

13. The discovery of Columbus excited a spirit of maritime enterprise unknown and unfelt at any time before, and drew numerous adventurers from all parts of Europe.

14. In 1497, John Cabot, and his son Sebastian, natives of Venice, in the service of Henry VII. of England, discovered North America, and explored the coast from Newfoundland to Florida.

15. In 1499, Americus Vesputius, a native of Florence, visited South America. On his return to Europe, he published the first account of the New World, of which he claimed the original discovery, and thereby gave his name to the Western Continent. This however does not lessen the glory which crowns the discovery of Columbus, and which will descend with his memory to the most distant ages.

16. It was at first supposed that America was a part of the Eastern Continent; the Islands first discovered received therefore the name of the West Indies, and the inhabitants that of Indians, which was afterwards extended to the natives of the whole country.

17. Much controversy has taken place on the origin of the inhabitants of the New World: they were found in various stages of society, from the lowest savage state to that of a half-civilized people. The conclusion is, that they emigrated from the Eastern Continent, and that they reached America from the nearest points of North-Western Europe and North-Eastern Asia, but at what period is entirely unknown.

18. Several years elapsed before America was known to be a separate continent; at length in 1513 Balboa, a Spaniard, ascended the mountains in the Isthmus of Darien, and first saw the Pacific Ocean.

19. The Western Continent is generally described under two grand divisions, viz: North America, and South America; these are joined together by the isthmus of Darien. There is besides a great collection of islands lying between the two continents, usually called the West Indies; but by some it is also termed the Columbian Archipelago.

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What did he afterwards do? How was he treated? 13. What did the discovery of Columbus excite? 14. Who discovered North America? 15. Who published the first account of the New World? After whom was it named? What will descend to the most distant ages? 16. What was America supposed to be? What did the Islands first discovered receive? The inhabitants? 17. What has taken place on the origin of the inhabitants? How were they found? What is the conclusion? 18. Who first saw the Pacific Ocean? 19. What are the divisions of the Western continent?