**Social Studies 7**

**Chapter 1 Section 3 – Why did Europeans seek new sea routes to Asia?**

**Overview: Thirst for knowledge, wealth, and power that could be gained by becoming involved in the profitable Asian spice trade.**

1. **RIVALRY OVER TRADE ROUTES**
* The Italian city-states of Genoa, Venice, and Florence established a partnership with Muslim traders. This monopoly over the lands routes prevented other nations from trading in Asia.
* Spain, Portugal, Holland, France, and England each wished to trade in Asia.
1. **PORTUGUESE DISCOVERIES**
* Portuguese sailors led the search for a water route to Asia.
* Prince Henry established a school for navigation and ships to explore the west coast of Africa.
* By the mid 1400’s Portugal had a rich trade in Africa.
* Bartholomew Dias sailed to the south tip of Africa (Cape of Good Hope).
* Vasco da Gama was the first to reach Asia by water when he arrived in India.
* To help cover the high costs of long voyages, the Portuguese became involved with the Africa slave trade.

**Chapter 1 Section 4 – What led Columbus west and what did he achieve?**

**Overview: Because Portugal controlled the route around Africa to Asia, other Europeans believed that there must be another way to reach Asia. Some felt a shorter and safer route could be found by sailing west.**

1. **A DARING PLAN**
* Columbus, an Italian sailor had to plan to reach Asia by sailing west but he needed a sponsor to finance his voyage.
* The King and Queen of Spain paid for Columbus’s voyage.
1. **COLUMBUS’S DISCOVERY**
* Santa Maria, Nina and Pinta arrived at one of the Bahama Island, which Columbus named “San Salvador”.
* Columbus sailed around the Caribbean and claimed many islands for Spain. He never saw the coast of North America.
* Columbus did not achieve his goal of bringing riches back to Spain but he did open the way for other European explorers to seek other route to Asia.
* Columbus made 4 voyages to the Americas, but never knew that he had made a discovery that would become one of the greatest turning points in world history.