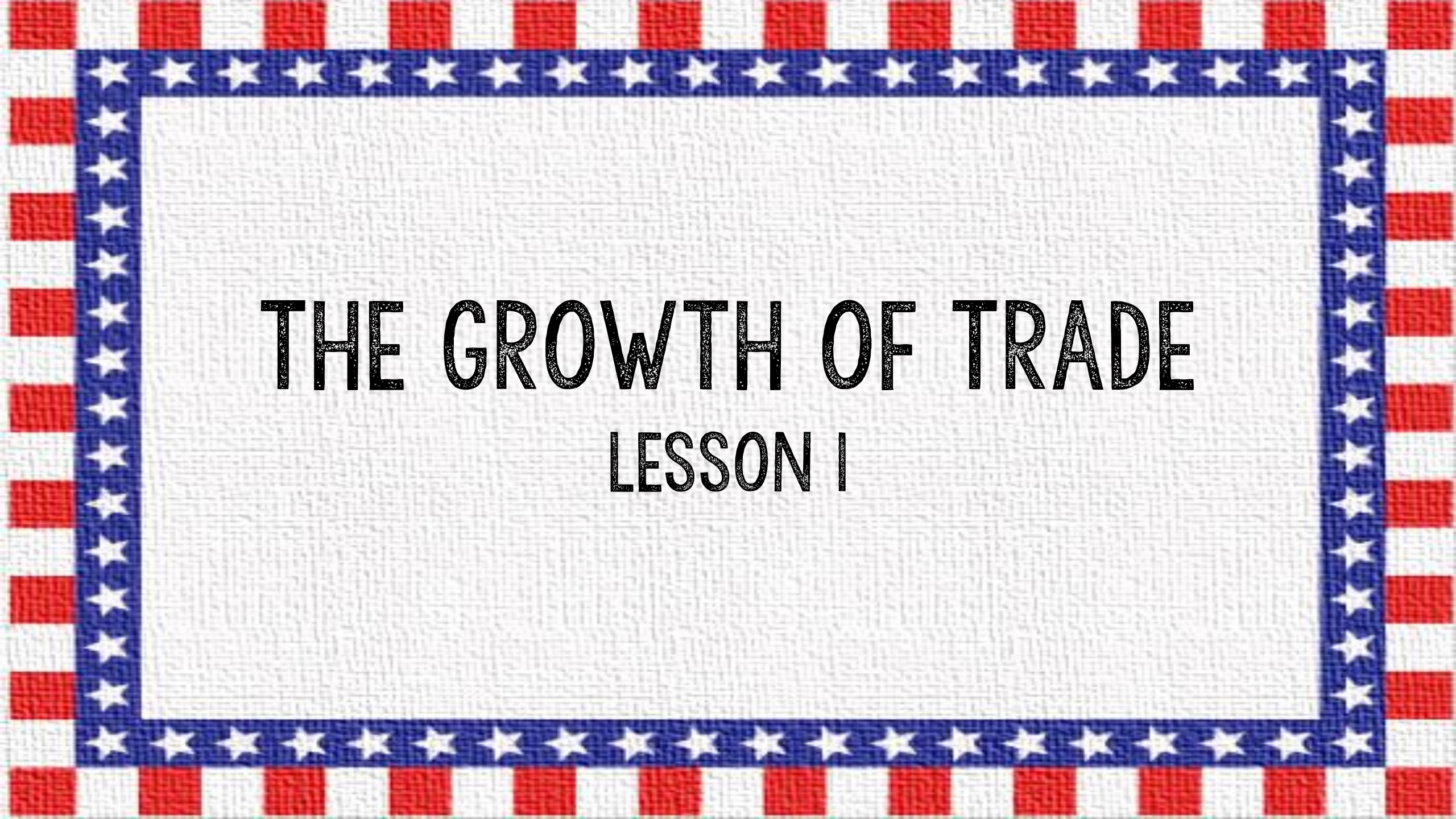
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# EXPLORING THE AMERICAS

## CHAPTER 2



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# THE GROWTH OF TRADE

## LESSON I



# CONTENT VOCABULARY

1. technology— the use of scientific knowledge for practical purposes
2. compass— navigation aid that shows the direction in which a person or vessel is traveling
3. strait— a narrow water passage between larger bodies of water
4. circumnavigate— to go around completely



# SEARCHING FOR NEW TRADE ROUTES

- In the 1400s, European countries tried to find a new route to the Indies. The Indies were a big deal because that's where Europeans got their spices, which they used for everything from seasoning their food and keeping it from spoiling to medicines.
- The Portuguese were the first to find a water route to the Indies by sailing south, around Africa.
- Christopher Columbus, an Italian, tried to sail west to the Indies.



# SEARCHING FOR NEW TRADE ROUTES

- In order for Columbus to sail across the ocean, he relied on new technology. Advances in shipbuilding and navigation allowed ships to sail across open water.
- For thousands of years before, sailors tended to stay within sight of land. By the time of Columbus' voyage, improvements in maps and the invention of new tools allowed for farther travel. The compass, astrolabe, and quadrant made it possible for sailors to determine the position of the ship to the north or south, even in cloudy weather.



# STOP & CHECK

- How did improved ship designs and new tools make it safer to explore by sea?



# EXPLORING THE WORLD

- Columbus' voyage was paid for by Queen Isabella of Spain. She agreed for two reasons
  - Columbus promised to bring Christianity to any lands he came across, which appealed to the deeply Catholic queen.
  - If Columbus found a new route to the Indies, Spain would become rich from the increase in trade.
- On October 12, 1492, Columbus reached the modern-day Bahamas, claiming them for Spain and calling them San Salvador.
- Columbus had effectively “discovered” the Caribbean Islands and a new landmass that was not included in previous maps: the Americas.



# EXPLORING THE WORLD

- Because Columbus believed he'd found the East Indies, he called the natives "Indians". He explored for several months before departing for Spain.
- When he returned to Spain, Columbus was received like a hero. The king and queen, Isabella and Ferdinand, named him "Admiral of the Ocean" and dedicated more money to his future trips.
- Columbus made three more trips to the West Indies, as they became known, Central America, and northern South America. He claimed the new lands for Spain and established settlements. He also mapped the coast of Central America.



# EXPLORING THE WORLD

- Columbus wasn't the only explorer of the Americas. In 1502, Amerigo Vespucci sailed along the coast of South America. He determined that South America was a new continent, and not part of Asia. Geographers in Europe began to call the new continent "America" in his honor.
- Vasco Núñez de Balboa led an expedition west from Panama and found the Pacific Ocean, claiming it and the lands along it for Spain.
- In 1520, Ferdinand Magellan sailed through the strait that Balboa had discovered and named the ocean, the Pacific Ocean, because it was so peaceful. Though he died during the journey, his crew continued on and were the first to **circumnavigate** the globe.

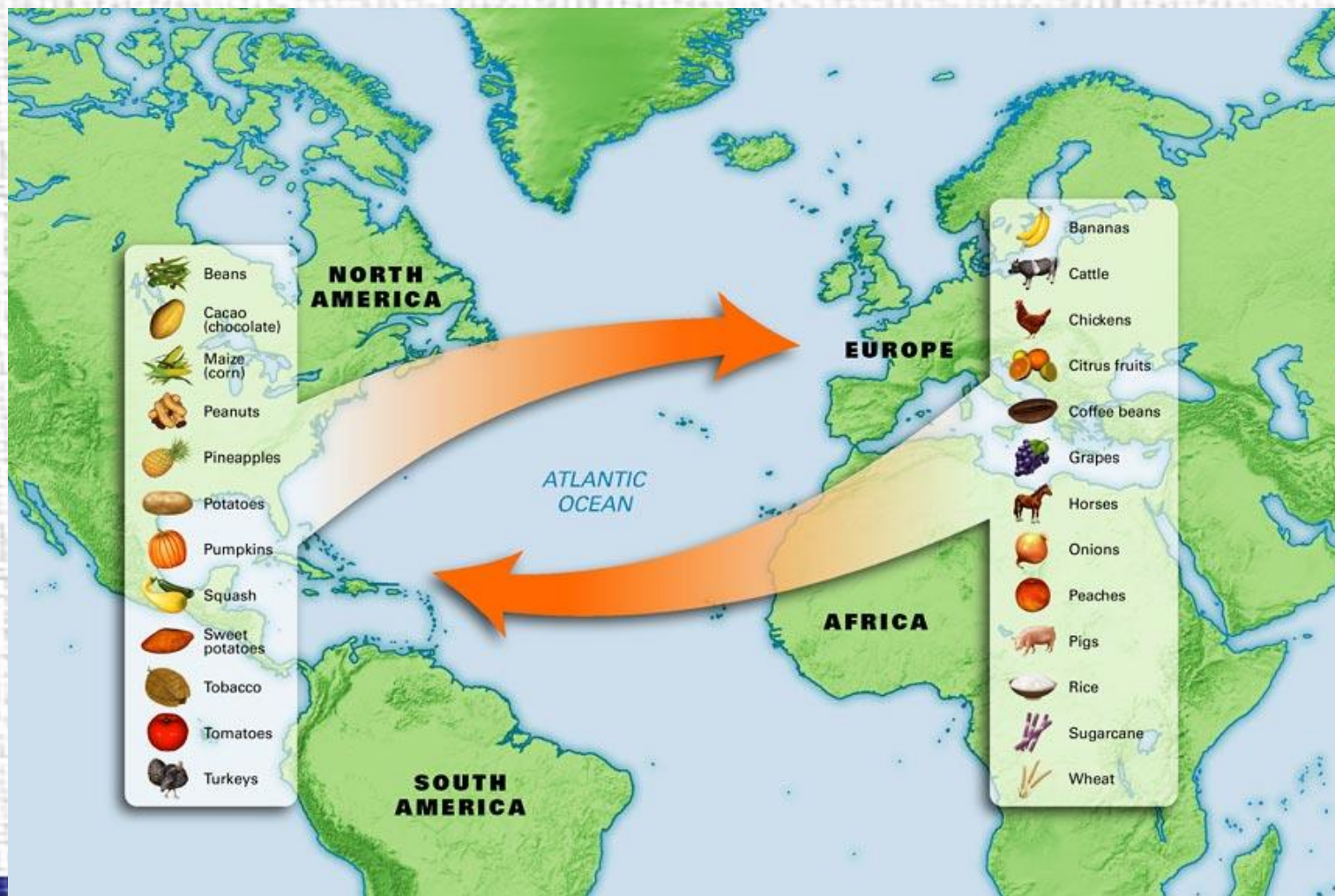


# EXPLORING THE WORLD

- European explorers brought together parts of the globe that had little contact until then: Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas. This led to the exchange of ideas, people, plants, and animals known at the **Columbian Exchange**.



# COLUMBIAN EXCHANGE





# STOP & CHECK

1. Why did Spain finance Columbus's voyage?
2. How did the new types of sailing ships affect overseas exploration?
3. What were the results of Columbus's voyage across the Atlantic?
4. In 3 sentences, with support, tell me who played the most important role in exploring the Americas?
  - Christopher Columbus
  - Queen Isabella
  - Amerigo Vespucci