European Explorers of North America
The Americas or the New World are named after Amerigo Vespucci, a famous map maker.
Aztec
(Az·tec)

Definition: one of the tribes who lived in and controlled Mexico from the 14\textsuperscript{th} century until the 16\textsuperscript{th} century.

Example: Many of the buildings that Aztecs built are still standing today in Mexico.
Christopher Columbus sailed on ships that used wind power in order to reach the Americas.

Left painting: Christopher Columbus, 1519 by Sebastiano del Piombo. Painting released into public domain because of an expired copyright. Right photo: Pinta, Santa Maria, Nina. Lying in the North River, New York. The caravels which crossed from Spain to be presented at the World's Fair at Chicago, 1912, taken by E. Benjamin Andrews. Photo released into public domain because of an expired copyright.
Continent
(con·ti·nent)

7 continents

North America
Europe
Asia
Africa
South America
Australia
Antarctica

Drawing: World Map. Image released into public domain by its author, Alex Covarrubias.
Coronado (Co·ro·na·do)

Francisco Vásquez de Coronado was an explorer from Spain. In his search for the mythical Seven Cities of Gold, he led a great expedition from Mexico to present-day Kansas through parts of southwestern United States between 1540 and 1542.
Exploration
(ex·plo·ra·tion)

Definition: the act or instance of exploring or investigating
Example: Many people go on explorations to discover something new or to find something new.
Harbor
(har·bor)
Latin American
(Lat·in Amer·i·can)
Pacific Ocean
(Pa·cif·ic O·cean)
Passage
(pas·sage)

Definition: A path that allows travel between two landforms.
Example: For many years, sailors used the passage between Russia and Alaska to travel from Northern Europe to the Pacific Ocean.
Pirate
(pi·rate)
Scarce
(scarce)

Definition: insufficient to satisfy the need or demand; not abundant:
Example: Water was so scarce during the Great Depression that many farmers could not grow any crops.
Settlement
(set·tle·ment)

Definition: the establishment of a new region; colonization
Example: The settlement Jamestown was named after King James I of England.
Slavery
(slav·ery)

Definition: the system of having slaves, or the condition of being a slave.
Example: In the United States, slavery ended on January 1, 1863.
Vikings (vi·kings)

**Definition:** any of the Scandinavian pirates who plundered the coasts of Europe from the 8th to 10th centuries. **Example:** It is believed that the Vikings were the first Europeans to land on North American shores.
Otter
(Otter)

Definition: a small weasel-like mammal that lives mostly in lakes and rivers.
Example: Otters were hunted by early explorers for their fur.