

# *Land of Our Lady Series*

## **Founders of Freedom**

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Los Angeles, Calif.

## **Bearers of Freedom**

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## **Guardian of Freedom**

by  
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Akron, Ohio



# Our Lady of Guadalupe

**Pray for us**

## **PRAYER**

**O**UR Lady of Guadalupe, mystical rose, make intercession for Holy Church, protect the Sovereign Pontiff, help all those who invoke thee in their necessities, and since thou art the ever Virgin Mary and Mother of the true God, obtain for us from thy most holy Son the grace of keeping our faith, sweet hope in the midst of the bitterness of life, burning charity and the precious gift of final perseverance.

*(Indulgence of 500 days. S.P. Ap.,  
April 29, 1935)*

*Land of Our Lady Series*

# Bearers of Freedom

*by Sister M. Veronica, S.P.B.U.*

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## ***Editors' Preface***

The "Land of Our Lady" Series presents an accurate historical account of our nation's history as Divine Providence has unfolded it to us. Its pages reveal the story of the Catholic Church in the development of the land dedicated to the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Mother of God.

This series is intended to give boys and girls a practical realization of the Christian philosophy of life by applying correctly the principles of Christian social living to the historical content.

The compilers of these texts have successfully endeavored to keep the vocabulary of each textbook within the range of the pupils' speaking vocabulary at each grade level. Narrative form is retained throughout the Series in the presentation of content.

While the Series is based upon a definitely factual background of history, the factual data is clarified by as lucid an explanation of events as possible, and a clear description of the contents of the concepts involved.

The maps, charts, and other illustrative material accompanying the textual material are devoted solely to the simplifying of the historical data for the pupils and the clarification of the text itself.

The content is psychologically woven into *units* of subject matter, each unit comprising a portion of history, which, in itself, is a related whole. Each unit, in turn, is broken down into two or more chapters.

For the greater benefit of the teacher, each unit in the text is outlined, and this outline is followed by a preview of each unit.

Activities are found at the end of each chapter as well as at the end of each unit. The Mastery Tests at the end of each unit are a final check-up for the pupils on the essentials of that unit.

We earnestly hope that this Series will be productive of much good and inspire young Catholic American boys and girls with a greater realization of the priceless value of being good Catholics and, therefore, good citizens in this glorious Land of Our Lady.

THE EDITORS.

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## FOREWORD

The publication of the "Land of Our Lady" Series marks a notable advancement in the field of history textbooks for Catholic elementary schools. The Series fulfills very effectively the need for history textbooks that are devoid of secularistic and materialistic tendencies and based on the sound principles of Christianity and therefore, a Christian philosophy of history.

This Series includes not only the factual data that comprise the history of America as a nation, but it incorporates also those elements of American Catholic history that can be assimilated by pupils of the elementary school level. The growth and development of the Catholic Church in the United States parallels the content of American history in each textbook of the Series.

The greatest contribution of these texts to the training and schooling of young American Catholic boys and girls is the manner in which Christian social principles are woven in the texts. As the various events of history are taken up for study, the textbooks point out the positive or negative correlation of the factual data to the principles of Christian social living.

We are grateful to the firm of Benziger Brothers, and to the competent Board of Editors and Authors for the task they have successfully accomplished in producing this American Catholic Series, "Land of Our Lady."

RT. REV. FREDERICK G. HOCHWALT, PH.D.  
SECRETARY GENERAL, N.C.E.A.



## PRAYER

# Our Lady of Pompeii

**Pray for us**

**M**ARY, most holy Virgin and Queen of Martyrs, accept the sincere homage of my filial affection. Into thy heart, pierced by so many swords, do thou welcome my poor soul. Receive it as the companion of thy sorrows at the foot of the Cross, on which Jesus died for the redemption of the world. With thee, O sorrowful Virgin, I will gladly suffer all trials contradictions, and infirmities which it shall please our Lord to send me. I offer them all to thee in memory of thy sorrows, so that every thought of my mind, and every beat of my heart may be an act of compassion and of love for thee. And do thou, sweet Mother, have pity on me, reconcile me to thy divine Son Jesus, keep me in His grace and assist me in my last agony, so that I may be able to meet thee in heaven and sing thy glories. Amen.

*(Indulgence of 500 days (S. C. Ind., Mar. 20, 1887; S. P. Ap., May 19, 1934 and June 18, 1949).)*

## **UNIT ONE**

### **GOD'S GIFT — AMERICA!**

#### **CHAPTER I — SAILORS, SILKS, AND TRADERS**

The Northmen sought new lands.

The Christian Northmen visited the shores of America.

Christians of Europe made pilgrimages to the Holy Land.

The Mohammedans captured the Holy Land.

The Crusades were started to save the Holy Land.

Trade with the East began at the time of the Crusades.

Marco Polo visited the East.

Marco Polo wrote about his travels.

The art of printing helped to spread knowledge.

Trade routes were closed after the fall of Constantinople.

Men began to seek new ways of getting to the East.



## **CHAPTER II — A NEW ROUTE TO INDIA**

Prince Henry trained his sailors to become good navigators.

Dias discovered the Cape of Good Hope at the southern tip of Africa.

Da Gama found a route to India by way of the Atlantic Ocean.

## **CHAPTER III — GREATER THAN GOLD**

Columbus planned to reach the East by sailing West.

Columbus asked help from Portugal.

The Portuguese King refused to help Columbus.

Columbus was befriended by the Franciscan Fathers.

Columbus was ready to seek help from France.

Columbus was given help by Spain.

Columbus discovered a great continent that lay between Europe and the Indies.

Columbus made several voyages to the New World.

The enemies of Columbus were cruel to him.

Columbus died alone, poor, and forsaken.

The land Columbus discovered was called America.

Through Columbus God gave the world a new land.



## **UNIT ONE**

### **GOD'S GIFT — AMERICA!**

**America, Land of Freedom.** We are fortunate to be living in this great land. Here the people enjoy many wonderful rights and privileges. We should be most grateful to Almighty God for these blessings. Do you ever thank Him for giving us this glorious land, which we call America?

For thousands and thousands of years Indians had been living in our land. Of course, it was their land then. They passed their time each day in the search for food, chiefly by hunting and fishing. The Indians never met people of other lands.

People from other countries did not know that America existed. The first ones to come to its shores were the Northmen, who were Christians. This happened about one thousand years after the birth of Christ, Our Saviour.

The Northmen stayed awhile and then returned to their own country. Their visit was soon forgotten.

Then came the year 1492. One pleasant day in October, three Spanish ships landed at an island where some Indians lived. A brave captain led his men to shore. Here they knelt to thank God for His goodness to them.

These Spaniards thought they had reached the

rich lands of the East. But this land was not the Indies. It was land that lay between Spain and the Indies. It was our own America!

God plans all things well. He planned that the Spaniards should find this new land. He planned that they should bring with them the Christian religion. God planned that Columbus, their leader, should give His gift to the world, His gift of AMERICA, land of freedom!

**God's Gift.** We shall learn in this book that the early discoverers and explorers of America were Catholics.

We shall learn how the Catholic faith was brought to America by these explorers, who were usually accompanied by missionaries.

The missionaries accompanied the explorers to bring the teachings of our holy faith to the Indians who lived here.

Thus, from very early times the Catholic faith was a part of America. This is great heritage.

We say that America is a land of freedom. This means that in this land of ours we are allowed to do what is right. No one may force us to do what is wrong.

The freedom we enjoy today is based upon the teaching of the Catholic Church.

As we read this first unit we shall learn about the beginnings of this land of freedom. We shall see how Columbus planted the cross on the shores of the New World, and claimed this land.

## **CHAPTER I**

### **SAILORS, SILKS, AND TRADERS**

**Looking Over the Chapter.** Long ago in the North of Europe there lived a whole nation of sailors. These sailors spent days and days at sea, visiting distant lands, and discovering new ones.

On one of these trips, they came upon a land which they called Vinland. After a short visit, they sailed away again. Vinland was really a part of our own great land, America.

Before the Crusades, people in Europe knew very little about the way people lived in Asia. But when the Crusaders came back from the East, they brought back to Europe some of the new and beautiful goods of the East. Some of these articles were silks, satins, and spices.

Now the people in Europe wanted more of these wonderful things. So their traders, or merchants, went to the East to get them. This trade with the East was going along well until the trade routes to the East were cut off.

A new route was needed. The search began for a water route to the East. In their search for a

water route, the people in Europe were working out God's plan for the world.

When you have read this chapter, you will know the complete story of sailors, silks, and traders. It tells the things that happened in Europe before the search for a new route began.

### A NATION OF SAILORS

DENMARK, Norway, and Sweden are in the North of Europe. Can you find them on the map? A very brave people called Northmen lived there. Sometimes the pirate seamen among the Northmen are called Vikings, which means "sea-warriors."

The soil of these countries was very poor and unsuitable for farming. However, the Northmen succeeded in raising a few crops by the coast. They made their living by hunting and fishing.

The Northmen learned to build ships which were strong enough to stand storms at sea. At the front of these long, black ships with huge sails was carved the head of a monster. Each ship was equipped with ten to twenty oars. The Northmen often went on long fishing trips on the ocean, far to the west of their native land.

Later, the Northmen changed their manner of making a living. They began to attack the sea-coast towns of Britain and Gaul. They raided the homes of the people, and put women and children to death. They became a nation of pirates.

**Seeking New Lands.** About 850 A.D. the Northmen discovered Iceland far to the west of Norway and established a colony there. A colony is a group of persons living in another land, but governed by the people of their own land.

A long time afterwards, a Northman named Eric the Red committed a murder in his village in Norway. The people in his village were very angry at him for this deed. He left Norway and went to Iceland to live.

But after a short time in Iceland, he boarded his ship and set sail farther west through unknown waters. He discovered a large island which he called Greenland.

Eric the Red hoped that people from Iceland would want to live on this land. Several shiploads of colonists from Iceland went to Greenland to live. These colonists carried on trade with their native land.

**A Great Discovery.** Eric the Red had two sons. The more famous one was called Leif Ericson. Leif (leaf) grew tired of the quiet life in the Greenland colony. One day he set out to visit Norway, the native land of his father.

When Leif reached Norway, he found that the Northmen there had given up their false gods and had become Christians. Leif also became a Christian. A Christian is one who follows the teachings of Christ. Then the King of Norway asked Leif Ericson to return to Greenland and tell the

colonists there about Christianity. Christianity means the religion of Christians.

Leif set sail for Greenland about the year 1000 A.D. The Northmen were very good sailors. They did not have a single map or chart. They steered their boats by the sun, moon and stars.



Sometimes at sea in bad weather, they could not even see the sun, moon, or stars. The Northmen must have put their trust in God and Mary. Soon after Leif and his men passed Iceland they ran into a terrible storm. The ship almost sank beneath the huge waves, and the sails were torn by the strong wind.

The sturdy ship was driven far from Greenland. When the storm had passed, the shores of



a new land appeared. After this discovery, Leif Ericson became known as Leif the Lucky.

**Vinland and America.** The place where Leif Ericson's crew landed was somewhere on the eastern shore of our America. Many people think it was Nova Scotia or Labrador. Others think it was some part of New England. Of course this land was not called America then.

The Northmen found clusters and clusters of wild grapes on the spot where they landed. Because of this, Leif Ericson called it Vinland. In English we would say "Vine-land."

The Northmen built log cabins and spent the winter in Vinland. When spring came they returned to Greenland, their boats laden with grapes.

These Northmen were the first Christians to come to America. They were also the first to bring Christianity to the Indians.

Three years later, Leif Ericson's brother tried to start a colony in Vinland. But the little group of Northmen became discouraged. They deserted the land because the Indians, who were much more numerous than they, frequently attacked them. After this attempt, the Northmen never returned to Vinland.

If the Northmen had claimed Vinland as theirs, we would say they had discovered America.

The Northmen and their deeds were almost forgotten because they did not keep a record of their

voyages. After a long time, someone wrote down stories that were told about the Northmen. We call these stories "sagas." It is the word the Northmen used for long tales of bravery.

After the Northmen had visited America, almost five hundred years passed before anyone else sailed West across the Atlantic Ocean.

### CRUSADERS ON THE MARCH

**Visiting the Holy Land.** Christ Our Saviour lived on this earth for thirty-three years. He lived in a country called Palestine. Palestine is called the Holy Land because it was the land of the Jews, God's chosen people. When Christ came to earth to redeem all men, He lived there. This made the land still more holy. Look at the map and see if you can find Palestine.

The Apostles began to preach the Gospel of Christ after the Holy Ghost came and strengthened them. Christianity spread throughout the countries of Europe.

Some of the Christians of Europe decided to visit the Holy Places in Palestine, where Christ suffered and died. These journeys to the Holy Land were called *pilgrimages*. They were long and tiresome for the Christians. However, they gladly suffered the fatigue and hardships of the journey for the love of Christ. You too, can show God how much you love Him by offering Him your sacrifices.



**The Strange Religion of Mohammed.** In the year 571 A.D. a man named Mohammed (mo-ham'-ed) was born in Arabia. Mohammed was a trader, and used to go on long journeys through the desert-lands. In these journeys, he met many Jews and **Christians**. From them he learned many things about their religions. Mohammed began to think more and more about these things. He then decided to make up a religion of his own.

Mohammed said he was a prophet and Allah was his God. He meant the same God we believe in, the one true God. His followers are called Moslems. That means "people who do God's will." They call their religion "Islam." But we call them by the name of their founder. We call them "Mohammedans."

Mohammed wrote his ideas in a book called the Koran. Some of his ideas are really true, but many others are strange and false. Even now, the Koran is just as important to the Mohammedans as the Bible is to the Christians.

Mohammed taught his followers that if they should die fighting those who would not accept his religion, they would go straight to heaven. This is an example of the bad advice he gave his followers. We Christians have the good, holy teaching of Christ to help us at all times.

**Holy Land in Danger.** After Mohammed died, his followers carried his religion into the countries of Asia. The Arabs were ruling the Holy Land at

this time. They were Mohammedans. About the year 1071, the Turks captured the Holy Land from the Arabs.

These Turks were also Mohammedans, and were very unfriendly towards the Christians.

The Turks caused great damage in Palestine. They destroyed the churches of the Christians, and ruined the holy places. They then built their own temples, which they called *mosques* (mosks). They robbed and tortured the Christians who made pilgrimages to Palestine. Sometimes they even put them to death.

When the Christians in Europe heard that the Turks had captured the Holy Land, they were very sad. They knew they could no longer make pilgrimages to the Holy Land. It would be too dangerous to go there.

**War Begins.** The Holy Father at that time was Pope Urban II. He wanted the Holy Land to be rescued from the Mohammedans. He asked the Christians of Europe to raise an army to fight the Mohammedans and save the holy places.

Immediately, the Christians obeyed the Pope and started to raise a great army. This war to save the Holy Land was called a *Crusade*. Those who fought in this war were called *Crusaders*.

In 1095, a large army of Crusaders left for the Holy Land. This was the first Crusade. The watchword of the Crusaders was "God wills it."

**22** This was written on their flags and banners.

Not all the Crusaders were holy people. Some of them did not become Crusaders out of love for God or to do His holy will. Some went to the East to become wealthy, not to save the holy places.

In all, there were ten Crusades. Still, the Christians did not save the Holy Land. The Christians



won some battles against the Turks, but lost many others.

### SILKS, SATINS, AND CINNAMON

**New Ways of Living.** Before the Crusades, people in Europe did not know how the people in Asia lived. When the Crusaders returned, they told wonderful stories about the rich lands of the Orient, as the eastern countries are called. They

showed their friends some of the products of the East. There were spices such as cloves, nutmeg, pepper, and cinnamon.

Other articles that came from the East were sparkling diamonds, rubies, and other precious stones, and sweet perfumes.

The Crusaders also brought back many products to make their clothes and homes more beautiful. They brought yards and yards of silk and satin cloth. There were also beautiful rugs and tapestries, and richly-colored material for curtains and drapes.

The Crusaders bought many of these products in the shops of Constantinople and other cities through which they passed. But these things really came from lands still farther away. They were produced in distant lands called the *Indies*. Today we call these lands India, China, and Japan.

### THE TRADERS OF ITALY

MANY of the people in Europe were pleased with all the fine things the Crusaders brought home. These people wanted more spices, more jewels, more rugs and carpets. In exchange for the rich goods of the East, Europe sent wool, tin, leather, and wheat to the Orient. Trade with the East began during the days of the Crusades.

**Rivals in Trade.** Two cities in Italy, Venice (ven'-iss) and Genoa (jen'-o-a), had fine harbors.

**24** Find them on your map. The traders, or mer-

chants, in these cities sent their ships to Eastern ports. At these ports they built storehouses. The storehouses were to hold the rich goods that the merchants had bought in the East.

When their ships arrived from Italy, they filled them with the precious articles from the storehouses.

One famous port of trade was Constantinople, on the Black Sea. This was one of the largest and most beautiful cities in the world. It had many churches and palaces.

When the ships came back to Italy, people in all other parts of Europe bought these articles from the merchants in Venice and Genoa. This trade made the merchants of these cities wealthy.

The cities themselves became rich and powerful. Each tried to do better than the other.

Before long the two cities became enemies and started to wage war. We shall see later how a great traveler was imprisoned because of these wars between the two cities.

#### **PATHS OF TRADE**

**The Camel Parade.** In those days there were three famous routes to the Far East. If you were a merchant in those days, you would have used one of these three routes.

If you had chosen the first route, you would follow the Northern Route, which led to China, or Cathay (ka-thay'). When you reached the port of Constantinople, you would ride a big camel.



You would see hundreds and hundreds of camels on this route. A group of merchants traveling with their camels is called a *caravan*.

**Mostly by Water.** The Southern Route was mostly by water. Ships from Italy would land at towns on the southern shore of the Mediterranean Sea. The camels would carry the cargoes from the ships across the Isthmus of Suez (soo'-ez) to the



Red Sea. Find on your classroom map the narrow strip of land called the Isthmus of Suez.

Then the travelers and their goods sailed down the Red Sea to the land of Cathay.

**The Third Route.** The third route lay halfway between the Northern and Southern Routes, and was called the Middle Route. The merchants liked

this one best, because there were many large cities along the way where they could exchange their goods. When they came to the Persian Gulf, they would sail to the Indian Ocean. Then they would sail to India. Can you trace the trade routes on your map?



**Dangers of the Trade Routes.** The journeys to the East were hard for the merchants. The return journeys were even more dangerous. The caravans journeyed along, loaded with goods worth thousands and thousands of dollars. Often robbers would attack the caravans and steal the precious loads, and many of the drivers would be killed.

## A LAD OF VENICE

THE most famous traveler to the East was a young man from Venice. His name was Marco Polo.

While he was still very young, Marco Polo's father and uncle visited Cathay, or China. They went to the court of the great Kublai Khan (koo'-bli-con), who was Emperor of China.

The emperor was very kind to them, and wanted them to tell him more about Europe. They stayed seventeen years in Cathay. Then they returned to Venice.

**In China.** Shortly after they returned to Venice, they set out again for Cathay. This time they took Marco with them. It took them four years to reach Cathay. How do you think they traveled?

The great Kublai Khan liked Marco Polo very much. He made him his special messenger to the most distant parts of his kingdom. Marco Polo lived in this land for twenty years. He often desired to return to Venice, but Kublai Khan was so pleased with him that he would not allow him to leave China.

## MISSIONARIES TO CHINA

FINALLY, Kublai Khan allowed Marco Polo to return to Europe with his father and uncle. When they were leaving Cathay, Kublai Khan gave them a message for the Pope. In this message Kublai



Khan asked the Pope to send some missionaries to Cathay.

Franciscan missionaries then went to China. The emperor received them with great kindness. He did not become a Christian, nor did many of his people. Yet the missionaries did what they could to spread the Kingdom of God in this land.

Later, when these missionaries returned to Europe, they gave the people much valuable information about the distant lands of the Orient.

#### TALES OF A CAPTURED TRAVELER

THE people of Venice did not recognize the Polo travelers when they returned to their own land. Their clothes were so old and shabby that people thought they were beggars.

But then, the surprise came. The beggars began to rip open the seams of their old clothes. The most dazzling jewels, diamonds, and precious stones fell from the clothes of the ragged beggars.

Since the Polos were really wealthy, why do you think they came back to Venice dressed in old clothes?

**Days in Prison.** Soon after the Polos returned, war broke out between Venice and Genoa. Marco Polo was captured and taken to a prison in Genoa.

While he was in prison, Marco Polo told many stories to the other prisoners. He told them of the wonderful land of Cathay, and of its riches. People say he told "tall tales." He made the land appear far more wealthy than it really was.

**A Book of Travels.** While Marco Polo was in prison, he began to write about the riches he had seen in Cathay and other lands of the Indies. He called his book "The Travels of Marco Polo."

In those days, books had to be copied by hand. Everyone knew about Marco Polo's book. Only a few had a chance to read it, because there were so few copies.

**The Printing Press.** Many years later, about the year 1450, printing from movable type was invented. After this, many copies could be made on a printing press.

The first book to be printed was the Holy Bible. It was in the Latin language. One of the first of these Catholic Bibles is in a library in Washington, D. C. Can you guess what was printed next? It was "The Travels of Marco Polo."

**Popular Book.** Soon everyone was reading the famous book about Cathay. It became, next to the Holy Bible, the most popular book of the day.

More than ever before, the people of Europe wanted the wealth of the East, which was described in Marco Polo's book. They felt they could not do without it. Trade with the East increased after this book was printed.

#### **CAPTURE OF CONSTANTINOPLE**

**Danger Ahead.** For quite a while after the Crusades, the merchants of Venice and Genoa made plenty of money by trading with the East. The

ways of living. They felt they could never again get along without the precious products of the East.

After about two hundred years a savage group of Turks began to invade lands in the East. The great city of Constantinople was in danger of attack.

**The Fall of a Great City.** Finally the Turks attacked the beautiful city of Constantinople. A great battle was fought. After fifty-three days of fighting, Constantinople fell. It was the year 1453.

The Turks made Constantinople the center of their great Turkish kingdom. The beautiful churches of the Christians became mosques where the Turks went to pray.

**Trade Routes Cut Off.** The capture of Constantinople by the Turks was a great misfortune for the merchants of Venice and Genoa. The Northern Route to Cathay was no longer safe. Few merchants dared to travel that route. They used the other two trade routes. But even these became daily more dangerous.

God has given every human being the right to life and property. The Turks had no regard for the life or property of others. They killed many innocent people. They built fleets of ships which robbed all other ships on the Mediterranean Sea.

Trade routes were cut off. There would be no more riches for Europe. Merchants of Venice and Genoa lost all their wealth.

## THE SEARCH

IMAGINE that on your way home from school today you met a sign which read, "Road Closed." What would you do? Wouldn't you take another road home? Certainly.

But the people of Europe did not know of any other route to the Indies. The only routes they knew were the three trade routes, and these were now closed to them.

The people still wanted the wealth of the East for themselves. They wanted more spices, more jewels, more rugs and carpets. They decided to look for another route to the East. They wanted a safe water route.

God draws good out of everything. In their greed for riches, without their thinking about it, the people of Europe were working out God's plan.

God's plan was that a new world be discovered. He wanted more and more people in the world to know about Him and His Church.

The people of Europe wanted to find a new way to the East. But most of them only wanted to do this to make it easier to get riches and goods.

### Word Study

Marco Polo	pilgrimage	spices	Koran
trade routes	merchants	Crusade	sagas
Kublai Khan	Urban II	mosques	Orient
Mohammedans	Northmen	caravans	Indies
Christianity	tapestries		

## Testing Your Learning

1. Draw a line six inches long on your paper. At the beginning of the line write the date of the beginning of the Crusades; at the center of the line place the date when Marco Polo visited China; at the end of the line write the date of the fall of Constantinople. Afterwards you may illustrate this time-line.
2. Try to answer the following questions. If you are not able to do so, you may reread the chapter. The answers are within the chapter, but they are "hidden," that is, they are written in different words than those which are used here.
  - a. Why do we study the Crusades in a story of trade with the East?
  - b. Why is the invention of printing important to this story?
  - c. Why is Marco Polo's trip to the East important?
  - d. Why did Venice and Genoa alone trade with the East?
  - e. How did the goods of the East reach Europe?
  - f. How did the fall of Constantinople bring about the closing of the trade routes?
  - g. Why do we not call the Northmen discoverers of America?
3. Do people ever join Crusades today. Do you know any such Crusades?
4. Prepare to discuss the following question with your classmates: "Why did the people of Europe begin to look for an all-water route to the East after the land routes were closed?"
5. Trace the trade routes on your map. Find Constantinople, Genoa, Venice, Indian Ocean, Cathay.