

# Was He the First Man to Discover America 15 Minute 609?

In 1492, Christopher Columbus set sail from Spain in search of a new route to Asia. He landed in the Bahamas, which he believed to be part of the Indies. Columbus's discovery of the Americas is one of the most important events in history, but there is evidence that he may not have been the first European to reach the New World.

In 1960, a team of archaeologists led by Dr. Helge Ingstad discovered the remains of a Viking settlement at L'Anse aux Meadows in Newfoundland, Canada. The settlement dates back to around 1000 AD, which is about 500 years before Columbus's voyage. The Vikings who settled at L'Anse aux Meadows were likely exploring the area in search of resources, such as timber and furs.



## Leif Erikson: Was He The First Man To Discover America? (15-Minute Books Book 609) by Deborah Hopkinson

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English  
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Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 15 pages  
Lending : Enabled



The discovery of the Viking settlement at L'Anse aux Meadows is significant because it provides evidence that Europeans may have reached the Americas centuries before Columbus. However, there is still some debate about whether the Vikings were the first Europeans to discover America. Some scholars believe that the Irish monk Saint Brendan may have reached the Americas in the 6th century AD, while others believe that the Chinese explorer Zheng He may have reached the Americas in the 15th century AD.

Regardless of who was the first European to discover America, the Vikings' settlement at L'Anse aux Meadows is a reminder of the long and complex history of exploration and discovery in the Americas.

### **The Evidence for the Vikings**

The evidence for the Vikings' presence in the Americas is based on the archaeological remains found at L'Anse aux Meadows. These remains include the foundations of several buildings, as well as artifacts such as pottery, tools, and weapons. The artifacts that have been found at L'Anse aux Meadows are similar to those that have been found at Viking settlements in Greenland and Iceland, which suggests that the people who lived at L'Anse aux Meadows were of Viking origin.

In addition to the archaeological evidence, there is also documentary evidence that supports the theory that the Vikings reached the Americas. The Icelandic sagas, which are historical accounts of the Vikings, contain stories of voyages to a land called Vinland. Vinland is believed to have been located in North America, and the sagas describe a number of encounters between the Vikings and the native peoples of the region.

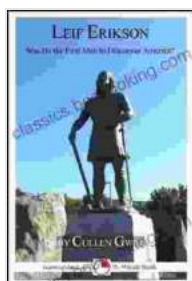
## **The Debate over the Vikings**

Despite the evidence that supports the theory that the Vikings reached the Americas, there is still some debate about whether they were the first Europeans to do so. Some scholars believe that the Irish monk Saint Brendan may have reached the Americas in the 6th century AD, while others believe that the Chinese explorer Zheng He may have reached the Americas in the 15th century AD.

The debate over who was the first European to discover America is likely to continue for many years to come. However, the evidence that has been found at L'Anse aux Meadows provides strong support for the theory that the Vikings were the first Europeans to reach the Americas.

The discovery of the Viking settlement at L'Anse aux Meadows is a reminder of the long and complex history of exploration and discovery in the Americas. The Vikings were a seafaring people who were willing to travel great distances in search of new lands and resources. Their settlement at L'Anse aux Meadows is a testament to their courage and their pioneering spirit.

Whether or not the Vikings were the first Europeans to discover America, their settlement at L'Anse aux Meadows is a significant historical site that deserves to be protected and preserved.



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