



Christopher Columbus

Columbus made his first voyage from Spain to the "New World" in 1492. At the time of his arrival about one million people lived in America. He called these native people "Indians" because he thought that he had reached the coast of India. He never knew that in fact he had discovered a continent between Europe and Asia.

voyage: Seereise
native: eingeboren

to discover: entdecken

The Pilgrim Fathers

In 1620 this group of English settlers sailed from England on a ship called the *Mayflower*. Three months later they landed at Plymouth Rock in Massachusetts and founded one of the earliest European colonies in America. During the first winter, over one half of the settlers died. The rest survived, though, and with advice from local "Indians", they learned how to farm and catch fish. The following November, after their first successful harvest, they celebrated with a special "Thanksgiving" dinner.

settler: Siedler
to sail: segeln, mit dem Schiff fahren
to found: gründen



advice: Ratschlag
harvest: Ernte
to celebrate: feiern



The Slave Trade

During the 17th and 18th centuries, over 6 million men, women and children were transported from West Africa to America. There, they were forced to work on farms which produced cotton, tobacco and rice. Today's African Americans are the descendants of these 6 million slaves.

trade: Handel
century: Jahrhundert
to force: zwingen

cotton: Baumwolle
descendant: Abkömmling

The War of Independence

For over 150 years after the Pilgrim Fathers landed at Plymouth Rock, America was governed by England. Colonists in the New World paid taxes to London and had to accept its laws. Then, on 4th July, 1776, the Americans made a "Declaration of Independence". The result was six years of war which ended in victory for the Americans led by George Washington.

pilgrim: Pilger
to govern: regieren
tax: Steuer

declaration: Erklärung
independence: Unabhängigkeit
to lead, led, led: führen



Translate:

Er nannte die Eingeborenen Indianer.

Hatte er die amerikanische Küste erreicht?

Sie lernten, wie man überlebt.

Männer, Frauen und Kinder wurden gezwungen, auf den Baumwollfeldern zu arbeiten.

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Sie bezahlten Steuern und akzeptierten die Gesetze.....

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