

How OUR NATION BEGAN

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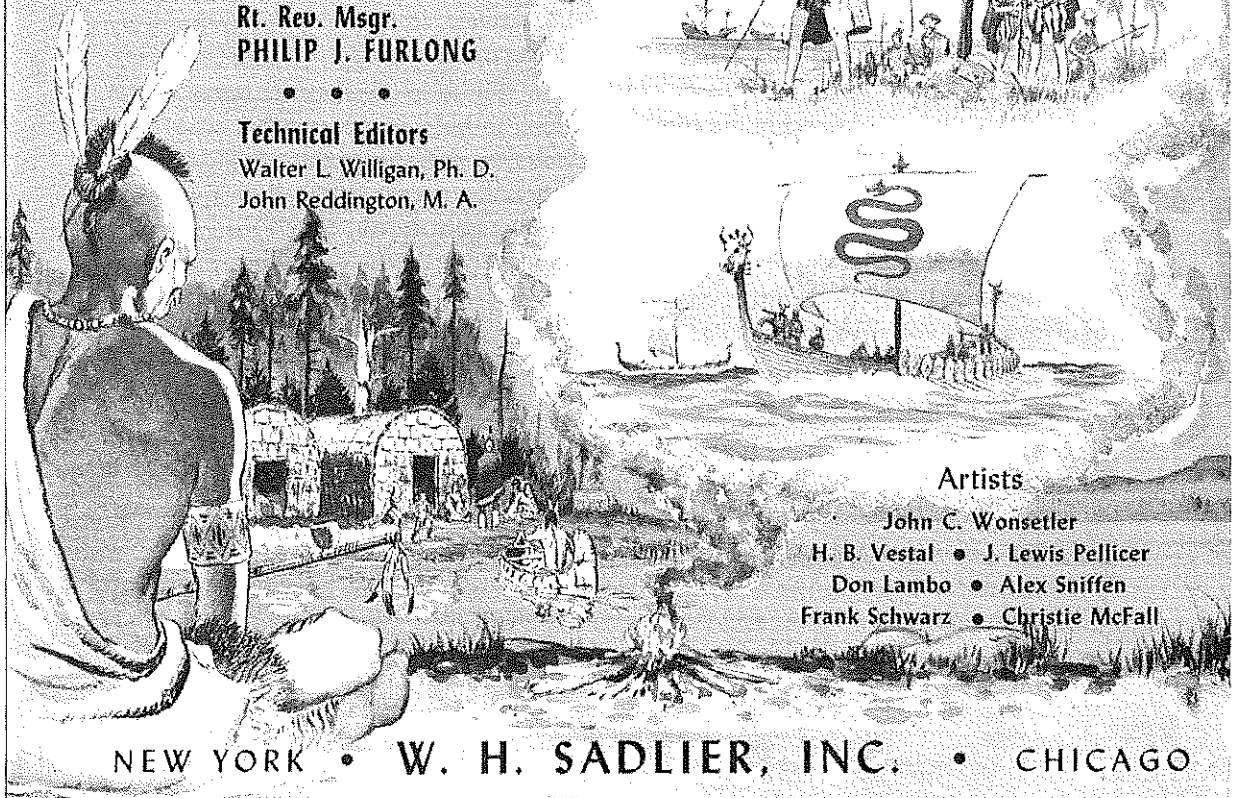
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TO THE BOYS AND GIRLS WHO WILL USE THIS BOOK



Many people have worked hard to prepare this book for you. Authors, editors, and artists have worked long hours to make this the kind of book you will understand and enjoy. We think it is different from most histories written for boys and girls your age. We know you will learn much from this book. We also believe that you will find it interesting and attractive.

The authors who wrote this book know how to write for boys and girls. You will find most of the sentences short and easy to understand. Most of the words are simple. Of course, you will find some new words, because you wish to learn new words every year. Most of the new words are explained. Some of them are explained as soon as they are used. Others are explained in the glossary at the back of the book.

The lives of famous men will inspire you to a greater love of your country. The struggle to make America great is never-ending. It demands that you not only love your country but obey its laws and respect its leaders.

We know that boys and girls like pictures, and we have given you many pictures. You can scarcely turn a page without finding a new picture. The pictures help make the book attractive. They also tell you many things. By looking at a picture you can tell what kind of clothes certain people wore, what kind of tools they used, and what kind of houses they lived in.

It is easier to understand history if you have maps showing where various people lived and where important events took place. You will find many maps in this book. Maps will tell you why people settled in certain places—near rivers, in fertile valleys—and how these people made a living.

In this book there are many questions to help you remember what you have read. Some of the questions seem more like a quiz game than questions in a school book, but if you answer them correctly you will be learning your history well. Some of the questions will help you to think, and it is very important that you learn to think correctly.

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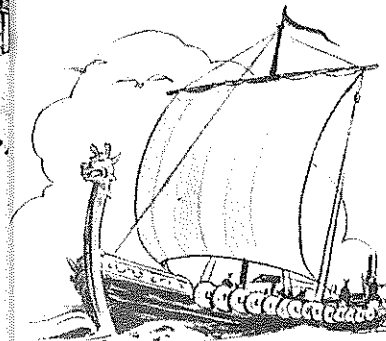
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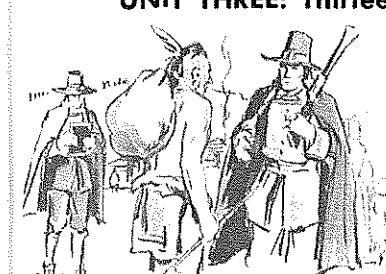
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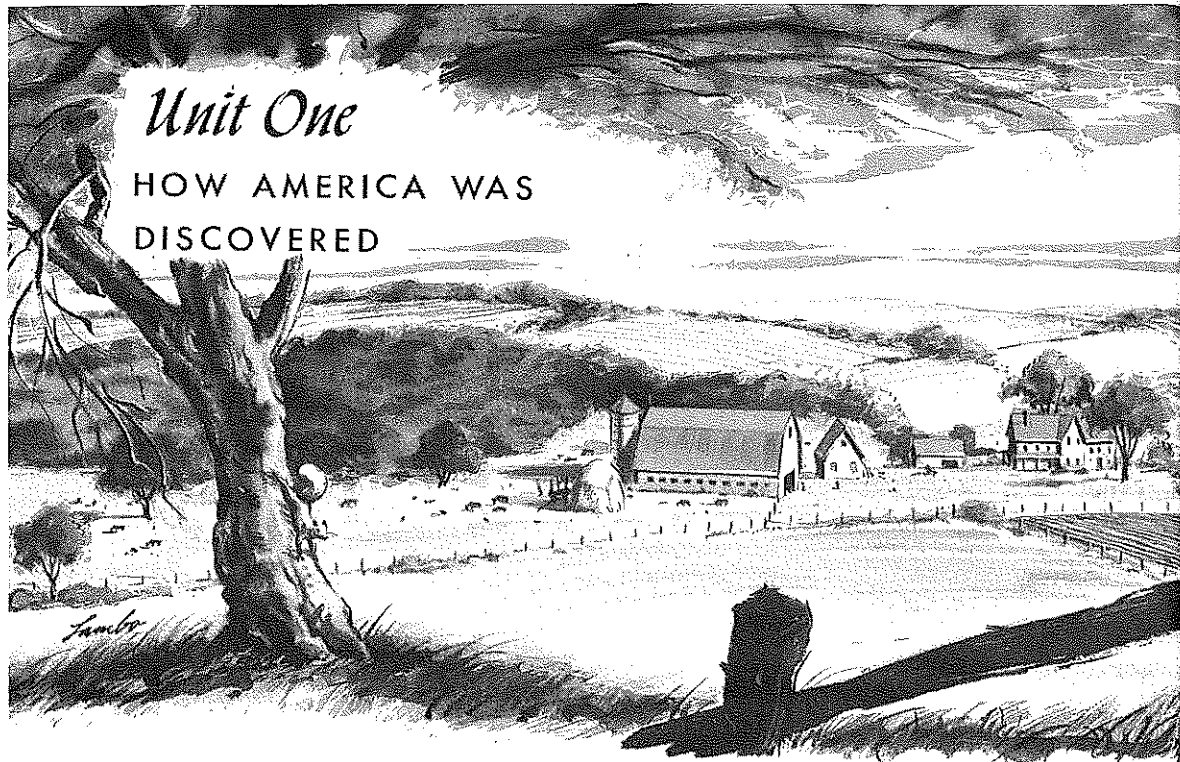
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Unit One

HOW AMERICA WAS DISCOVERED



Looking Into the Long Ago

"Look, Uncle Tom," cried Mary Jean.

She was out of breath from running up the hill. She could hardly talk.

Mr. North turned from the fence he had been fixing.

"Why, hello Mary Jean and Dick. What's all the excitement?"

Mr. North was Dick's father, and he was Mary Jean's uncle. Mary Jean lived in the city. She was visiting her uncle's farm.

"Well, Dad," Dick said, "Mary Jean wanted some more stones for her collection. I told her the best

place to find them was along the brook. We were walking along the edge of the brook looking for stones when—"

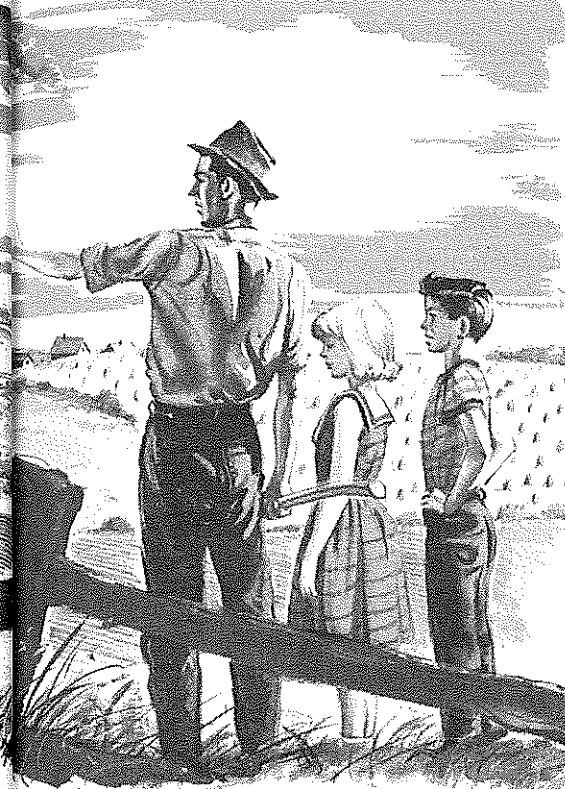
Dick stopped. He, too, was out of breath from running up the hill.

"—when I found this," said Mary Jean. She held out her hand.

"What do you have?" Mr. North leaned over to take a closer look. "Why, it's an arrow head."

"That's what I thought," said Dick. "It was made by an Indian, wasn't it, Dad?"

"Yes," said Mr. North, "the Indians made arrow heads out of flint.



That is a very hard kind of stone. The Indians put the arrow heads on the ends of their arrows. They shot the arrows from bows. Bows and arrows were very important to the Indians, because they got most of their food and clothing by hunting. They did not have guns before the white men came."

"Were the Indians here a long time before the white men came, Uncle Tom?" asked Mary Jean.

"Yes. A long, long time. Nobody knows exactly how long."

Mr. North and Mary Jean and Dick were standing at the top of a hill. They could see for many miles.

"Everything you can see once belonged to the Indians," Mr. North said. "This land where our farm is belonged to the Indians at one time. Way over there, Mary Jean, is the city where you live. The land where the city now stands belonged to the Indians. All this and much, much more belonged to them. All of North America and South America belonged to them. That is thousands, and thousands of miles."

"What did our country look like then?" asked Dick.

"It looked very different from the way it looks now. You know that little stretch of woods at the edge of our farm?" Mr. North pointed toward the woods.

"Oh, yes," said Mary Jean. "Dick and I have hiked through there. The trees and bushes are so thick that we could hardly walk. In some places the trees grow so close together that the sun cannot shine through."

"Well, that is only a very small woods," said Mr. North. "But this whole part of the country was one big woods, or forest, when the Indians lived here. At that time a squirrel could have traveled hundreds of miles through the trees without ever touching the ground."

"Whew!" exclaimed Dick. "Just think of that!"

"In other parts of the country there were not so many trees," said Mr. North. "There were deserts and grass-covered plains. But everywhere the country was almost the same as God made it. The Indians had not changed it. They had no big farms, no big cities, no roads. They loved the wilderness."

"The country has certainly changed since then," said Mary Jean. She looked out over the farms, the highways, the railroads, and the big city with its tall buildings and factories.

"Most of the people who built our country came from Europe, didn't they?" Dick asked.

"Yes," said Mr. North. "When we go into the house, I'll show you where it is on a map. It's about time to go in for lunch anyway."

Mr. North led Dick and Mary Jean to the room he called his den.

"I love maps," Mr. North said. "I have many of them. Let's see if I can find the right one. Ah, here it is."

Dick and Mary Jean looked on as Mr. North explained.

"The map shows where we think the first human beings lived. That place is in the western part of Asia. Adam and Eve and their children lived there. That was thousands and thousands of years ago. From

there people spread over Asia, Europe, and Africa."

"Now over here," said Mr. North, "is the Holy Land. Our Lord lived and died here. That was about nineteen hundred years ago. While Our Lord was on earth He started His Church."

"That was the Catholic Church," said Dick.

Mr. North nodded. "Yes. The Catholic Church is the One True Church. It is the Church that was founded by God Himself. Well, the Apostles and other missionaries went out from the Holy Land. People in other parts of the world heard the missionaries. Many of these people became Catholics."

Mr. North pointed to the part of the map marked "Western Europe."

"Over here," he said, "is the western part of Europe. By the year 1000, almost everybody in Western Europe was a Catholic."

"What about America?" Mary Jean asked.

"I am coming to that. All this time, two great continents lay across the Atlantic Ocean. They were North America and South America. Nobody in Europe knew about North America and South America. Then in 1492 Christopher Columbus sailed from Europe. He sailed far across the Atlantic Ocean and

discovered America. Later on, many people from Western Europe crossed the ocean to America. They built the United States. They also built the other countries on this side of the ocean."

"But the Indians were already here," said Dick. "How did they get here?"

"Was Columbus the first man from Europe to discover America?" asked Mary Jean. "Somebody told me that Leif Ericson was first."

"Why was Columbus sailing across the Atlantic if he did not know America was here?" Dick asked.

Mr. North laughed. "I hear Mother calling us for lunch, so I can't answer all your questions right

now. Anyway, you will be going back to school next week. This year you are going to learn about the beginning of our country. I'm sure you will find the answers to these questions when you study history."

"I'll come back and visit you after we have been in school for a while" Mary Jean said. "Then Dick and I will let you know what we have found out."

"Fine," said Mr. North. "Do you still have the arrow head? Yes, I see you have. Don't lose it. Well, I'm hungry after my work."

"And we are hungry after our hike," said Dick.

"Then let's see what we have for lunch," said Mr. North. "We are coming, Mother."





I. The Indians Were the First Americans

An Indian Family. This is an Indian family. The Indians lived in our country long before the white men came to America.

The family in this picture lived in the eastern part of our country. This part of the country was covered by a large forest. You can see many trees in the picture.

The father is bringing in a deer. He shot this deer with his bow and arrow. The Indian father is called a brave.

One of the boys is bringing in some fish which he caught in the river.

The mother is sitting by the fire. Indian wives are called squaws. This squaw is shelling corn. She

raised this corn in a little field near the house. She will cook a piece of the deer. She will also cook the fish. Later, she will make clothes from the skin of the deer.

A baby is lying on the ground near the mother. An Indian baby is called a papoose.

The younger children are playing a game. Indian children love to play, as all children do.

Behind the mother you can see the house. It is made out of the bark of trees.

How the Indians Lived. You can see that the Indians did not live as we live today. They did not have big cities. They did not have big farms. They lived in the wilderness.

They got most of their food by hunting and fishing. They did not have roads like ours. Their only roads were trails through the forest. When Indians traveled, they either walked or went by canoe. They had no carts or wagons. They did not have horses until the white men came.

The Indians could not buy the things they needed. They had no stores. Each family made its own weapons, tools, and clothes. They made their weapons and tools out of wood, stone, and the bones of animals. They made their clothes out of the skins of animals. Instead of shoes they wore moccasins. For money they used shell beads called wampum.

Usually, a number of Indian families lived close to each other. These families formed a tribe. Each tribe had a chief, or leader. There were many wars between the tribes. Many people were killed in these bloody wars. When an Indian warrior killed an enemy it was the custom to cut off his head with an ax called a tomahawk. Then he would remove the hair, called the lock, and wear the clean scalp on his belt, like a medal. Indians loved to decorate themselves with paint and feathers before they went on the war path. When talking peace, the Indians sat in a circle and smoked the peace pipe.

The Indians did not know about the One True God. They worshiped the sun, the moon, the thunder, and many other things. Later the Catholic missionaries came and taught them about Our Lord. They also taught the Indians to love their fellow man.

Indians spoke many different languages. An Indian from one part of the country could not understand an Indian from another part of the country. For this reason, they sometimes used a sign language. They made certain signs with their hands. Each sign stood for a word or an idea. Most Indians could understand this sign language.



The Plains Indians. At the beginning of this chapter we read about an Indian family who lived in the eastern part of our country. This part of the country was covered by a great forest.

In the western part of our country there were many Indians who did not live in a forest. They lived

on the plains. The plains were covered with thick grass, but they had very few trees. The Indians who lived here were called the Plains Indians.

Many animals fed on the grass of the plains. To the Indians, the most important of these animals was the buffalo, or bison. The Indians used

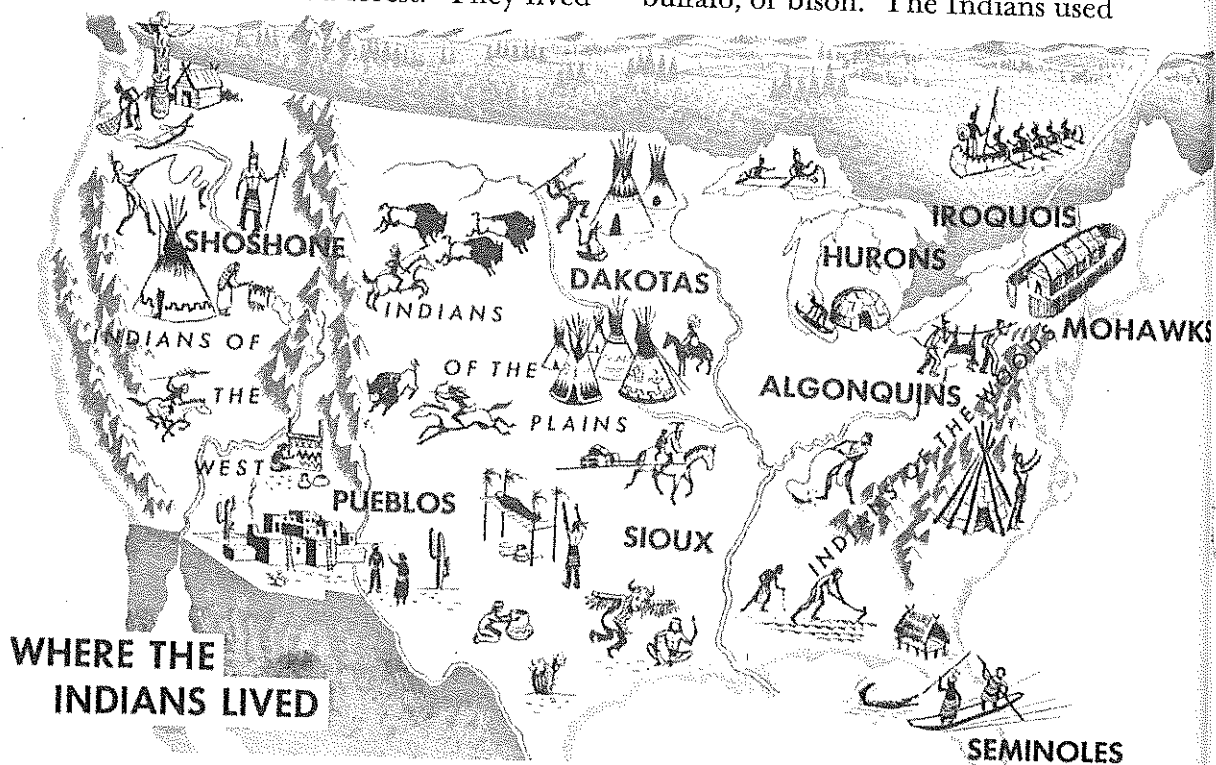
the buffalo for many different purposes. They ate buffalo meat. They made clothes from buffalo skins. They made tepees, or wigwams, out of buffalo skins. They slept on beds made of buffalo skins. They even used buffalo skins to cover the framework of their boats.

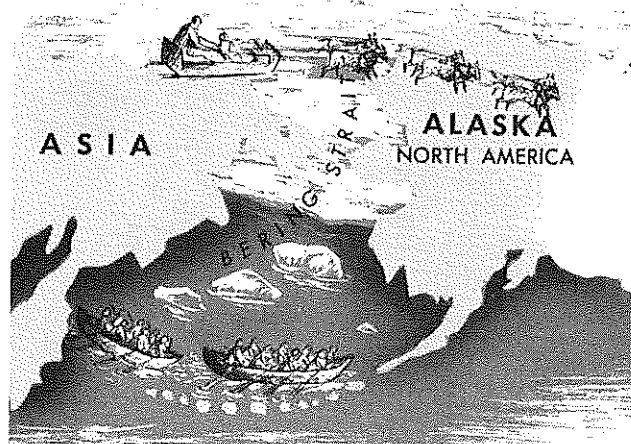
The buffalo did not stay in one place very long. They moved about, looking for grass. The Indians followed them. Their tepees were easy to move. A tepee is really a tent. It has a frame made of sticks. A buffalo skin or deer skin is stretched

over this frame. There is a hole in the top to let out smoke. There is an opening at the bottom which is used as a door.

The Indians of the Southwest. The Indians of the Southwest lived in big houses made of clay bricks. They were like apartment houses. These houses were called pueblos.

Many families lived in one pueblo. These Indians raised corn and many other vegetables. They made dishes and vases out of clay. They wove baskets from grass and other plants.





How Did the Indians Reach America? Most people think that the Indians probably came over to Alaska from Asia, but nobody knows for sure. On the map you can see that Alaska is very close to Asia. There is only a narrow strip of water, the Bering Strait, between Alaska and Asia. In winter this water freezes. Perhaps people from Asia walked across the ice to Alaska.

Or perhaps they came in canoes, in the summer.

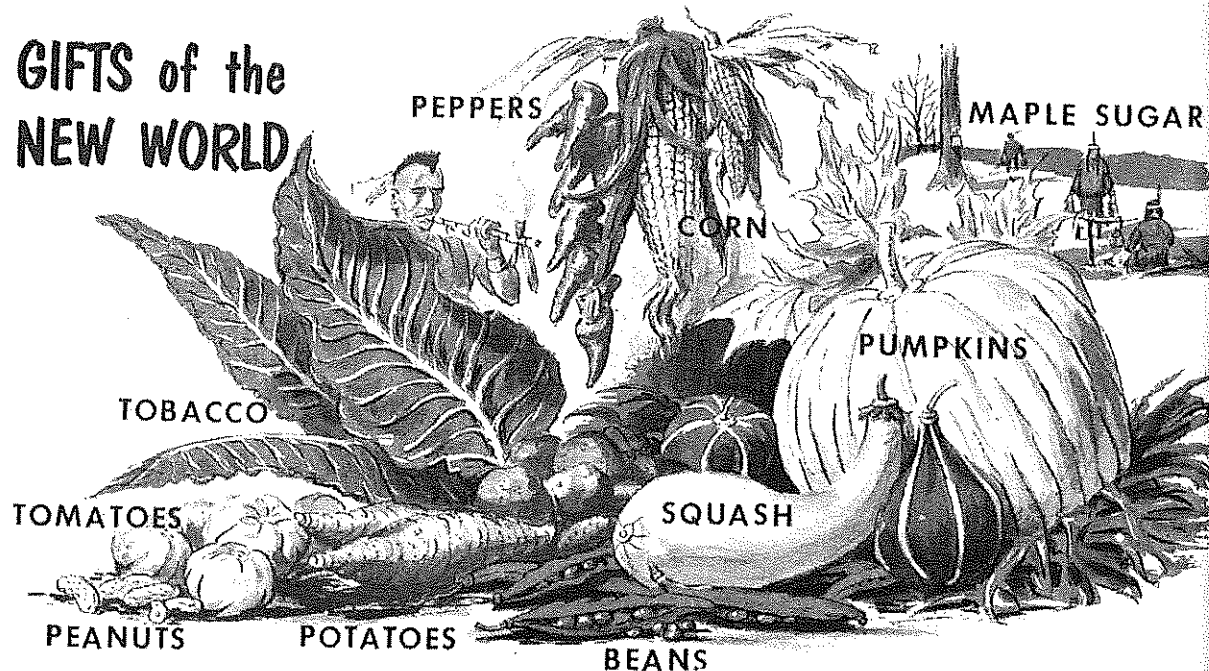
These people probably built homes in Alaska. Later, some of their children or grandchildren may have moved south into Canada. Still later, some of the people no doubt moved farther south into the United States. Then some of them moved on to Mexico, Central America, and finally South America.

Why do we call these people Indians? We'll find the answer to that question in Chapter 6.

When the first white man came to America, there were Indians in almost every part of North America and South America.

The Indians really "discovered" America many hundreds of years before the white men did.

GIFTS of the NEW WORLD



What We Have Received From the Indians. We have many things to remind us that the Indians were the first Americans. Many parts of our country have Indian names. A few of them are Ohio, Kentucky, Minnesota, Connecticut, and Mississippi. Many of our most important roads follow old Indian trails.

Today we use many plants which we learned about from the Indians. Here is a list of a few plants, fruits, and vegetables which the Indians taught the settler to cultivate: corn, beans, peanuts, tobacco, tomatoes, potatoes, sugar, and pumpkins. Indians taught their white friends to hunt, fish, and build canoes.

STUDY LESSON

WHAT AM I? Write each word and after it the phrase that explains it.

- | | | |
|----------|----------|-----------|
| 1. brave | 2. tepee | 3. pueblo |
| 4. tribe | 5. squaw | 6. clay |

- an Indian wife.
- an Indian hunter.
- a group of Indians living close together.
- Indian home built with clay bricks.
- material used in making dishes.
- home of the Plains Indians.

WHAT IS THE REASON? Think carefully before you answer each question.

- Why was the life of the Indian so different from ours?
- Why did the Indian families make their own clothes and tools?
- Why did the Indians worship the sun and other things?
- Why was the buffalo so important to the Plains Indians?
- Why did the Indians often use sign language?
- What did the Indians teach their white friends?
- How did we repay the Indians for their gifts to us?

WHERE AM I? Answer each question in a complete sentence.

- Where do most people believe the Indians lived before they came to North America?
- In what part of the country did Indians live in clay brick houses?
- Where did the Plains Indians live?
- Can you name five places with Indian names?

WORDS TO KNOW. Use each of these words in a sentence. Look them up in your dictionary, or in the word list in the back of the book, if you are not sure of their meaning.

- | | | |
|----------|----------|---------|
| buffalo | plains | deer |
| moccasin | tomahawk | papoose |
| scalp | wampum | lock |