

Words

cinnamon = a sweet brown substance that gives cake and other sweet foods a special taste

convinced = to be sure that something is true

emerge = to come up

empire = a group of countries that are controlled by a king

explore = to travel around a place and find out something about it

jewels = very valuable stones, like diamonds

merchant = a person who buys and sells goods

passageway = a route

preserve = to last longer

population = the people of a country

prove = to show that something is true

quadrant = an instrument used for sailing to find out where you are

reach = get to

refrigerator = a kitchen machine that is used to keep food cool

silk = a smooth cloth that is very thin. It is made by a silkworm

spices = powder or seeds that are used to make food taste better

stretch out = extend, reach out

trading post = a place where people could buy or sell goods

valuable = things that cost a lot

voyage = a journey by sea

Age of Exploration

By the end of the 15th century many things were changing in Europe. The **population** started to grow more quickly and a new class of **merchants emerged**. They wanted to buy and sell expensive and **valuable** products from Asia—like gold, **jewels** and **silk**.



In those days, people had no **refrigerators** to **preserve** their food. They dried meat and often used salt to make it last longer. To make food taste better they used **spices**, like pepper or **cinnamon**.

For centuries Europeans brought these goods on a land route from Asia over thousands of dangerous kilometres. In the 15th century the **overland** routes were being controlled by the Turkish **Empire**, which made it even more difficult for European **merchants** to pass through.

As a result, some European countries, like Spain and Portugal, decided to find out if there was a sea route to India. With the help of new kinds of ships that could sail faster and instruments, like the **quadrant**, they started the Age of Exploration.

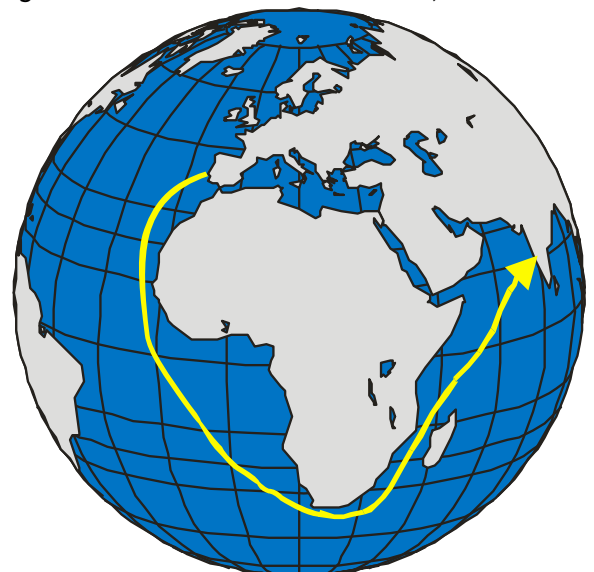
Portuguese exploration

At the end of the 15th century the Portuguese started to **explore** the west coast of Africa. They set up **trading posts** and collected gold and silver. They were **convinced** that by sailing around the coast of Africa they would find a route to India.

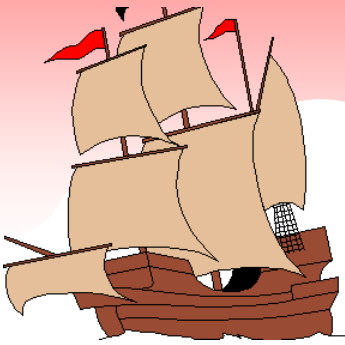
In 1487, the Portuguese explorer Bartholomeu Dias sailed around the southern part of the continent and got as far as the east coast of Africa, but a storm made him turn back.

On his return **voyage**, he saw a piece of land that **stretched** out into the sea. The Portuguese named it the Cape of Good Hope because they were hopeful of finding a **passageway** to India.

In 1497 Vasco Da Gama set out from Lisbon, sailed around the Cape of Good Hope and into the Indian Ocean. He **reached** the west coast of India in May 1498. He took some **spices** and gold back with him to **prove** that he had reached India.



Vasco da Gama's route to Africa in 1497/98



Words

achieve = get, reach

admire = to think very highly about someone

crew = the people who work on a ship or plane

explorer = someone who travels through unknown places and wants to find out things about them

fame = to be known by many people because you have done something great

mainland = the main area of land that forms a country, the islands do not belong to it

mass = a very large piece of something

merchant = a person who buys and sells goods

mouth = the place where a river flows into the sea

native = a person who was born there

navigator = a person on a ship who tries to find a route somewhere

present = to show

reach = get to

reject = to say no

Spice Islands = islands near Asia that were famous for having many spices

various = many different kinds of

voyage = a journey by sea

Age of Exploration

Christopher Columbus

Christopher Columbus was probably the most famous **explorer** of the era. He **achieved fame** by sailing west in search of a sea route to India. Instead of reaching India he discovered that there was an unknown **mass** of land in between, land that the Europeans knew nothing of.

Columbus was born in Genoa, Italy in 1451 and during his early years his father took him on **various** sailing trips and wanted to make a **merchant** out of him.

Like many **navigators** of that time, Columbus also wanted to sail to India and the Far East. He thought that if he sailed west he would also **reach** the **Spice Islands** of Asia and India. When he went to the king of Portugal to **present** his plan, but it was **rejected**. Queen Isabella of Spain **admired** young and brave men like Columbus and so she gave him three ships—the Nina, the Pinta and the Santa Maria—and a **crew** of 90 men.

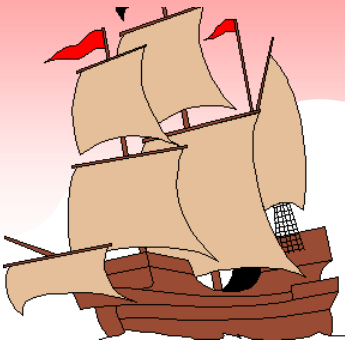
Columbus left Spain on August 3, 1492. After two months of sailing westward, he landed on an island of the Bahamas, San Salvador, on October 12, 1492. Because he thought he had **reached** the islands near India he called the **natives** Indians.

All together, Columbus made four **voyages** to the New World between 1492 and 1504. He **explored** the coasts of Cuba, Jamaica, Hispaniola, and Puerto Rico. On his last two **voyages**, Columbus reached the **mainland** of Central and South America and travelled as far south as the **mouth** of the Orinoco River.



After he came home from his fourth voyage, Christopher Columbus fell ill and died in 1506.

After sailing westward for two months Columbus reached the West Indies on October 12, 1492.



Words

cattle = cows that are kept on farms for milk and meat

century = a hundred years

claim = to take something legally

conquer = to get control of a country by fighting

conquistador = a Spanish explorer who conquered parts of America in the 16th and 17th centuries

empire = a group of countries that are controlled by a king

expand = to reach from one place to another

explorer = a person who travels around a place and wants to find out something about it

found = to start a company or create a new town

huge = very, very big

in exchange = if you give a person something, you get something else from him

in honour = to show how much you respect or like somebody

journey = trip, expedition

narrow = thin, not wide

natives = people who were born in a country and live there

permanent = to exist for a long time

reach = get to

riches = a lot of money, gold and silver

settlement = a new town that is built in a place where people have not lived before

settler = a person who lives in a place where not many people have lived before

set up = start, open up

Spaniard = a person from Spain

territory = new land

vast amounts = a lot of

wheat = a grain that you make white bread out of

Age of Exploration

Other Spanish Explorers

During the early 1500s Spanish **explorers** travelled across most of Central and South America. They **founded** colonies and brought **settlers** to the New World. They also made the native Indians work for them. The **Spaniards** brought new products to the Americas, like **wheat**, horses, **cattle** and sheep. **In exchange**, they grew plants that were not known in Europe, like corn and potatoes and brought them back to the Old Continent.



In 1513 the Spanish **explorer** Vasco de Balboa landed in Panama, the part of Central America that is very **narrow**. With his men, he fought his way through 50 miles of **jungle** and was surprised to see a new sea, the Pacific Ocean.



One of the most important Spanish **conquistadors** was Hernando Cortes. He **conquered** the Aztec **empire** in 1521. In 1532 and 1533 Francisco Pizarro **conquered** the Incas. These **natives** ruled an empire that **expanded** from Columbia to the northern parts of Argentina. The Incas had great **riches**, **vast amounts of** gold and silver. When the Spanish got there they took all of it away from the Incas.

French and English explorers

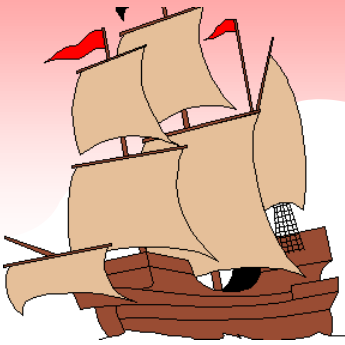
The French and the English concentrated their **journeys** on the northern part of the continent, because they thought that there also had to be a north-western route to India.

In 1497 John Cabot, an Italian who sailed for England, landed on the east coast of Canada. In 1534 Jacques Cartier sailed down the St. Lawrence River and **reached** the Great Lakes. He **claimed** this **territory** for the king of France.

During the 1600s the French and English began to **set up** colonies. The French concentrated on the St. Lawrence valley and the Great Lakes and **founded** towns like Montreal, or Detroit.

At the end of the **century** Louis Joliet and Jacques Marquette sailed down the Mississippi River. The land near the Gulf of Mexico was called Louisiana, **in honour** of the French king. **Settlements** like St. Louis or New Orleans show French **origin**.

The first **permanent settlement** in North America was **founded** at Jamestown, Virginia in 1607. In 1610 Henry Hudson sailed around north-eastern Canada and **discovered** a **huge** body of water which he thought was the Pacific Ocean. Today it is known as Hudson Bay.



Words

century = a hundred years

expedition = a trip to a dangerous , mostly unknown place

crew = the people who work on a ship or plane

damaged = broken

explorer = a person who travels around a place and wants to find out something about it

mainland = the main area of land that forms a country, the islands do not belong to it

mapmaker = a person who draws maps

navigator = a person on a ship who tries to find a route somewhere

sight =view

strait = a narrow passage of water between two areas of land

suggest = to tell somebody what they should do

tip = the end of something

voyage = a journey by sea

Magellan's journey around the world

Age of Exploration

Amerigo Vespucci

Amerigo Vespucci was an Italian-born **explorer** who explored the **mainland** of America at the end of the 15th **century**. A German **mapmaker** believed that Vespucci was the first to reach the New World ,so he **suggested** naming the new land America.

Although Vespucci was probably not one of the greatest explorers of the time, he was the first **navigator** who explored South America.

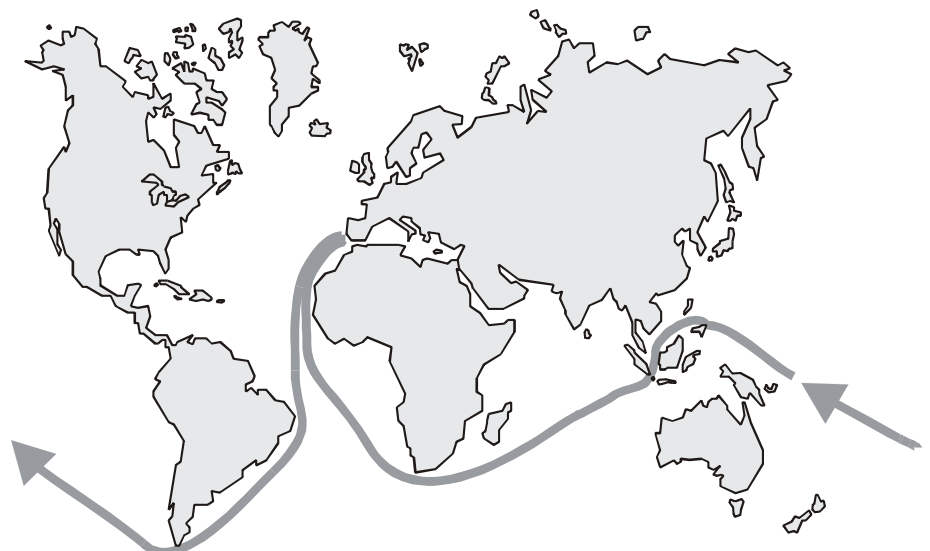
Magellan sails around the world

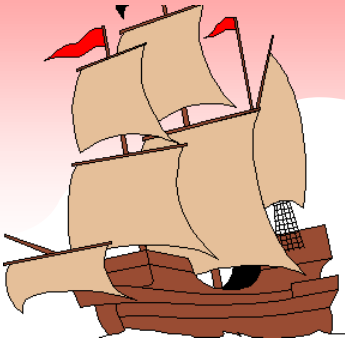
In 1519 the Portuguese sailor Ferdinand Magellan set out to find India by sailing around South America. He sailed for Spain because the Portuguese didn't give him any money for this **expedition**.

Magellan had 5 ships and a **crew** of 240. When he reached the southern **tip** of South America, he got into bad, stormy weather. Two of his ships were badly **damaged** and couldn't continue the journey. With three ships he sailed through a **strait**, that later was named after him , the Strait of Magellan.

When he reached the Pacific Ocean, he sailed for three months without any **sight** of land. Finally , in April of 1521 he landed on the Philippine Islands. Magellan got into a fight with native islanders and was killed there.

Only one ship could continue the **voyage**. It crossed the Indian Ocean and sailed around the Cape of Good Hope. With only twenty people on board it reached Spain three years after it had set out.





Words

cut off = block, so that nobody can pass through

discover = to find something for the first time

empire = a group of countries that are controlled by a king

mapmaker = a person who draws maps

pilgrim = a religious person who travels a long way to a holy place

sailor = someone who works on a ship

settlement = a new town that is built in a place where people have not lived before

tip = the end of something

Age of Exploration

Timeline

- 1450 Prince Henry the Navigator builds a school for **sailors**.
- 1453 The Turkish **empire cuts off** the land route from Asia to Europe. Search for a sea route begins.
- 1487 Bartholomeu Dias discovers the southern **tip** of Africa.
- 1492 Christopher Columbus lands on an island of the Bahamas.
- 1497 John Cabot **discovers** Newfoundland while he searches for a north-western passage to India.
- 1498 Vasco Da Gama finds a sea route to India by sailing around Africa.
- 1502 Amerigo Vespucci returns from his explorations of South America. A German **mapmaker** names the New World after him.
- 1513 Vasco de Balboa discovers the eastern shore of the Pacific Ocean.
- 1519-1522 Magellan sails around the world.
- 1521 Hernando Cortez defeats the Aztec **empire**.
- 1533 Francisco Pizarro defeats the Inca **empire**.
- 1534 Jacques Cartier sails down the St. Lawrence River and **discovers** the Great Lakes.
- 1577 Sir Francis Drake is the first Englishman to sail around the world.
- 1607 The first **settlement** is called Jamestown.
- 1610 Henry Hudson **discovers** Hudson Bay.
- 1620 The Mayflower lands with **pilgrims** in the New World.
- 1673 Father Jacques Marquette and Louis Joliet **explore** the Mississippi River.