

History for Little Pilgrims



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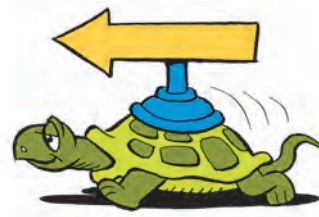
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HISTORY FOR LITTLE PILGRIMS
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Preface

Young students need to be given a clear picture of God's providential guidance of history. It is the goal of *History for Little Pilgrims* to provide them with a biblical worldview so that they will see history as "His Story."



Primary grade students often struggle to understand what history is all about. This text will help these students focus on the central theme of history—the building of God's kingdom. They will come to understand this by learning about key figures and events as they relate to this central theme.

Instructors may need to read parts of this book to their students. Slower readers should be encouraged to participate orally in class discussion until their reading skills mature. It is important for instructors to spend time discussing the text, timelines, maps, and pictures with their students. The lessons will be reinforced as the students review the vocabulary words, do the activities, and answer the questions at the end of each unit.



In addition, we encourage instructors to use outside resources to enhance their students' study of history, especially a world atlas and globe. A teacher's manual is available which provides lesson plans and other supplemental activities.



May the Lord Jesus Christ help students gain an appreciation for the work of God in history.

Michael J. McHugh



2 The Beginning of History

In the Beginning

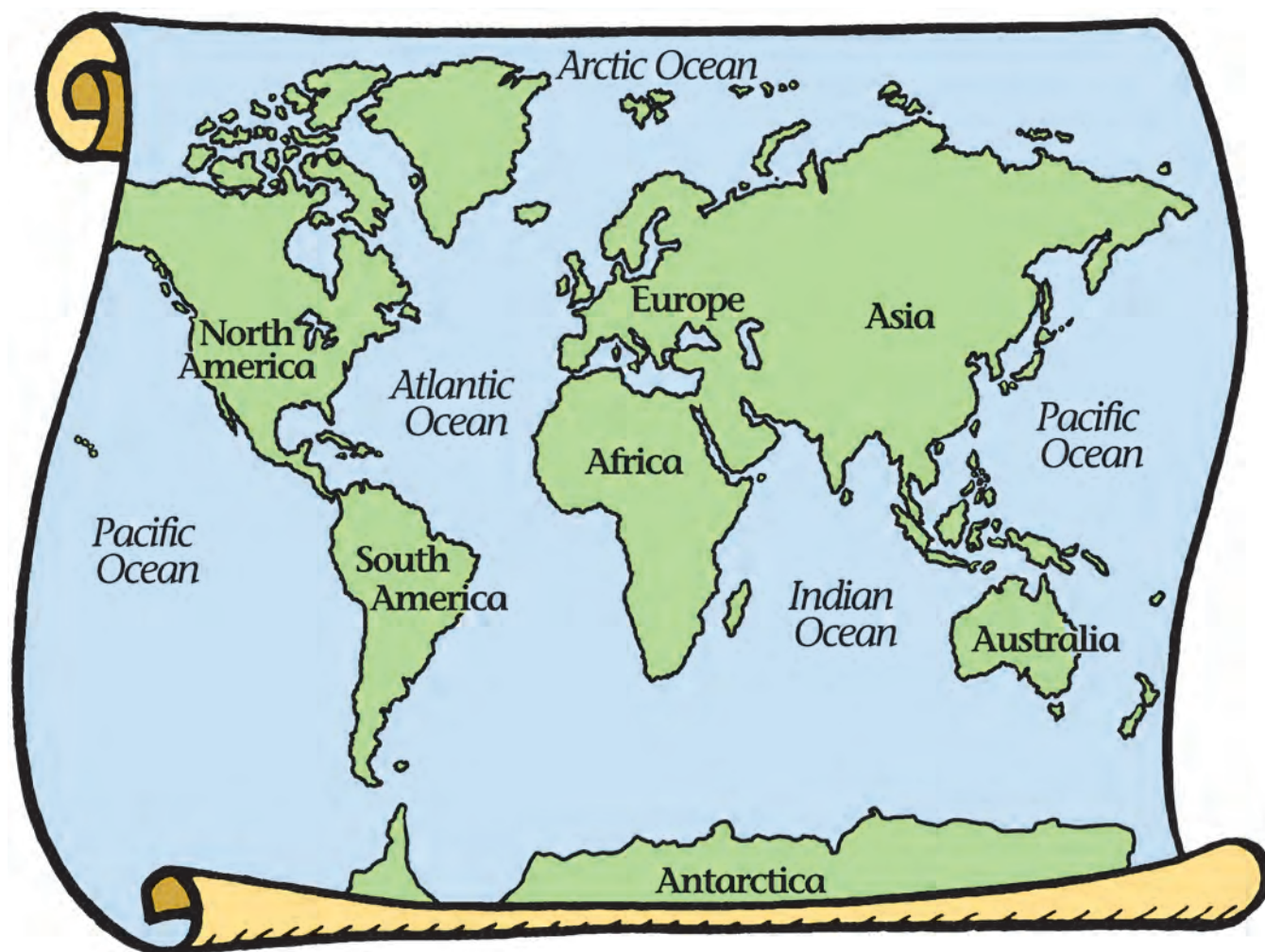
God's great story of history began when He made the earth. He made a beautiful world so people would have a place to live. Why else do you think God made the earth? He did not make it only as a place for people to live. He made the earth for His own glory. The Bible says that "God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good" (Genesis 1:31). God was very happy that He made the world and everything in it.

We should glorify God for His great creation. **Glorify** means to honor and praise God with all our



heart. If God made everything for His glory, how should we glorify God? We should glorify Him by praising Him for all the great things He has done. The Bible says we should also glorify Him by loving Him. If we love God, we will obey His commandments. (Read Mark 12:30 and John 14:15.)





God made our big world with large areas of land and water. The large areas of dry land are called **continents**. The big areas of water are called **oceans**. Look at the map above. Point to the land. Now point to the big areas of water. See if you can learn their names.

Adam and Eve

God created the first man. His name was Adam. God made Adam's body out of the dust of the ground. He also gave him a spirit that will never die. God placed him in a beautiful garden in the land of Eden. God made all kinds of good things for Adam to eat. God also gave Adam



a special job to do. He told Adam to work the garden and take care of it. God told him to give all the animals names too.

God knew, however, that one thing was missing. Adam had no one to help him with all this work. So God made Adam sleep. Then He took one of Adam's ribs and closed him back up. From the rib, God made the first woman. Her name is Eve. Adam and Eve became the first man and wife—the first family. They were happy together because they did

everything that God told them to do.

There was, however, one very important thing that God told Adam *not* to do. God said that Adam could eat the fruit of all the trees in the garden except for one. God said, "... but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die" (Genesis 2:17).

The First Sin

One day, something took place in the garden that made God angry. As Eve was walking in the garden, she heard someone begin speaking to her. When she looked around she saw a snake. Of course, snakes do not usually speak, but Satan spoke to Eve through this snake.

Instead of running away, Eve listened to Satan. He told her a lie. He said she could be like God. All she had to do was eat the fruit of "the tree of the knowledge of good and evil." Eve believed Satan's lie and ate the fruit. Then she gave the fruit to Adam and he ate too.

This sin brought very bad things into the story of history. Do you know what sin is? **Sin** is disobeying

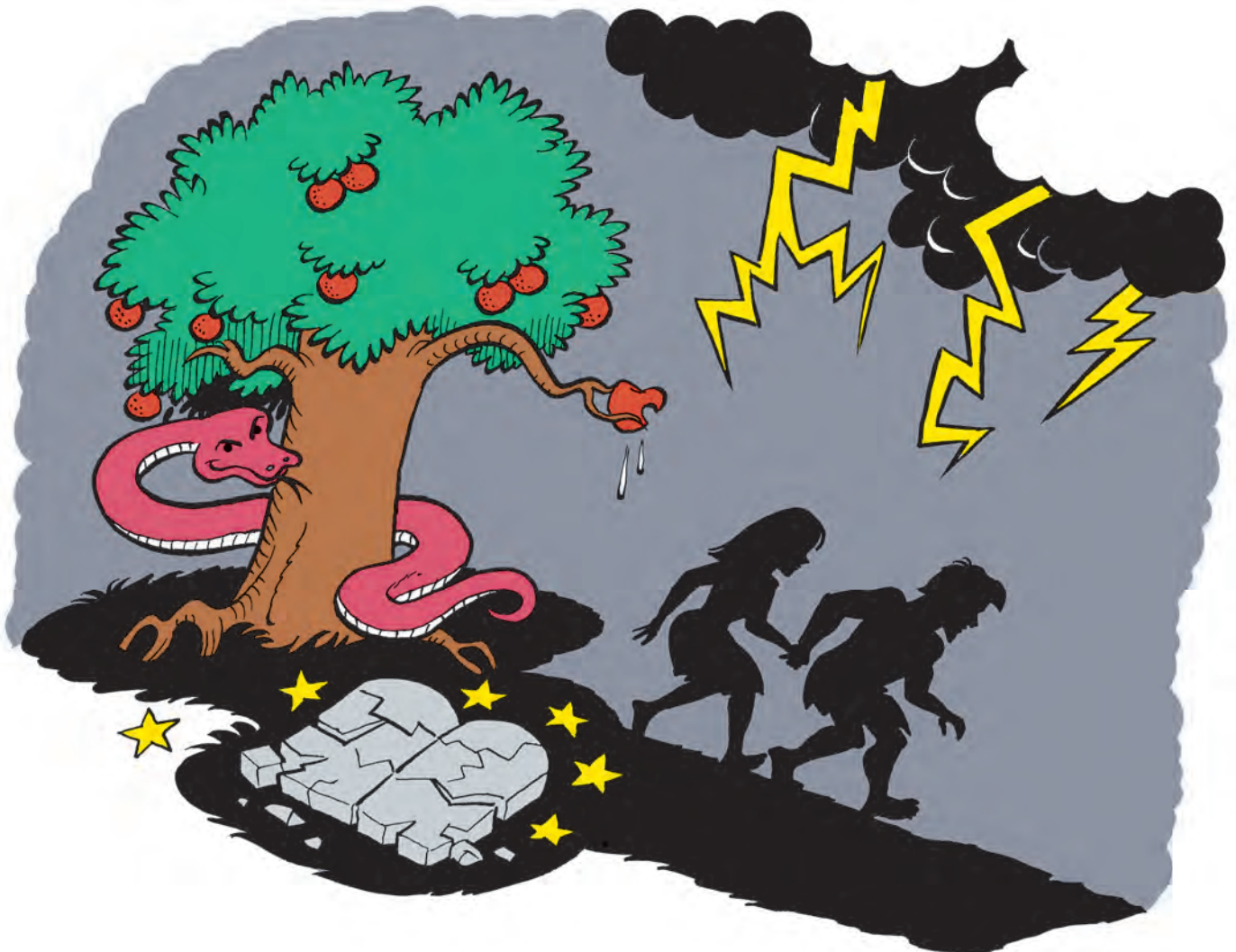
God's rules. Have you ever disobeyed your parents' rules? The Bible says that anyone who disobeys God's rules will surely die.

When you disobey your mom or dad, they are not happy. What happens when you disobey? Yes, your parents will discipline you. In the same way, if we disobey God, He

will punish us. The Lord says, "I will punish you according to the fruit of your doings..." (Jeremiah 21:14a).

God's Great Curse

Adam and Eve chose to disobey God. Their sin brought a **curse** on all people. This curse includes all the bad



things that came upon people after Adam and Eve sinned. Thorns, sickness, pain, and death are God's punishment for sin. Because of Adam's sin, everyone has a sinful heart. The Bible says, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

After they had disobeyed God, Adam and Eve were no longer happy. The world changed forever. Even plants and animals would now get sick and die. The saddest thing that happened, however, was that God was no longer happy with Adam and Eve.

Since Adam and Eve disobeyed, God made them leave the beautiful Garden of Eden. No longer would they enjoy being close to God in the garden. The first family would now have a hard life, become sick, and someday die.

God's Great Promise

Yet God did not end "His Story" here. Instead He gave a great **promise** to Adam and Eve. He said that a child would be born someday that would crush the head of the serpent! All good things in history would come from this great promise. As you travel through history, you will soon learn about this great promise.



Words to Know

Repeat each of the following words as your teacher says them. Go back in your story to find these words and mark them with a highlighting marker.

glorify	continents
oceans	sin
curse	promise

Something to Do

If you have a globe (or a map of the world), point to the place where you live. If you need help, ask your teacher. Now spin the globe. See if you can find the place where you live by yourself.

Ask your teacher to point to the place on the globe or world map where Adam and Eve may have lived. Some Bible students think that the Garden of Eden was in the country of Syria. Do you live far away from where Adam and Eve lived?

If you have a Bible or a story book about the Bible, ask your teacher to read you the stories of creation and Adam and Eve (Genesis 1–3). After you have heard these stories, draw a picture of a beautiful garden filled with animals and flowers.

Unit 2 Review

After you read each sentence, say the word that you think is missing. Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

1. History began when the earth was created by _____.
2. The large areas of land are called _____.
3. The big areas of water are called the _____.
4. Adam and Eve lived in the Garden of _____.
5. The sin of Adam and Eve brought God's _____.
6. The Bible says that all have sinned and fall short of God's _____.



9 A New World is Found

America is a great land. It is made of two big parts—North and South America. North means the top of the globe and south means the bottom of the globe. Do you live in North or South America?

The First Americans

America is far away from where man was created by God. This is why it took thousands of years before America was explored. The word **explore** means to travel to a new place and learn about the land and the people that live there. Where do people now go when they want to explore new places? People now go to



the Arctic, Antarctica, under the ocean, or outer space to explore.

The first people to come and live in America were called Indians. They were called this because the first explorers to America thought that they had reached the land of India. You, however, may simply call them the “first Americans.” They were some of the people God sent from the Tower of Babel to fill the earth.



Indians

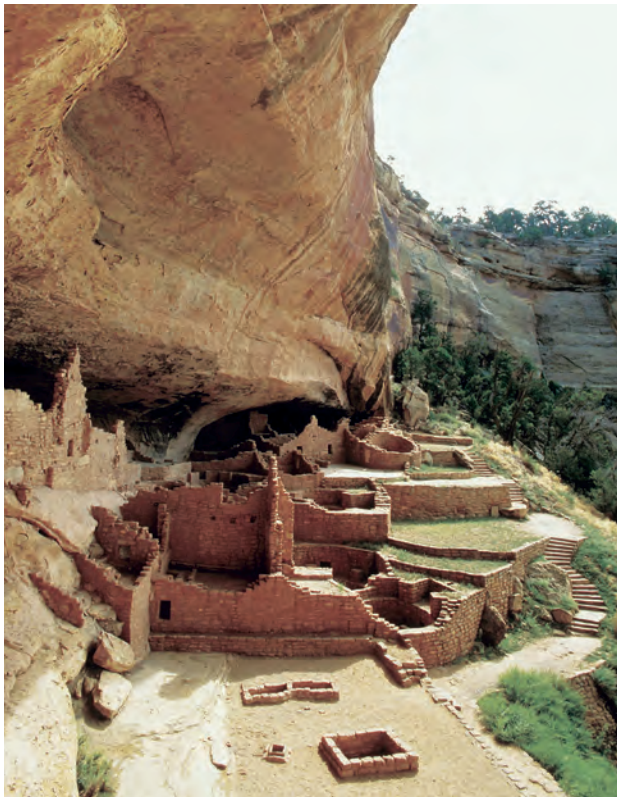
1492 Columbus

1620 Pilgrims

1700 Colonies

From there, they had traveled north through Asia, east across Siberia to Alaska, and down into the Americas. They came many years before the explorers.

These first Americans were people who lived as hunters and farmers. Most of them lived in small groups called **tribes**. The Indians that lived east of the Rocky Mountains did not build big cities because they liked to travel from place to place. When food was hard to find, they moved.



Some Indians lived in the mountains.

These people, however, did not know Christ. They worshiped spirits that they thought lived in trees, hills, and the sky. **Worship** means to serve someone or something with all your heart. These first Americans worshiped these spirits because no one told them about the true God—the God of the Bible.

For many years, only the American Indians lived in North America. But about A.D. 1000, brave explorers from Norway and Denmark crossed the ocean and visited America. These explorers were called Vikings. They knew much about sailing boats. They sailed their small boats first to Iceland and Greenland, and then to North America. Can you find the way that they traveled on the map on page 68?

Columbus finds the New World

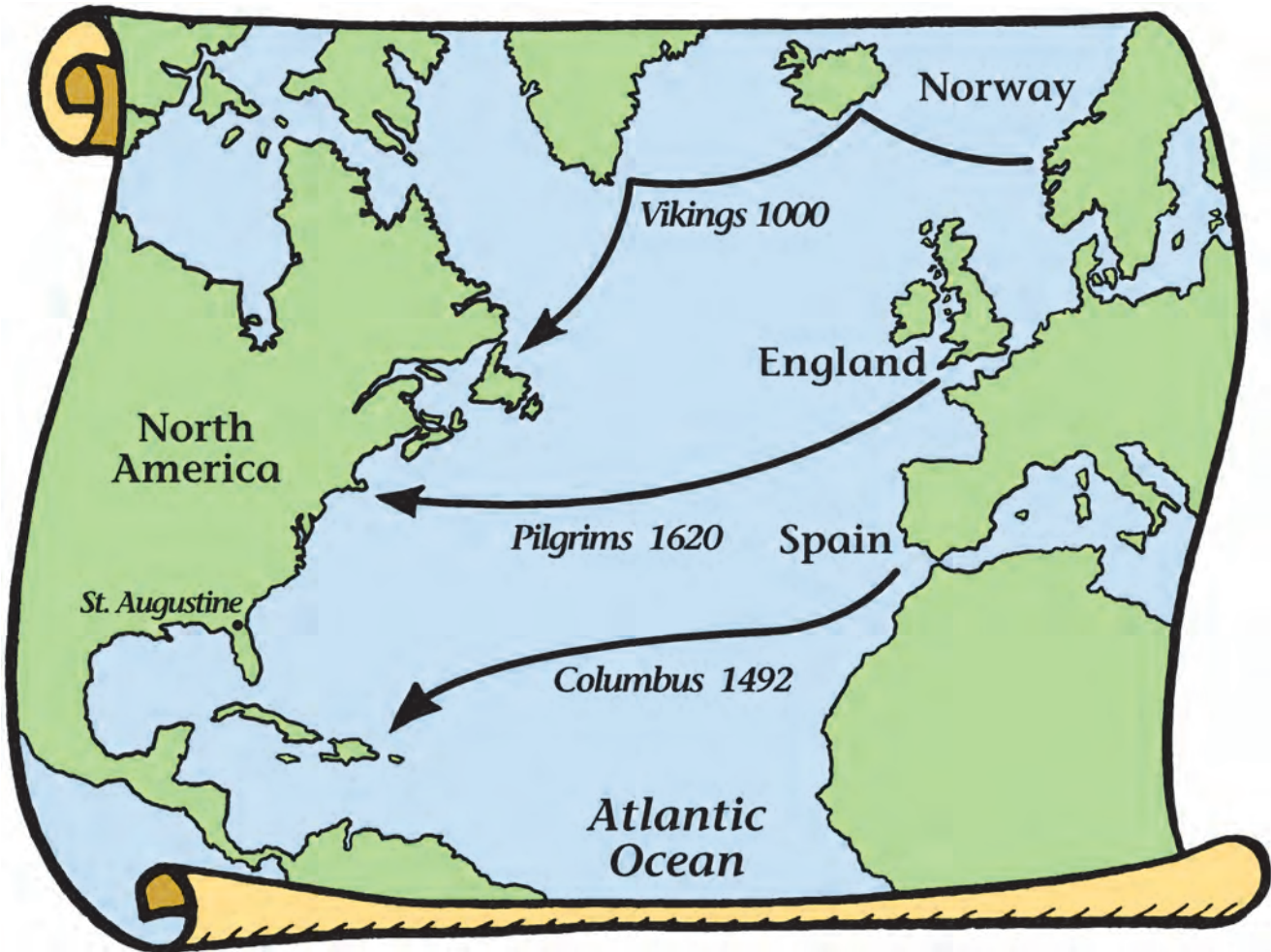
In the year 1492, an explorer named Christopher Columbus sailed the ocean blue from Spain to America. Columbus made four trips to this new world. He also showed others how to get across the wide ocean to the New World. Soon many

explorers sailed there. Explorers from Spain traveled over all America, especially South America.

The first city to be built by Europeans in North America was called Saint Augustine. It was named after the great Bible teacher we learned about earlier. Saint Augustine was built on land that is now part of the state of Florida. Can you find it on the map?

The Pilgrims Come to America

England and Holland sent explorers to North America, too. Soon people from their countries wanted to live in America. Many of the people who sailed to North America followed the teachings of the reformers and tried to live by the Bible.



A special group of Christians from England, called **Pilgrims**, came to America so they could worship God freely. They were Christians who had suffered much for following Christ and left England to start a new life.

In the year 1620, a brave group of Pilgrims sailed from England to the New World in their ship called the *Mayflower*. After their long trip, they left their ship and set foot on a beautiful new land. This was now their new home. They called their first home Plymouth Colony.



A model of the *Mayflower*



The Pilgrims lived at peace with the Indians who lived around them. These first Americans even joined them in a big meal to thank God for His blessings. Many Americans still remember that day by eating a special meal on “Thanksgiving Day” each November.

The American Colonies

As the years passed, many other people came from Europe. The King of England said that most of the land of North America belonged to England. Soon England had many colonies in North America. A **colony** is a place that is ruled by a faraway

country. The Pilgrims and Puritans lived in what was called New England. It is still called that today.

One hundred years later, however, the people did not serve God like the first Pilgrims did. Many of them had

wandered away from Christ. The American people had forgotten how their parents and grandparents had suffered for following Christ. After all, that had happened many years ago. What did that have to do with them? Besides, they were busy working and making money. They thought they did not have time for serving Christ.

Jonathan Edwards, the Great Preacher

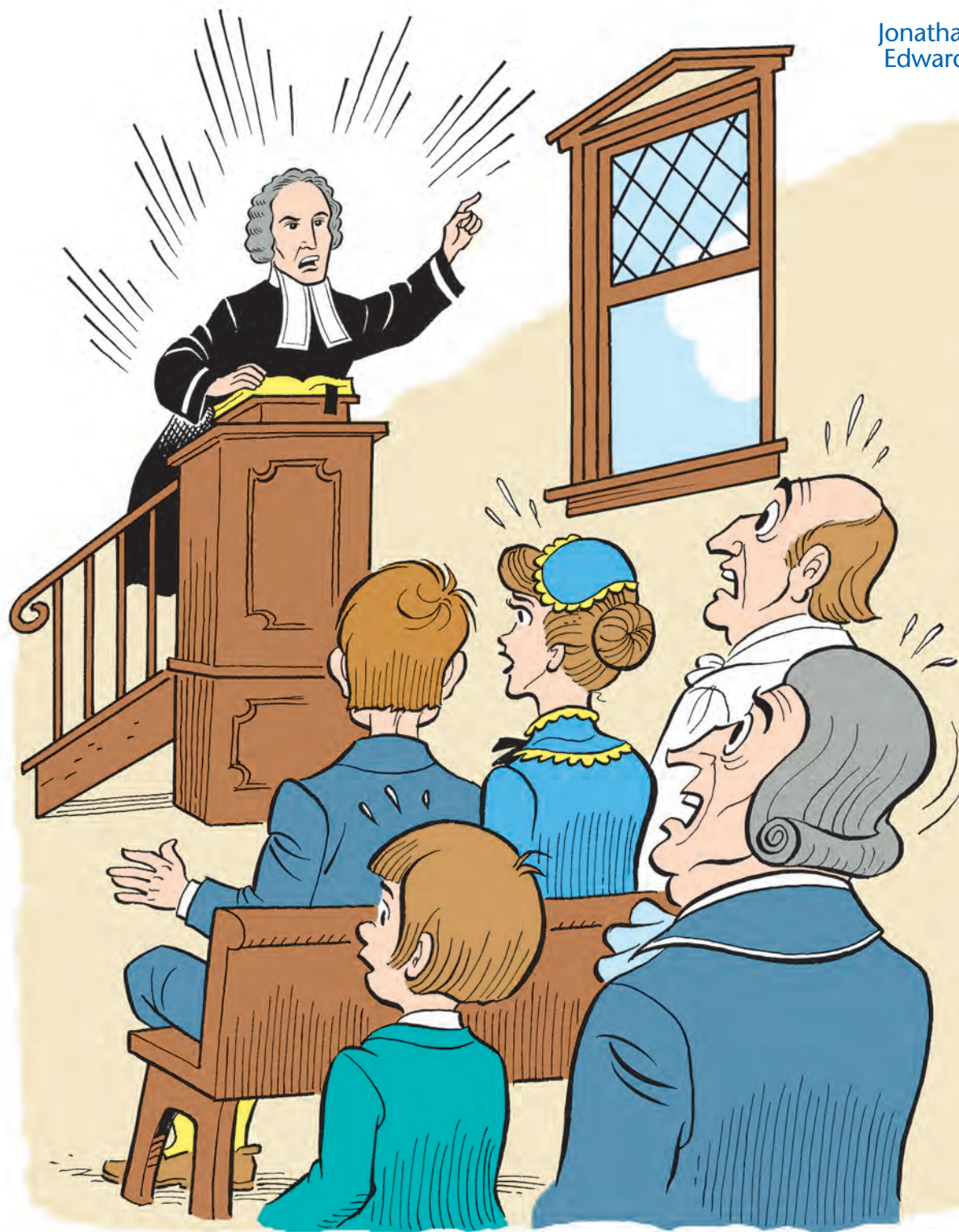
Jonathan Edwards was a famous preacher during a time called the “Great Awakening.” Do you know what an awakening is? Awakening is when you wake up in the morning. You feel fresh and strong. You feel like a new person.

The **Great Awakening** was a time when people woke up, not from sleep, but from sin in their hearts. God awakened their sleepy hearts to faith in Christ. Now they understood the good news of Christ’s death and received eternal life.

God used a man named Jonathan Edwards to wake up the people. He preached like the reformers. God used Edwards and others to lead the American people back to His Word.



- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Massachusetts | 8. Delaware |
| 2. New Hampshire | 9. Maryland |
| 3. Rhode Island | 10. Virginia |
| 4. Connecticut | 11. N. Carolina |
| 5. New York | 12. S. Carolina |
| 6. New Jersey | 13. Georgia |
| 7. Pennsylvania | |



When he was a young boy, Jonathan went to a small church. He would also go to the woods near his house for times of prayer. Years later when he went to college, however, he forgot about God and His Word and spent most of his time just studying what men without Christ taught.

Then he began again to look for God. He felt sad because he did things that did not please God. He wanted to know how to be saved. God woke him from the sleep of sin and gave him new life!

After God saved Jonathan Edwards, he wanted to serve God by preaching the good news about Christ. He told the people that a person is saved not by trying to be good, but by being born again by the Holy Spirit. This was the same thing that Martin Luther preached 200 years before. The American people also needed to hear the same words.

People from all over the American colonies came to hear him preach. God used these visitors to take the good news back to their cities. This was how the Great Awakening spread to other parts of North America.

God was making the American

people ready for something new. Do you know what that was? They were about to start a new nation. He wanted them to build a nation that was based on faith in the Word of God.

Do you too want to come to Jesus? You certainly may come to Him, too. He wants you to say, "I am sorry for



The churches in America were made strong by the Great Awakening.

all the bad things I say and do. Please forgive me. I believe that Jesus died on the cross for me. He was punished for my sins. I also believe that he rose again on the third day. Please come into my heart.”

Words to Know

Repeat each of the following words as your teacher says them. Go back in your story to find these words and mark them with a highlighting marker.

explore	tribes
worship	Pilgrims
colony	Great Awakening

Something to do

The Pilgrims and the Indians thanked God for giving them food to eat. Do you thank God for the food you eat? Before every meal you should thank the Lord for all the good things He gives you to eat.



Unit 9 Review

After you read each sentence, say the word that you think is missing. Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

1. The first Americans were called _____.
2. The men who came from Norway and Denmark to North America were called _____.
3. In 1492, America was rediscovered by _____.
4. To thank God for His blessings, a thanksgiving feast was enjoyed by the Indians and the _____.
5. The thirteen colonies were located in North _____.
6. A great preacher during the Great Awakening was Jonathan _____.