

THE NEW WORLD



Saddleback's *Graphic American History*



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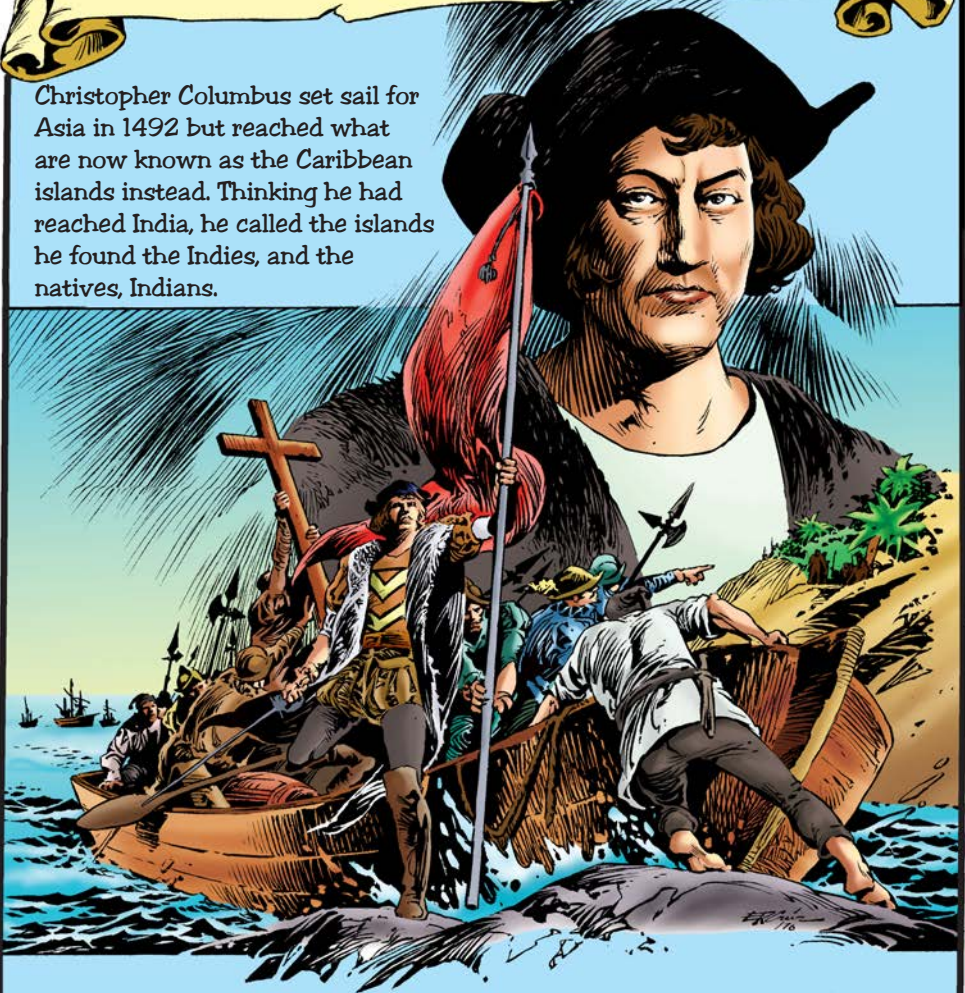
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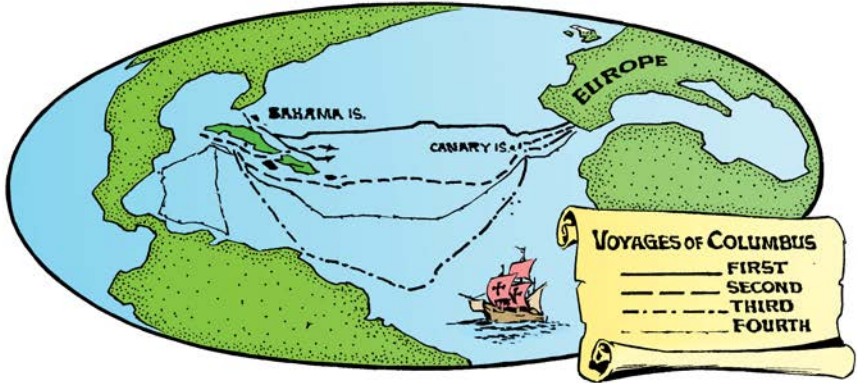
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DISCOVERING AMERICA!

Christopher Columbus set sail for Asia in 1492 but reached what are now known as the Caribbean islands instead. Thinking he had reached India, he called the islands he found the Indies, and the natives, Indians.

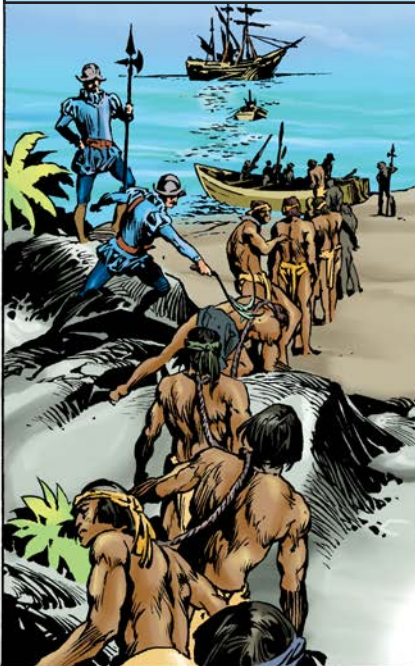


The first voyage lasted five weeks. To the fearful sailors on unknown seas, it seemed endless. Upon reaching land, Columbus stepped ashore carrying a holy banner and claimed the land for Spain, while the natives stared at their strange visitors.



On later voyages, Columbus explored the Bahamas, Cuba, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico. He established the first permanent European settlement in the New World on the island of Santo Domingo, which he called *Hispaniola*. Not finding the riches he had hoped for, he divided the land and the Indians who lived on it among the Spanish settlers.

The natives who refused to work on the great sugar and cotton plantations were either killed or shipped to Spain to be sold as slaves.



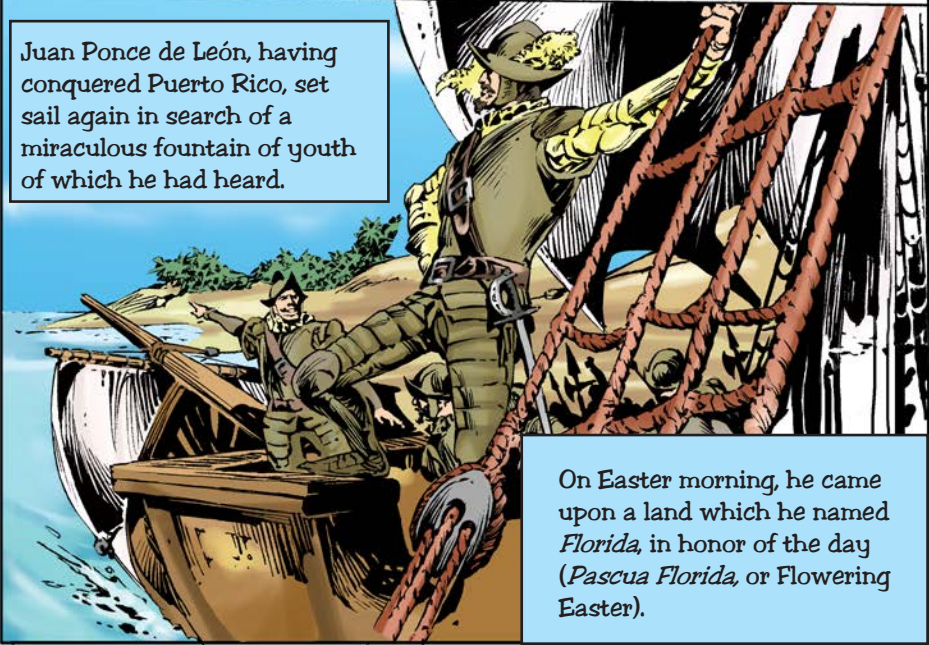
Great numbers of slaves were then imported from Africa to work the plantations.



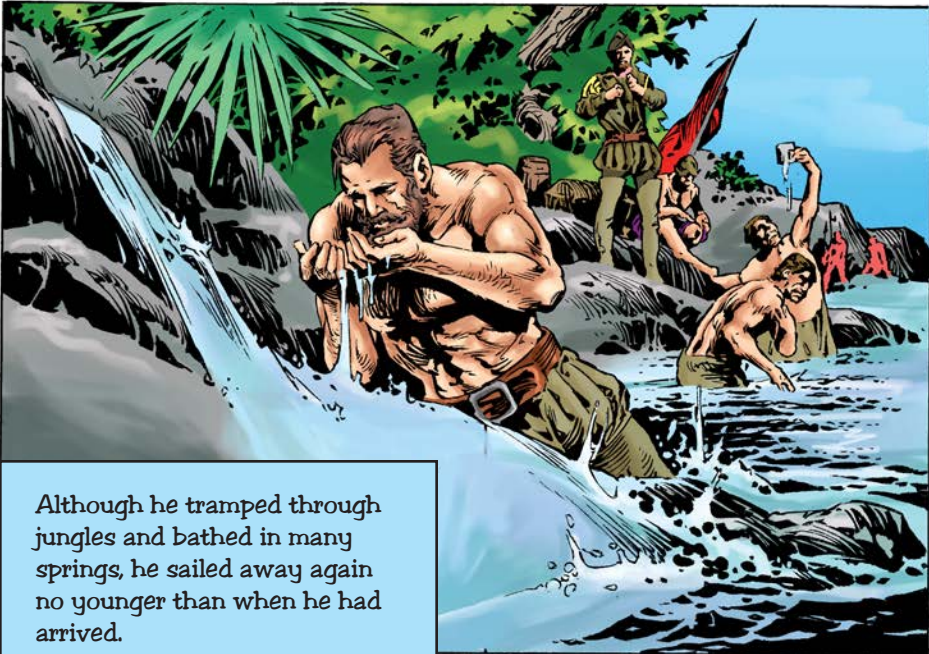
Within 50 years the 300,000 original natives of Hispaniola had been wiped out.

For 50 years after Columbus, Spain had no rivals in the New World. Spanish *conquistadores** first conquered the islands and then advanced to the mainland.

Juan Ponce de León, having conquered Puerto Rico, set sail again in search of a miraculous fountain of youth of which he had heard.



On Easter morning, he came upon a land which he named *Florida*, in honor of the day (*Pascua Florida*, or Flowering Easter).



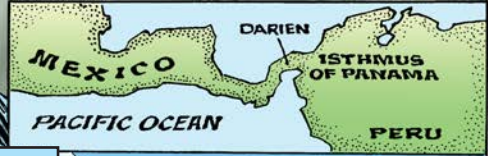
Although he tramped through jungles and bathed in many springs, he sailed away again no younger than when he had arrived.

*Conquerors, soldiers, and explorers

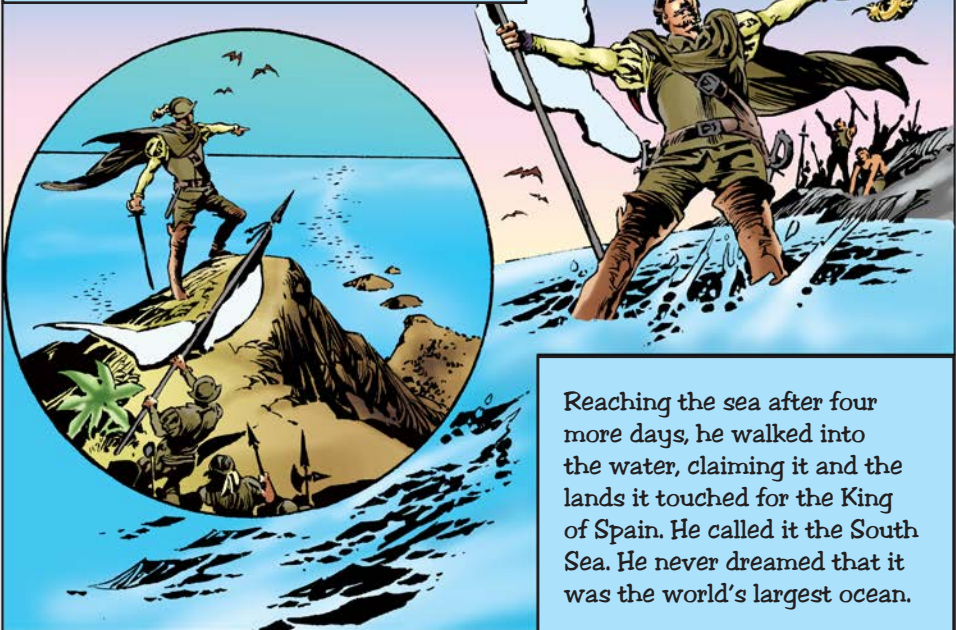
In Haiti, Vasco Balboa hid in a barrel to smuggle himself aboard a ship sailing to Darien on the Isthmus of Panama. At Darien, he heard stories from the natives of gold and silver and a great sea beyond the mountains.



To find these treasures, he led a band of Spaniards through jungles across the isthmus.



After 20 days, he saw from a mountain peak the waters of the Pacific Ocean.



Reaching the sea after four more days, he walked into the water, claiming it and the lands it touched for the King of Spain. He called it the South Sea. He never dreamed that it was the world's largest ocean.

The Spaniards dreamed of finding gold and other treasure. In 1519, Fernando Cortes sailed from Cuba with 11 ships and more than 500 soldiers and invaded Mexico. He defeated the Aztec rulers and captured and killed their emperor, Montezuma. He took gold, silver, and jewels.

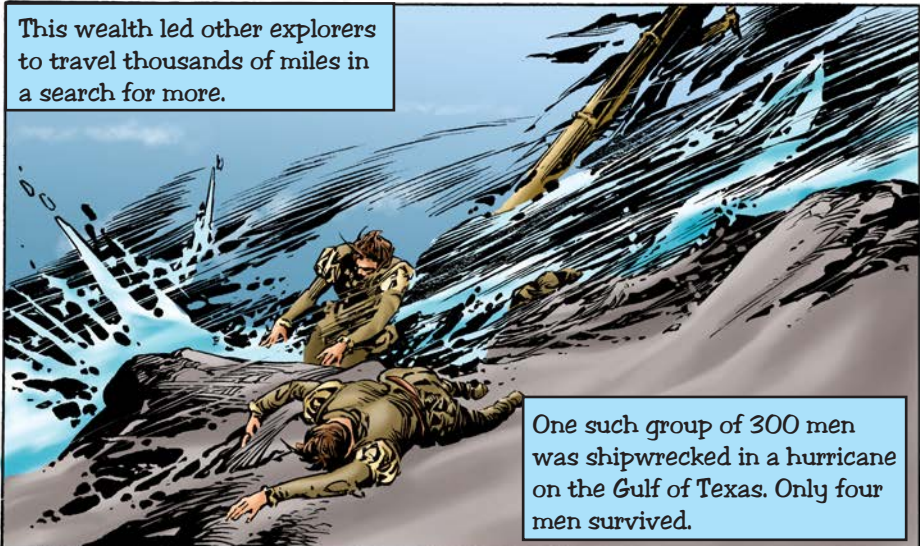
Ten years later, Francisco Pizarro invaded Peru, conquered the Inca rulers there, and found still greater treasure. The Spaniards took over the gold and silver mines of Mexico and Peru. To work the mines, they used native labor and many slaves imported from Africa.



Pack trains carried the wealth across the Andes Mountains to Panama.

From Panama, treasure fleets sailed twice a year for Spain.

This wealth led other explorers to travel thousands of miles in a search for more.

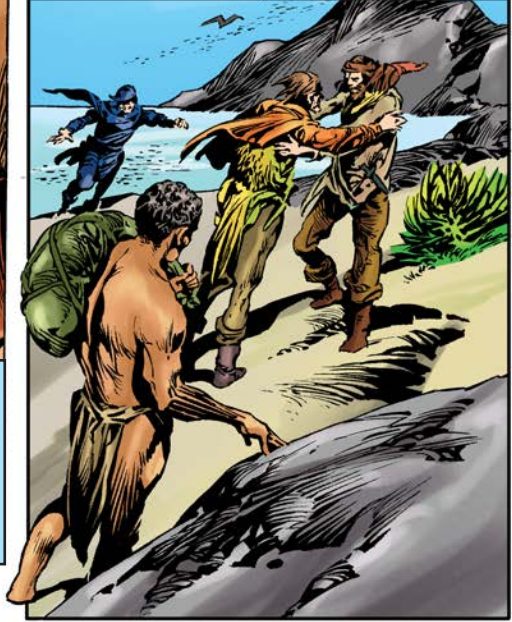


One such group of 300 men was shipwrecked in a hurricane on the Gulf of Texas. Only four men survived.



One of these was *Cabeza de Vaca*. He waded onto Galveston Island, where the Native Americans captured him and made him a slave.

Later he escaped. On the Texas coast he came across three other survivors—two Spaniards and an African slave, Estavanico.



These men traveled on foot from tribe to tribe of Native Americans for over 2,000 miles... through west Texas, up the Colorado River, across the Pecos and the Rio Grande. They were the first Europeans to visit New Mexico and Arizona.

Vaca became famous as a medicine man who cured the sick by using prayers and the sign of the cross.



Estevanico carried a gourd rattle that the Native Americans believed was magic. He became an idol. Crowds gathered everywhere, believing their wounds would be healed and the sick cured by touching the garments of these castaways. They brought gifts to them such as beads, buffalo skins, and pearls.



For eight years the four men wandered among the Native Americans before at last reaching a Spanish settlement in Mexico. They then returned to Spain where Vaca published an account of their sufferings.



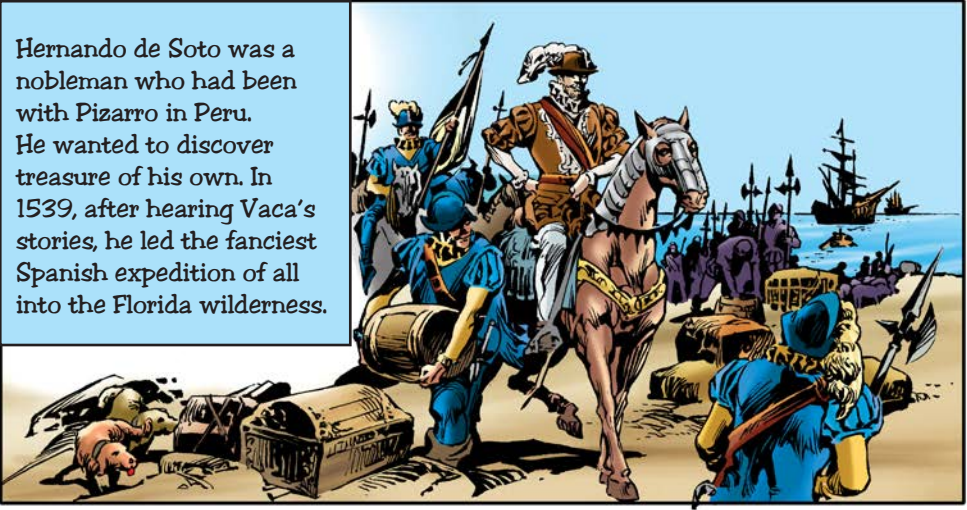
He told of squash and corn grown by the Native Americans, foods that were unknown to Europeans.

He told of the "hunchback cows" that covered the plains as far as the eye could see.



He also told of native stories of rich cities to the north, with walls of gold set with emeralds—the Seven Cities of Cibola. And this is what people remembered.

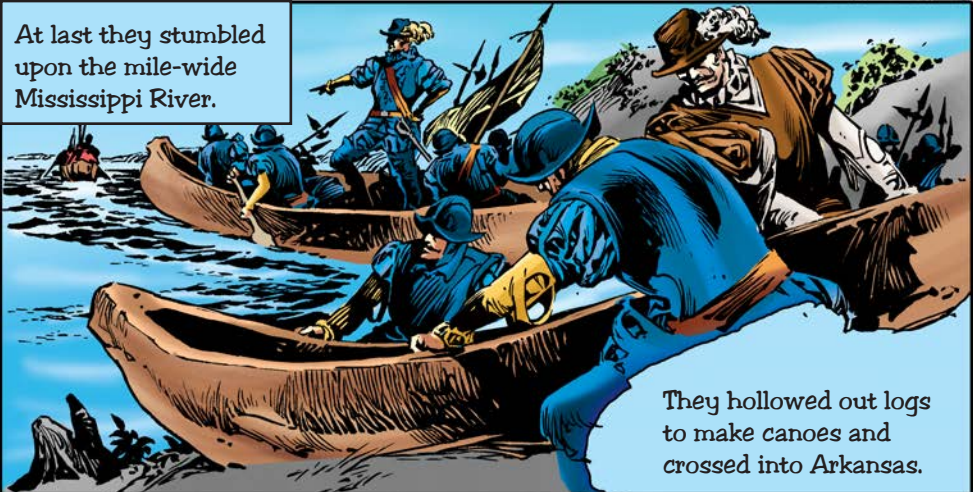
Hernando de Soto was a nobleman who had been with Pizarro in Peru. He wanted to discover treasure of his own. In 1539, after hearing Vaca's stories, he led the fanciest Spanish expedition of all into the Florida wilderness.



For months they marched through Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi, finding only poor Native American villages. Their food and supplies gave out. They were ill, and at least 200 men died.



At last they stumbled upon the mile-wide Mississippi River.



They hollowed out logs to make canoes and crossed into Arkansas.

To the Native Americans, de Soto posed as a god, using his mirror to make magic.



De Soto died of fever. His men were afraid to let the Native Americans know that he was a mortal man. They disposed of his body in the Mississippi River, secretly, at night.



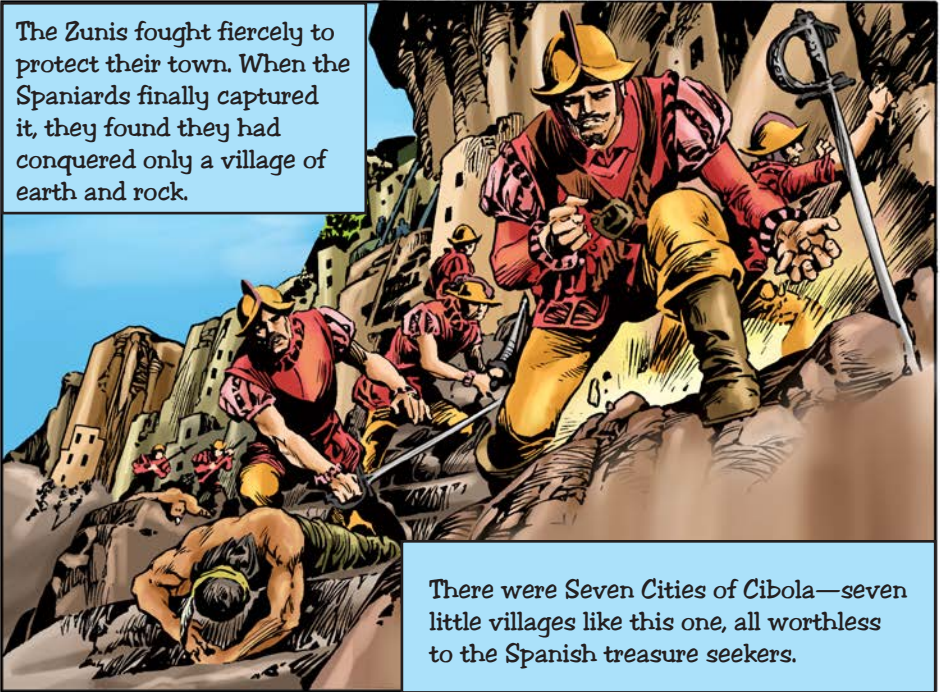
For de Soto there were no Seven Cities and no gold.
But another Spanish group did find the Seven Cities.

In 1540, Francisco de Coronado led an expedition northward from Mexico into New Mexico and Arizona. He had heard Vaca's tales of the Zuni warriors, fierce fighters with an ancient civilization.



The Zunis built houses of baked earth and rock, four and five stories high, with as many as a thousand rooms together, and located on high cliffs. When the desert sun shone on these cliff cities, they sparkled as if made of gold.

The Zunis fought fiercely to protect their town. When the Spaniards finally captured it, they found they had conquered only a village of earth and rock.



There were Seven Cities of Cibola—seven little villages like this one, all worthless to the Spanish treasure seekers.

