

# 39 The End: Keep Reading



In 1600, life for the First Americans is beginning to change—for good or ill.

This is chapter 39, and we are at *the end of the first book*, but we're just getting started on the story of US, so *keep reading*. In book 2 you will find adventure, danger, and some laughs, too.

By now you're good at riding the time capsule. So strap yourself in and set the dial for 1600. We're going to

take one more ride over North America.

If you look down you will see swamps, canyons, waterfalls, volcanoes, geysers, plains, mountains, and deserts. Do you see the people? They are hunters, farmers, traders, artists, teachers, and builders, and they have lived on this land for tens of thousands of years. They speak more than 250 different languages. If you look closely, you will see a few newcomers who are fishermen, pirates, explorers, slaves, priests, and soldiers. The newcomers have built tiny settlements in Florida, in New Mexico, and in New France (Canada). Most of them speak Spanish or French. There are other newcomers, too: horses, pigs, sugarcane, and oranges.

If you sniff a bit, you'll catch the the soft fragrance of honeysuckle, pine, and cedar. Listen and you'll hear the music of birds and coyotes. But mostly it is quiet. It is a sleeping giant of a land.

Across the sea, in England, the sounds are loud and insistent: hammers pound, weavers' looms vibrate, and sheep bleat. Do you hear the clamor of people in the cities? Shakespeare's words ring out at the Globe Theatre. This is still the age of Queen Elizabeth—a great age of opportunity for those who are wealthy or lucky. But England has problems it cannot seem to solve. Why are there so many poor people and what is to be done with them? Crime is rampant. Jails are full. The streets are thick with beggars, and many are orphan children.



Soon the Elizabethan Age will come to an end. The great queen has only a few years to live. She has helped make England a world power. English ships now sail confidently around the globe.

A business firm, the London Company, is getting ready to send some Englishmen to America. They are hoping to find gold—or anything else that will make money for them. Those Englishmen will start a colony, and that colony will grow into a nation. It will change the North American continent forever.

It is their story that comes next. But before you get to it, think about what you have learned in this book: about Beringia, about the First Americans, about explorers, about Spaniards, about Frenchmen, about Sir Walter Raleigh and the Lost Colony.

Have you learned something about the ways historians think? Do you realize how much we don't know about the past? How much is yet to be discovered?

You may be surprised at all the people and all the adventures ahead of you before we come to the end of our history.

Actually, you will never get to the end. Books end, but history keeps marching on. That means that someday *you* can write a chapter in the story of US.

This is a page from a book about the New World by an English adventurer, John Smith. Here he is fighting a great Indian chief—but he respects the Indians and their customs, too. In his book he also tells how the Indians worship—the left-hand picture shows one such scene. You will hear more about John Smith in Book 2 of *A History of US*.