

## Summer Reading Guide for

# A VOYAGE LONG AND STRANGE

By: Tony Horowitz

Tony Horowitz, *A Voyage Long and Strange. Rediscovering the New World*. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 2008.

This book is required reading for all AP U.S. history students. As you read the book, answer the following questions. Some will require a sentence or two, some paragraphs for a full analysis/explanation. ALL must be answered with complete sentence. I will collect your answers on the first day and you will be tested on this material.

### Prologue:

1. Why did Tony Horowitz write his book, *A Voyage Long and Strange*?
2. To what extent is the following statement true? "History is a friendlier stage than sport when it comes to winners and losers."

### Part I: Discovery

#### Chapter I: Vinland

1. How does Horowitz classify the reliability of sagas as historical texts?
2. Who were the first Europeans to arrive in America? Why did they come, where did they arrive, and what did they find there?
3. What happened to the original inhabitants of "Vinland"? What is the historical significance of the earliest documented interactions between the Norse and the "Skraeling"?
4. According to Horowitz, how are these first Europeans remembered and is it accurate?

#### Chapter 2: 1492

1. What are some of the myths and mysteries about Christopher Columbus? What do we verifiably know about him?
2. Based on Horowitz' account, did Columbus discover America and was he the great man he is often portrayed as?
4. What did we learn about Columbus's character during the "long and strange journey" of his first crossing of the Atlantic and subsequent discovery of the Bahamas?
5. What lasting impact did Columbus's interactions with the "Indios" have on future aboriginal and European interactions?
6. What occurred at La Navidad and how did those events shape the history that followed?

#### Chapter 3: San Domingo: The Columbus Jinx

1. In what way did Hispaniola leave Columbus and his brothers exclaiming "estamos judidos"?
2. Explain the bitter irony of the name "America" from Columbus's perspective.
3. What symbolic parallels can you identify between the Faro and the impressions that the Dominicans had of Columbus?
4. Who were the Taino, and how did their relationship with Bartolome De Las Casas give rise to the myth of the "Noble Savage"?
5. What troubling legacy arose from the Spanish system of slavery called "Encomienda"?
6. How accurate is the ambassador's observation that the ever growing number of Spanish speakers in the United States is proof that "the future of all the Americas is Spain"?

#### **Chapter 4: The Dominican Republic**

1. Who was the original Caonabo? What is the significance of his (and the Taino) legacy in the Dominican Republic?
2. What insights does the concept of “ahorita” offer us on the culture of the Dominican Republic?
3. Explain the complex social hierarchy that exists today in the Dominican Republic and Haiti and what role Spanish Imperialism played in creating it?
4. Horowitz writes “It was this propensity for magical thinking that seemed, in the end, to define Columbus.” To what extent is this true and how should it affect his legacy?

### **Part II: Conquest**

#### **Chapter 5: The Gulf Coast**

1. What twin impulses drove the Spanish to extend their empire in the New World?
2. How did the exploits of Cortez and Pizarro influence later Spanish Conquistadors?
3. Who was Alvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca, what happened to him when he left Florida and how did he manage to survive?
4. How did Cabeza de Vaca’s journey affect the region?

#### **Chapter 6: The Southwest**

1. How does Horowitz challenge Frederick Jackson Turner’s thesis?
2. Who was Francisco Vásquez de Coronado? How is Coronado remembered, and which historical image of Coronado is likely most correct?
3. Who were the Zunis and what made them almost unique among Native Americans?

#### **Chapter 7: the Plains**

1. What happened to the foot on Juan de Oñate’s statue and how is this symbolic of modern cultural conflicts?
2. Why has Coronado been largely forgotten?
3. How far did Coronado’s expedition get before he finally turned around and who lives there today?
4. What finally happened to Coronado?

#### **Chapter 8: The South**

1. What was Hernando De Soto’s background and how did he finance his expedition?
2. How much fun was Horowitz’s day with the De Soto re-enactors?
3. How did De Soto manage to defeat the Native American groups he faced?
4. What were the long term outcomes of De Soto’s actions on the Native American nations that lived in the Southeast?

#### **Chapter 9: The Mississippi**

1. How was De Soto’s journey portrayed in the 19th century, especially in the painting *The Discovery of the Mississippi* and what does that tell us about American national identity?
2. What did De Soto do when he reached the Mississippi?
3. Describe Horowitz’s day on the Mississippi.
4. Was De Soto’s journey a success?

### **Part III: Settlement**

#### **Chapter 10: Florida**

1. How did the French differ from the Spanish in their colonization attempts in Florida and what did the Spanish do to them?
2. For Lyn Corley, what does the French colonization effort represent?
3. How are the French remembered in historic St. Augustine?

### Chapter 11: Roanoke

1. When did the English arrive in the New World?
2. How did English colonization efforts differ from those of the Spanish and the French?
3. What happened to the lost colony of Roanoke? (Hint: this is an obvious trick question)
4. What is Roanoke Island like today?

### Chapter 12: Jamestown

1. Who was John Smith and how did he come to play such a prominent role in the founding of Jamestown?
2. What problems were faced by the original colonists at Jamestown?
3. How did the Jamestown colony survive and what role did Native Americans play in this success?
4. What remains at Jamestown today?
5. How did subsequent English settlers deal with the Native Americans and how were the English different from the Spanish in this regard?
6. What happened to Pocahontas and how is she remembered today?
7. How have racial politics complicated historical memory and cultural identity for Native Americans in Virginia?

### Chapter 13: Plymouth

1. Who founded Plymouth and, according to Horowitz, did the first Thanksgiving happen there?
2. How did Thanksgiving develop into the holiday that we have today?
3. Why do Americans seem to like Plymouth and the Pilgrims better than the southern colonists?

**Identifications:** (incomplete sentences are fine, responses should be proportionate to the significance of their subject. i.e. the identification for “sweat lodge” should be shorter than “John Smith”)

Erik the Red	Acomos	Richard Hakluyt
The Viking Trail	Oñate	Manteo
Skraeling	El Parón	Virginia Dare
Freydis	Herbert Bolton	Sir Francis Drake
L’Anse aux Meadows	Charles Hudson	John Smith
Sweat lodge	Juan Ortiz	Fred Willard
Reconquista	“Lost Race”	Powhatan
Estevanico	Etowah	Pocahontas
Fray Marcos de Niza	<i>Discovery of the Mississippi</i>	Order of the Red Men and the Degree of Pocahontas
Cibola	Kent Goff	Walter Plecker
Coronado Peak	Laudonnière	Day of Mourning
Walter Mares	Huguenots	“America’s Home Town”
Alarcón	Mendendéz	Tisquantum
El Morro	Fountain of Youth	“Strangers”
Sky City	Walter Raleigh	

**Essay Questions:** Pick one of the following. Answer in four to five complete paragraphs.

1. On page 387, Horowitz quotes Reverend Peter Gomes: “Myth is more important than history. History is arbitrary, a collection of facts. Myth we choose, we create, we perpetuate...Myth trumps fact, always does, always will.” Based on your reading of the Prologue from *After the Fact: The Strange Death of Silas Deane*, evaluate Gomes’ statement above.

2. German historian Leopold von Ranke noted that a historian had to uncover “*wie es eigentlich gewesen ist*,” literally, “how it actually happened.” Comparing the accounts from *A Voyage Long and Strange*, Chapter 1 of your textbook, and in the light of your reading from *After the Fact*, do you believe this is possible? If so, how can historians accomplish this and do you believe it is an important pursuit?