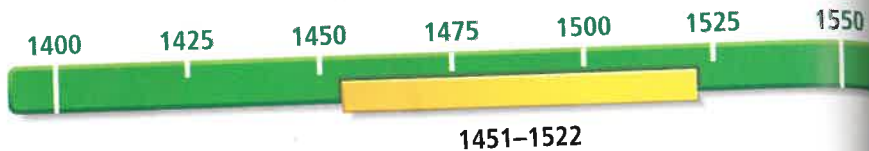


# Core Lesson 3

# Europeans Arrive in the Americas



## VOCABULARY

settlement  
epidemic  
circumnavigate

### Vocabulary Strategy

**circum**navigate

The prefix **circum-** comes from a word that means "circle." To **circumnavigate** means to travel in a circle around something.



## READING SKILL

### Compare and Contrast

List ways in which the voyages of the explorers in this lesson were alike and different.

ALIKE	DIFFERENT

**Build on What You Know** Many people today like spicy food. In the 1400s, European countries had very few spices. Europeans traveled far to bring spices and other riches back to Europe from distant lands.

## Christopher Columbus

**Main Idea** Christopher Columbus sailed to the islands of the West Indies trying to reach Asia.

Christopher Columbus was born in 1451 near Genoa, in Italy. Columbus studied navigation and believed he could reach Asia by a new route. He wanted to sail west across the Atlantic Ocean, instead of south around Africa. He did not know that North and South America were between Europe and Asia.

In 1486, Columbus asked **King Ferdinand** and **Queen Isabella** of Spain to pay for a westward voyage to Asia. Ferdinand and Isabella didn't have money for exploration at that time. They were fighting to take back southern Spain from North African Muslims, who had ruled the region for 700 years. Spain's attempt to push the Muslims out was called the Spanish Reconquista (reh con KEY sta).



**Christopher Columbus** This explorer wanted to find a new route to India.

## STANDARDS

SS.A.4.2.1.5.1 Exploration of Americas  
SS.A.4.2.1.5.2 Impact of Exploration