1. On what did Harvey base his ideas on the flow of the blood?
2. To what celestial body did Harvey compare the heart? Why?
3. In your opinion, how important was Harvey’s discovery to medical science? Explain your answer.

57 FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF THE NEW WORLD

After a two-month voyage across the Atlantic, Christopher Columbus made landfall in the West Indies on October 12, 1492. He spent the next three months exploring a number of islands in the Caribbean Sea. In February 1493, just before he began his homeward voyage, he sent a letter to the secretary of the Spanish treasury detailing his impressions of the land and people. As you read the excerpt of the letter from Renaissance and Reformation: 1300–1648, edited by G. R. Elton, note Columbus’s observations of the “Indians,” as he called them, of the New World.
Sir,—Believing that you will take pleasure in hearing of the great success which our Lord has granted me in my voyage, I write you this letter, whereby you will learn how in thirty-seven days' time I reached the Indies with the fleet which the most illustrious King and Queen, our sovereigns, gave to me, where I found very many islands thickly peopled, of all which I took possession without resistance for their Highnesses by proclamation made and with the royal standard unfurled. . . . When I reached Juana [Cuba], I followed its coast to the westward, and found it so large that I thought it must be the mainland,—the province of Cathay [China]; and, as I found neither towns nor villages on the sea-coast, but only a few hamlets, with the inhabitants of which I could not hold a conversation because they all immediately fled, I kept on the same route, thinking that I could not fail to light upon some large cities and towns. At length . . . I . . . returned to a certain harbour which I had remarked, and from which I sent two men ashore to ascertain whether there was any king or large cities in that part. They journeyed for three days and found countless small hamlets with numberless inhabitants, but with nothing like order; they therefore returned. In the meantime I had learned from some other Indians whom I had seized, that this land was certainly an island. . . . The lands are high and there are many very lofty mountains. . . . [The islands] are all most beautiful, of a thousand different shapes, accessible, and covered with trees of a thousand kinds of such great height that they seemed to reach the skies. . . . The nightingale was singing as well as other birds of a thousand different kinds; and that, in November, the month in which I myself was roaming amongst them. There are palm-trees of six or eight kinds, wonderful in their beautiful variety; but this is the case with all the other trees and fruits and grasses; trees, plants, or fruits filled us with admiration. It contains extraordinary pine groves, and very extensive plains. There is also honey, a great variety of birds, and many different kinds of fruits. In the interior there are many mines of metals and a population innumerable. . . . The inhabitants of this and of all the other islands I have found or gained intelligence of, both men and women, go as naked as they were born. . . . They have neither iron, nor steel, nor arms, nor are they competent to use them, not that they are not well-formed and of handsome stature, but because they are timid to a surprising degree.

On my reaching the Indies, I took by force, in the first island that I discovered, some of these natives that they might learn our language and give me information in regard to what existed in these parts; and it so happened that they soon understood us and we them, either by words or signs, and they have been very serviceable to us. They are still with me, and, from repeated conversations that I have had with them, I find that they still believe that I come from heaven. And they were the first to say this wherever I went, and the others ran from house to house and to the neighbouring villages, crying with a loud voice: "Come, come, and see the people from heaven!" And thus they all, men as well as women, after their minds were at rest about us, came, both large and small, and brought us something to eat and drink, which they gave us with extraordinary kindness. . . .

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They assure me that there is another island larger than [Hispaniola] in which the inhabitants have no hair. It is extremely rich in gold; and I bring with me Indians taken from these different islands, who will testify to all these things. Finally, and speaking only of what has taken place in this voyage... their Highnesses may see that I shall give them all the gold they require, if they will give me but a little assistance; spices also, and cotton, as much as their Highnesses shall command to be shipped; and mastic, hitherto found only in Greece... slaves, as many of these idolators as their Highnesses shall command to be shipped. I think also I have found rhubarb and cinnamon, and I shall find a thousand other valuable things.

READING REVIEW

1. Where did Columbus think he had landed when he reached Cuba?
2. What was Columbus's impression of the lands he had found?
3. How do you think Columbus felt about the "Indians" he met? Explain your answer.

58. REVOLT IN BOHEMIA

When the Protestants of Bohemia refused to abide by his edicts, Holy Roman Emperor Matthias ordered the use of force against them. Two Catholic deputy-governors of Bohemia, Slavata and Matrinitz, complied by imprisoning dozens of local government officials. In response, a mob of Bohemian Protestants, led by Count Matthias von Thurn, stormed the royal palace in Prague and tossed the two governors out of a window, thus beginning the first stage of the Thirty Years' War (1618–48). In the excerpt below from The Thirty Years' War, historian C.V. Wedgwood describes the events that took place in May 1618. As you read the excerpt, consider why such a local affair led to a major war.

Thurn called a meeting of Protestant officials and deputies from all over Bohemia and appealed for the release of the prisoners. When this demonstration proved useless, he urged... a yet larger assembly of Protestants. This second meeting was fixed for May 1618; it was now March. In the intervening time both parties set themselves to work up the feelings of the people and of the townsfolk of Prague in particular. In spite of Catholic propaganda the Protestant meeting assembled on May 21st, a formidable gathering of noblemen, gentry and burghers from all over the province. The imperial governors in vain commanded them to dissolve. Only then did Slavata and Matrinitz grasp the danger in which

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