



Explorers: Notes

In this lesson:

- Exploration
- Age of Discovery
- Christopher Columbus
- Vasco de Gama
- Ferdinand Magellan
- Amerigo Vespucci
- Francisco Pizzaro
- Hernán Cortés
- Prince Henry the Navigator
- Bartholomeu Dias
- Jacques Cartier
- Marco Polo
- John Cabot
- Zheng He
- Leif Erikson
- Diogo Cão
- Vasco Núñez de Balboa

Exploration: The action in which a person travels through an unfamiliar area in order to discover or learn more about it.

Age of Discovery:

- The age of discovery went from the **early 15th to the early 17th century**.
- Europe travelled around the world to **find new trading routes and partners especially in India**. They wanted to trade **gold, silver, and spices**.
- Before trying to find a sea route to India, **Europe had to pay a lot of taxes to Italy and the Ottoman empire in order to infiltrate Asia's trading system**.
- They found that **if they spent more money trying to get into Asia, they wouldn't be able to spend money on trading goods they were looking for, such as spices from India**.



Christopher Columbus:

- **Country Represented through Exploration:** Spain
- **Life:** 1451 - 1506
- **Exploration Achievement:**
 - He found the sea route across the Atlantic ocean to the Americas (1492)

Vasco de Gama:

- **Country Represented through Exploration:** Portugal
- **Life:** unknown (late 1400s) - 1524
- **Exploration Achievement:**
 - Found a sea route from Portugal to Asia by going around the cape of good hope in South Africa (1498)

Ferdinand Magellan:

- **Country Represented through Exploration:** Portugal
- **Life:** 1480 - 1521
- **Exploration Achievement:**
 - Organized the first circumnavigation of the earth

Amerigo Vespucci:

- **Country Represented through Exploration:** Italy
- **Life:** 1454 - 1512
- **Exploration Achievement:**
 - The Americas are named after him because he discovered that there was a North and South America

Francisco Pizzaro:

- **Country Represented through Exploration:** Spain
- **Life:** 1478 - 1541
- **Exploration Achievement:**
 - Traveled through the Pacific Coast of America along Peru
 - Discovered and conquered the Incan Empire and stole gold, silver, and other Incan treasures



Hernán Cortés:

- **Country Represented through Exploration:** Spain
- **Life:** 1485 - 1547
- **Exploration Achievement:**
 - Explored land around present day Mexico
 - Conquered Aztecs
 - Claimed Mexico for Spain

Prince Henry the Navigator:

- **Country Represented through Exploration:** Portugal
- **Life:** 1394 -1460
- **Exploration Achievement:**
 - Never sailed on an exploration...
 - ...but he funded Portugal's maritime discoveries and expansion
 - Made the school of navigation to endorse his love for navigation

Bartholomeu Dias:

- **Country Represented through Exploration:** Portugal
- **Life:** 1450 - 1500
- **Exploration Achievement:**
 - Sailed around the Cape of Good Hope in 1488, 10 years before Vasco de Gama would complete the route to Asia.

Jacques Cartier:

- **Country Represented through Exploration:** France
- **Life:** 1491 - 1557
- **Exploration Achievement:**
 - He was the first one to navigate, describe, and map the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the shores of St. Lawrence River which was in present day Canada
 - Claimed Canada for France

Marco Polo:

- **Country Represented through Exploration:** Italy
- **Life:** 1254 -1324
- **Exploration Achievement:**
 - The first to describe advanced technologies in China as well as Asia



John Cabot:

- **Country Represented through Exploration:** Great Britain
- **Life:** 1450 - disappeared May 1498
- **Exploration Achievement:**
 - Developed the idea of sailing towards the west to reach Asia
 - He found America but in a further expedition he disappeared

Zheng He:

- **Country Represented through Exploration:** China
- **Life:** 1371 - 1433
- **Exploration Achievement:**
 - He went on seven major expeditions around the world to establish Chinese trade in new areas.

Leif Erikson:

- **Country Represented through Exploration:** Iceland
- **Life:** 970 - 1020
- **Exploration Achievement:**
 - The first known European to set foot in continental North America (excluding Greenland)

Diogo Cão:

- **Country Represented through Exploration:** Portugal
- **Life:** 1450 - 1486
- **Exploration Achievement:**
 - Had two major voyages traveling along the west coast and Africa
 - Explored the Congo River and coasts of Angola and Namibia

Vasco Núñez de Balboa:

- **Country Represented through Exploration:** Spain
- **Life:** 1475 - 1519
- **Exploration Achievement:**
 - Established the first settlement in South America (in Panama)
 - Led an expedition to find gold in the Pacific ocean