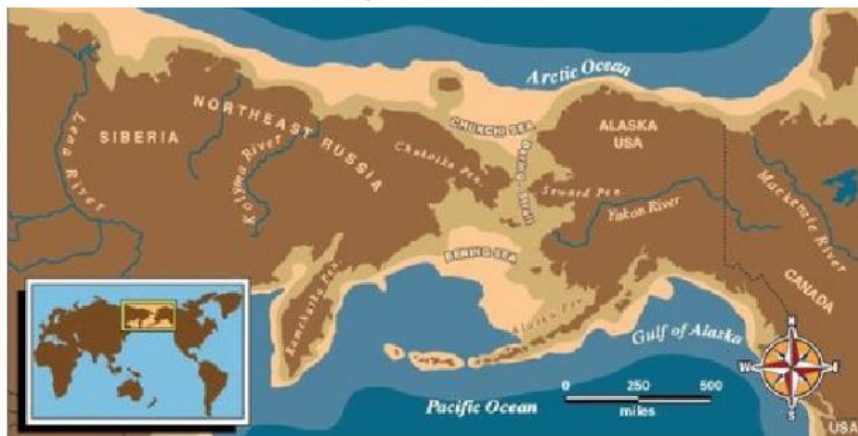


3rd Grade

Day 1

Native Americans - Who Discovered America?

by ReadWorks



The land bridge is thought to have connected present-day eastern Russia and Alaska.

Often, European explorers are said to have discovered America. These explorers came from Spain, Portugal, and England. They were searching for riches. They also wanted new lands to claim as their own. But was America really a new land?

There were people living in America long before the European explorers were even born. They came thousands and thousands of years ago. At that time, America was connected to Asia by a land bridge. The land bridge ran between Russia and Alaska. These ancient people walked across the land bridge. Once they arrived, they slowly spread out. Eventually, they settled all over North and South America.

Christopher Columbus is often called the first person to discover America. However, we now know that Vikings from Scandinavia settled in North America long before Columbus. But did the Vikings or Columbus really discover America? Aren't the real discoverers those ancient people who crossed that land bridge long ago?

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What is this passage mostly about?
 - A. Christopher Columbus
 - B. a land bridge
 - C. the Vikings
 - D. discovering America
2. How does the author feel about Christopher Columbus?
 - A. He is given credit he does not deserve
 - B. He discovered America
 - C. He was dishonest about his discovery
 - D. He deserves credit for discovering America
3. How did the first humans get to America?
 - A. By boat
 - B. By foot
 - C. By car
 - D. By swimming
4. According to the passage, who really discovered America?
 - A. Christopher Columbus who sailed to America
 - B. The Vikings from Norway
 - C. Ancient travelers that crossed a land bridge
 - D. Many european explorers
5. The author writes "But was America really a new land?" because
 - A. other European explorers had actually already found America
 - B. there were already people living here before the explorers
 - C. the explorers came from Spain, Portugal, and England
 - D. there was not enough food for everyone to live here
6. Who discovered America? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

7. According to the passage, what connected America to Asia?

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

Explorers were searching for new lands, _____ could American really be considered a new land?

- A. before
- B. however
- C. therefore
- D. so

Food Chains

This text is adapted from an original work of the Core Knowledge Foundation.

An ecosystem is like a habitat where an organism lives, but it includes many habitats plus the nonliving systems that support them. In an ecosystem, each living thing depends on other living and nonliving things for survival.

In a forest ecosystem, living things depend on one another. Many living things depend on trees for shelter and food. You can almost certainly find bugs on any tree. Woodpeckers can find them too!

If you dig down into the soil or scrape away some tree bark, you will discover all sorts of other critters in the forest ecosystem, such as worms, beetles, and ants.

You might not see all those insects and other little critters when you look around the forest, but they are there! You can find them under leaves, rocks, and fallen trees. Mostly, their world is underground and out of sight, unless you are willing to get dirty digging for them!



Beetles live in the forest ecosystem.

What are all those bugs doing there? They are doing what all living things do: surviving. To survive, living things need food. The nutrients in food provide energy for the body. Without

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energy, the body stops. It's that simple! What else are bugs and other living things doing besides eating? They are doing whatever it is they need to do in order to produce young. Plants make seeds. Mammals, such as squirrels and deer, give birth to live babies. Bugs and birds lay eggs.

Spiders make egg sacs like the one in this image. When the sac opens, hundreds of tiny baby spiders will run out. Most of them will be eaten by other bugs. Those that survive will grow to be hunters like their parents.

Living things also must develop ways to protect themselves from other things in the ecosystem. Squirrels build their nests high in trees, away from predators. Worms dig down into the soil. Snails and turtles have shells to protect them.

Unfortunately for squirrels, worms, snails, and turtles, these defenses do not always work. The predators that hunt and eat other animals for a living have sharp teeth and claws for catching their prey.



Spiders make egg sacs like this one.

There are ecosystems in many places. Each ecosystem has its own food chain. Look at the image of the wolf, the deer, and the acorn. This is a very simple way to think of the food chain. Smaller animals are eaten by slightly larger animals. But this image only represents a small part of a real food chain. Most food chains also include plants. They also include bacteria and

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other tiny, microscopic organisms.

Plants and smaller animals are usually near the bottom of the food chain. At the top of the food chain, you will find beasts like grizzly bears, lions, blue whales, or great white sharks. These animals are too big to be hunted by anything else. A lion or shark is called an apex predator because it is at the top of the food chain.



food chain