



Unit 3

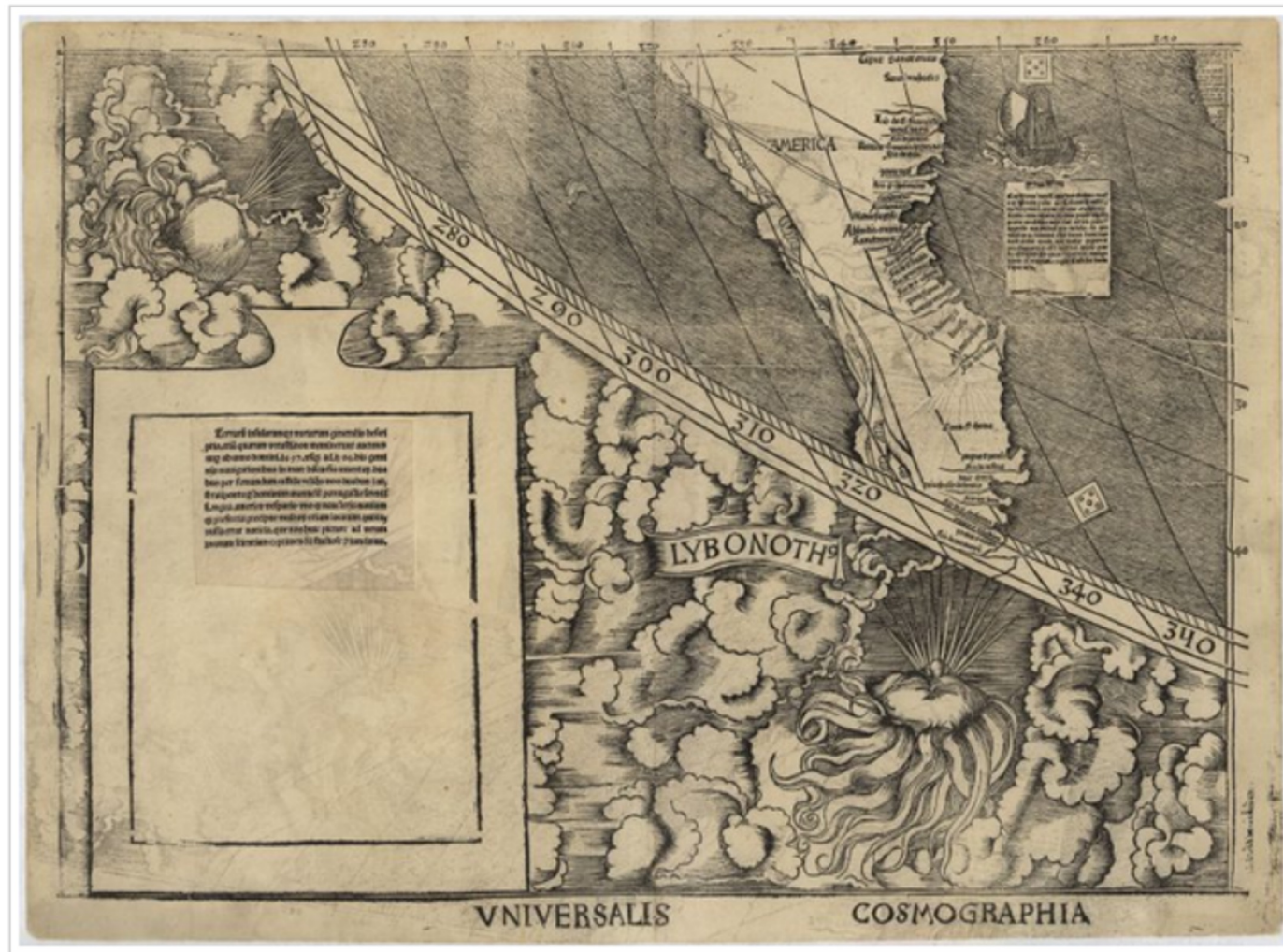
Lesson 7

The \$10 Million Map

Resource 1: The \$10 Million Map (1507)



Does this close-up image of the map help you understand why it might be so significant and valuable? Explain.



WOW! Is this map really worth \$10 million?



Step 1:

Read Resource 3: Is this map worth \$10 million?

Step 2:

After completing the reading... (Discuss)

- Do you think this map is worth \$10 million?
- The map has been called “America’s Birth Certificate”

Resource 3: Is this map worth \$10 million?

When Columbus returned to Spain from his first trip in 1492, word spread pretty quickly that he found a way to get east by sailing west. Needless to say, word of his accomplishment spread just as quickly. But Columbus reported that he landed in the Far East - the “Indies.”

Columbus made three more trips in 1493, 1498 and 1502. It is still not clear whether Columbus knew he landed on a continent that was unknown in Europe, or whether he died in May of 1506 still believing that he was in the Far East.

Other explorers followed Columbus because they wanted to become richer by finding valuable resources such as gold, silver, gems, silks, and spices. Kings and queens also wanted to grow their empires by claiming lands that had not yet been claimed. And, some wanted to spread their Christian religion to people who were not Christians.

As explorers visited and claimed new lands, they returned to Europe describing where they had been. Mapmakers gradually began adding that information to think that the land that Columbus landed on in 1492 was not part of the Far East. Columbus himself started using terms like “East Indies” and “West Indies” to distinguish himself and others like Marco Polo had been.

One of the men who followed Columbus was an explorer from the city of Florence, Italy. His name was Amerigo Vespucci. Vespucci made at least two trips between 1499 and 1504 to areas that Columbus explored. In a letter that he apparently wrote in 1499, he concluded that the place where both he and Columbus explored was not the Far East (Asia) but “Mundus Novus,” which means “New World.” His words appear

A few days ago I wrote you at some length about my return from those new lands which can properly be called a “New World”, since our forefathers had absolutely no knowledge of it, nor do any of those who are hearing about it to date. On 7 August 1501, we dropped our anchor off the shores of that new land, thank prayers and the celebration of the Mass. Once there, we determined that this was not a continent...

— Amerigo Vespucci, *Mundus Novus*, Letter to Lorenzo

Copies of Vespucci’s letter made their way around Europe. One of the people who was a mapmaker named Martin Waldseemüller. Waldseemüller took the information from explorers and created the map that you looked at in the warm-up activity. He appears to be the author of a book about the map. The book and the map were

If you look closely in the lower left hand corner of Martin Waldseemüller’s map, “America” appearing for the very first time on a map (see the yellow arrow). This is the earliest known map of what is now called South America.

In the introduction to the book that came with the map, Waldseemüller wrote

I see no reason why anyone could properly disapprove of a name derived from that of Amerigo, the discoverer, a man of sagacious genius. A suitable form would be Amerige, meaning Land of Amerigo, or America, since Europe and Asia have received women’s names.

In other words, they turned “Amerigo” - a man’s name - into a woman’s name “America” just as they did when they named other continents.



If you look at the top of the map above, you will see the images of two men near the center. Can you read the name of the man on the right (see yellow arrow)?

And can you see the name America for the first time in the lower left hand corner of the map? This map has been called “America’s birth certificate” because it represents the official naming of our continent, just like your birth certificate makes your name official.

Martin Waldseemüller’s map and the book were read widely. The name stuck. And the continent on which we live has forever since been called America in honor of Amerigo Vespucci - a man who suggested that ours was a “Mundus Novus” (or New World).

So, a big question is...do you think the map was worth \$10 million?

What
information
should go on
America's
Birth
Certificate?

PLANET EARTH
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES OFFICE PLANETARY KNOWLEDGE
OFFICE OF VITAL STATISTICS

Certificate of Birth

This certifies that _____ a _____
Name

was born to _____ in or on _____
Name(s) *Place of Birth*

In the year _____
Year of Birth

Date Issued: _____

This is a true certificate of the name and birth facts as recorded in Planet Earth's Office of Vital Statistics.
Witness my signature and the seal of the Department of Earthly Exploration

this _____ day of _____ (month) in the year _____.

_____ (signature)
PLANETARY REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS



Are there some disagreements about what information
should go on America's Birth Certificate?
DISCUSS.



These disagreements lead us to the question for
History Standard 3,
*Why might there be different accounts of the same
event?*



Complete Resource 5: Checks for Understanding

Resource 5: Checks for Understanding

Name _____

1. Which statement **BEST** explains how America got its name?
 - a. it was Christopher Columbus' middle name
 - b. a mapmaker named it after an explorer he read about
 - c. indigenous people named it after one of their great leaders
 - d. the Library of Congress purchased the right to name it for \$10 million

Use the timeline below and what you have learned to answer question 2.

1492 - Columbus reached that he believed was in the "Indies"

1497 - Vespucci traveled to areas explored by Columbus

1503 - Vespucci concluded that Columbus landed in "Mundus Novus"

1507 - Waldseemuller created a map with an area he labeled "America"

2. Which statement **BEST** explains a change that occurred in 1507?
 - a. more people concluded that the world was round
 - b. more people concluded that maps were no longer valuable
 - c. more people concluded that a new continent had been discovered
 - d. more people concluded that it was more dangerous to sail west of Europe

Two accounts of Columbus' beliefs appear below.

Account 1

Columbus discovered a new world and knew it. On his third voyage he explored the area that we now call South America and said it was a place "hitherto unknown."

Account 2

Columbus died not knowing that he discovered a new continent. When he wrote about his second and third voyages, he wrote that he explored the "*Indias Occidentales*" (*west Indies - part of Asia*) that were "*at the end of the Orient*" [Asia].

3. Which statement **BEST** explains why there are different accounts of the same event in history?
 - a. the people who wrote the accounts made up information
 - b. the people who wrote the accounts did not do good research
 - c. the people who wrote the accounts did not read about Columbus' third voyage
 - d. the people who wrote the accounts based their conclusions on different evidence

Resource 6a: What do all these places have in common?



Resource 6b: What do all these places have in common?



District of Columbia



Columbia, California



Columbia, Montana



Columbus, Ohio



Columbia, South Carolina



Columbia, Tennessee



Columbus,
Georgia



Columbia,
Illinois



Columbus,
Indiana