遍认为,美洲(全称亚美利加洲)是以他的名字命名的。他经过对南美洲东海岸的考察提出这是一块新大陆,而当时很多人都认为这块大陆是亚洲东部。新大陆是由阿美利哥首次发现的理论曾经引起争议。关于他究竟进行了几次探险存在争议,但他对南美洲的探险是确实存在的,而且正是通过他的信件,欧洲人才第一次知道美洲新大陆的存在。



### Notes

**the Medici family 梅迪奇家族** 是佛罗伦萨 13 至 17 世纪时期在欧洲拥有强大势力的



名门望族。梅迪奇家族的财富、势力和影响源于从事羊毛加工和在毛纺同业工会中的活动。然而,真正使梅迪奇发达起来的是金融业务。梅迪奇银行是欧洲最兴旺和最受尊敬的银行之一。

**Alonso de Hojeda 阿朗索·欧和达** 也作 Alonso de Ojeda, 西班牙早期探险家, 是第一位踏上哥伦比亚的西班牙人。

**the Amazon River 亚马孙河** 位于南美洲, 是世界流量、流域最大、支流最多、最长的河流。亚马孙河流量达每秒 219 000 立方米, 流量比其他三条大河尼罗河、长江、密西西比河的总和还要大几倍, 大约相当于 7 条长江的流量, 占世界河流流量的 20%。

**Lorenzo de Medici 洛伦佐·德·梅迪奇(1449—1492)** 意大利政治家, 也是文艺复兴时期佛罗伦萨的实际统治者。他生活的时代正是意大利文艺复兴的高潮期, 他的逝世也意味着佛罗伦萨黄金时代的结束。洛伦佐死后葬在佛罗伦萨的梅迪奇家族墓地。

**Castile 卡斯提尔** 西班牙历史上的一个王国, 由西班牙西北部的老卡斯蒂利亚和中部的卡斯蒂利亚组成。卡斯蒂利亚文化是西班牙的主体文化。

**Vasco da Gama 瓦斯科·达伽马(1469—1524)** 葡萄牙探险家, 也是历史上第一位从欧洲航海到印度的人(1498 年)。

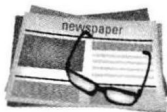
**Ptolemy 托勒密(约 90—168)** 相传他生于埃及的一个希腊化城市赫勒热斯蒂克。古希腊天文学家、地理学家、数学家, 地心说的创立者。

**King Ferdinand 斐迪南国王** 阿拉贡国王胡安二世之子。1468 年他被父亲任命为西里国王。1469 年 10 月 19 日, 斐迪南与伊莎贝拉在奥卡尼亚结婚。



### Vocabulary

cosmography	<i>n.</i> 宇宙结构学
celestial	<i>adj.</i> 天空的; 天堂的
seaworthy	<i>adj.</i> (船) 能安全行驶的; 状况良好的
provision	<i>n.</i> (尤指为旅行储备的) 粮食, 食物
inconsistency	<i>n.</i> 不协调, 不一致
well-grounded	<i>adj.</i> 有事实依据的; 基于准确判断的
deduction	<i>n.</i> 推理, 演绎
circumference	<i>n.</i> 圆周, 周长
equatorial	<i>adj.</i> 赤道附近的; 非常湿热的
longitude	<i>n.</i> 经度
lunar	<i>adj.</i> 月亮的; 与月亮有关的



### Background information

**南美洲** 位于西半球的南部, 东濒大西洋, 西临太平洋, 北濒加勒比海, 南隔德雷克海峡与南极洲相望。一般以巴拿马运河为界同北美洲相分, 包括哥伦比亚、委内瑞拉、厄瓜多尔、