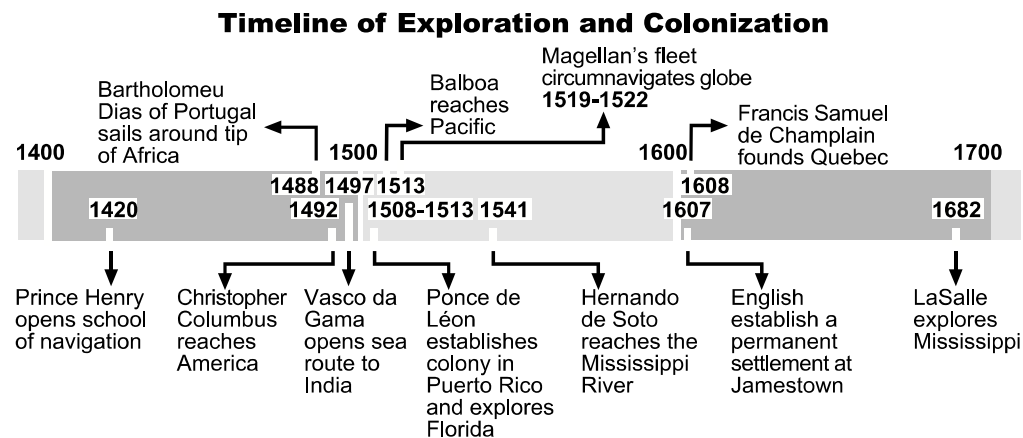


Exploration and Colonization (1400s-1600s)

New Paths to Sail

Until the end of the 15th century, Europeans had no idea that North and South America existed.

In 1450 most Europeans thought that to get to Asia, one had to travel east over land. They thought that anyone who sailed west over the Atlantic would eventually fall off the edge of Earth.



After the travels of Marco Polo, Europe traded with China and India all the time. In order to buy and sell goods, Europeans had to trade with many **merchants**. Goods passed from one merchant to another on their way to and from Europe. Each time a merchant bought and sold goods, he made a **profit**. This made goods from Asia very expensive in Europe. Since most of the merchants were Italian, the Italian city-states were very rich.



Marco Polo

The leaders of France, Spain, England, the Low Countries (Belgium and the Netherlands), and Portugal were not happy with Italians earning all this money. They too wanted to make big profits. In order to do this, they would have to find new ways of getting goods back from Asia.

The Portuguese, under Prince Henry the Navigator, were the first to explore new trade routes to Asia. Prince Henry had two goals:

- Gain control of trade routes for Portugal
- Spread the Catholic faith

With money and assistance from Prince Henry, Portuguese explorers such as Bartholomeu Dias sailed down the African coast. In 1488 Dias explored the tip of Africa, now known as the *Cape of Good Hope*. In 1498 Vasco da Gama of Portugal sailed around the Cape of Good Hope and reached India. The achievement of this explorer made it possible for Portugal to trade directly with India.

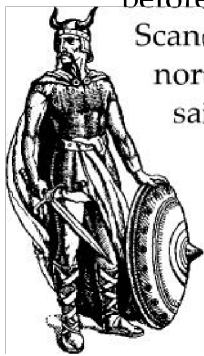
The New World

King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain gave Christopher Columbus money to pay for ships and a crew. Columbus promised that by sailing west from Spain, he would find a new way to get to Asia and the spice-rich East Indies. Like almost everyone else in Europe, he didn't know that North and South America were in the way! After sailing for many months, on October 12, 1492, Columbus stepped on land. He thought that he was in India, so he called the natives *Indians*.



Christopher Columbus

However, many people believe that the Vikings had been in America before Columbus arrived. The Vikings were originally from Scandinavia. Historians believe that Vikings explored the northern part of North America many years before Columbus sailed.



Viking

The people of Europe during the age of **exploration** were anxious to do more exploring. Soon, the Spanish and Portuguese governments sent many explorers to the New World. The New World was named America in honor of the Italian navigator and explorer Amerigo Vespucci.

These explorers paved the way for the **colonization** of the newly reached territories.

Much of what is now the United States was explored by Spanish adventures known as **conquistadors** (conquerors). In 1513 Ponce de Leon landed in Florida and explored it while searching for the *Fountain of Youth*. The southeastern part of the continent was explored by another Spaniard, Hernando de Soto. In 1540 Francisco de Coronado, another Spanish explorer, explored the Grand Canyon in the southwest area of what is now the United States.



Ponce de Leon



Jacques Cartier

Other important explorations in the New World followed. In 1500 Pedro Cabral landed in South America and claimed land for Portugal. Today, this land is called Brazil. It was in 1513 that the Spaniard Balboa explored the Pacific Ocean. John Cabot, an Englishman, landed in eastern Canada in 1497. Jacques Cartier, sailing under the French flag, claimed all of eastern Canada for France in 1534. More than half a century later, in 1609, Henry Hudson explored the northeastern section of Canada and claimed it for the Dutch.

Two other explorers who were brave enough to seek new lands and trade routes were Ferdinand Magellan and Sir Francis Drake.



Sir Francis Drake

Magellan started out on a voyage around the world in 1519. Although he was killed along the way, one of his ships eventually completed the journey in 1522. The Portuguese explorer showed that man could do what, up to that time, was thought to be impossible. The first Englishman to sail around the world, in a voyage lasting from 1577 to 1580, was Sir Francis Drake, a favorite of Queen Elizabeth I. Drake stole gold and silver from the Spanish explorers and gave it to Elizabeth.



Ferdinand Magellan

Results of Exploration



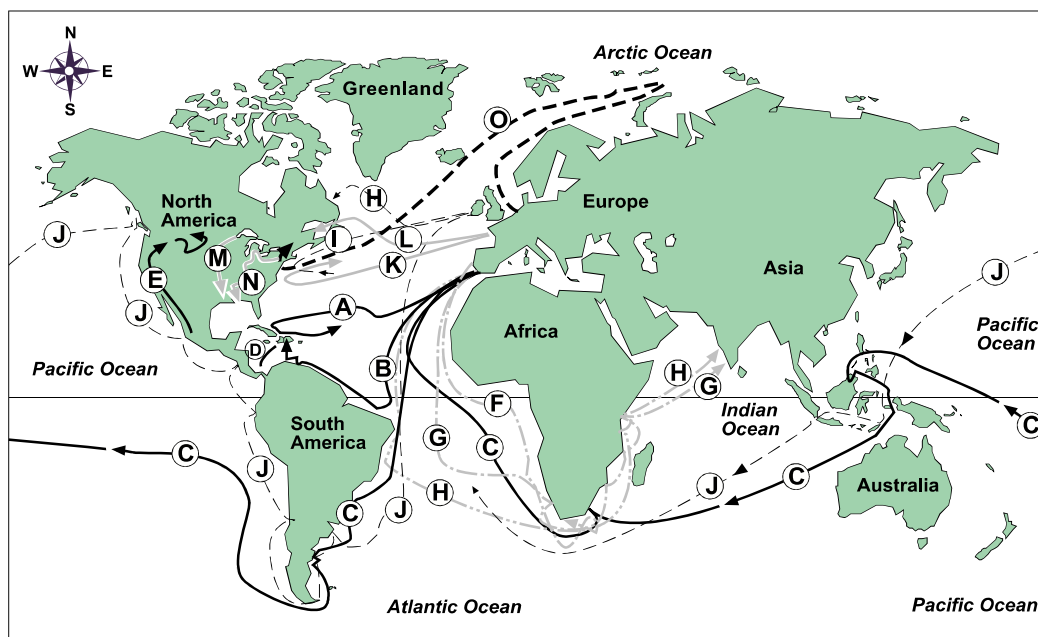
- Countries in Europe became very rich.
- Companies were started for the purpose of trade.
- New products were brought to Europe.
- Banking grew across Europe as more gold and silver were brought back.
- A new middle class of merchants and bankers gained powers in Europe.
- Nations in Europe set up empires overseas.
- Europeans fought many wars trying to take colonized lands from one another.
- Many great civilizations in the Americas and Africa were destroyed.
- Slavery became a big and profitable business.
- Christianity was brought to new lands and peoples.

The Costs of Exploration

Many other brave men set sail from ports in Europe to seek adventure and gold in the Americas. England, France, Spain, Portugal, and Holland grew rich and powerful during the period of exploration. Sadly, while conquistadors were gathering gold and silver, many great civilizations in the Americas were destroyed. This was especially true in Mexico and South America, where the Spanish explorers took advantage of the kindness of the people of the great empires of the Incas, Mayans, and Aztecs, among others.

The map below, called “Voyages of Exploration,” shows where Spanish, Portuguese, English, French, and Dutch explorations were located.

Voyages of Exploration



—— Spanish	(A) Columbus	1492	—— French	(K) Verrazano	1524
	(B) Vespucci	1501		(L) Cartier	1534
	(C) Magellan	1519-1522		(M) Joilet and Marquette	1673
	(D) Balboa	1513		(N) La Salle	1679
	(E) Coronado	1540		(O) Hudson	1609
- - - Portuguese	(F) Dias	1488	- - - Dutch		
	(G) da Gama	1497-1498			
	(H) Cabral	1500			
. . . English	(I) Cabot	1497-1498			
	(J) Drake	1577-1580			

Age of Exploration

	NAME	DATE	ACHIEVEMENT
Portugal	Prince Henry the Navigator	1419	A Portuguese navigator; opened a school of navigation; supported sailors in exploring and colonizing Madeira, the Cape Verde Islands, the Azores, and the African coast to Sierre Leone.
	Bartholomeu Dias	1488	Portuguese navigator and explorer; discovered the tip of Africa (Cape of Good Hope).
	Vasco da Gama	1497	Portuguese navigator; sailed around the tip of Africa and across the Indian Ocean to India; returned with spices and jewels.
	Pedro Alvares Cabral	1500	Portuguese navigator; claimed Brazil for Portugal.
Spain	Christopher Columbus	1492	Italian explorer commissioned by king and queen of Spain; landed on San Salvador, an island in the Bahamas; explored Cuba and Hispaniola.
	Amerigo Vespucci	1501	Italian navigator for whom America is named; explored coast of South America.
	Vasco Nunez de Balboa	1513	Spanish conquistador; crossed the Isthmus of Panama; explored the Pacific Ocean and claimed it for Spain.
	Ferdinand Magellan	1519	Portuguese navigator; sailed for Spain; sailed around the world.
	Giovanni da Verrazano	1524	Italian navigator; explored New York and Narragansett bays.
	Francisco Vázquez de Coronado	1540	Spanish explorer of southwestern North America; explored the Grand Canyon.
Englan	John Cabot	1497	Italian navigator and explorer; sailed for England; explored Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, and New England.
	Sir Francis Drake	1577	English admiral and explorer; first Englishman to circumnavigate the world.
French	Jacques Cartier	1534	French explorer; claimed much of eastern Canada for the French.
	Louis Joliet and Jacques Marquette	1673	French-Canadian explorer and a French missionary and explorer; led first expedition down Mississippi River to the Arkansas River.
	René Robert Cavalier La Salle	1679	French explorer and fur trader; claimed Louisiana Territory for France; sailed Lake Michigan, explored Illinois River; followed Mississippi River to Gulf of Mexico.
Dutch	Henry Hudson	1609	English navigator and explorer; sailed for the Dutch East India Company and then the English; explored and sailed up the Hudson River which is named for him; entered Hudson Strait and Hudson Bay the following year for the English.
Many historians believe that the Vikings were really the first Europeans to set foot in America.			

Review

The 15th century saw the beginning of the Age of Exploration. Until this time, Europeans didn't even know that North and South America existed. In their efforts to discover a new trade route to China and India, explorers sailed westward and found the American continents. Europeans wanted a new trade route to the East because the Italian city-states controlled the only known route at the time.

The Portuguese were active in the exploration race. Henry the Navigator, a Portuguese prince, provided ships and money for several new journeys. Portuguese explorers discovered that they could reach India by sailing around the southern tip of Africa.

In Spain, Christopher Columbus had a plan to sail westward over the Atlantic Ocean to reach Asia. The Spanish king and queen financed Columbus's trip. On October 12, 1492, Columbus reached land that he thought was part of India, although it was actually an island in the Caribbean. Because he thought he had reached India, he called the natives Indians.

Soon, many Spanish and Portuguese explorers were sailing to the American continents. The continents received their name from that of an Italian explorer, Amerigo Vespucci. In 1500 Pedro Cabral landed in South America, in what is now Brazil. He claimed this land for Portugal. In 1513 the Spaniard Ponce de Leon explored Florida.



In 1519 Magellan, a Portuguese explorer sailing under the Spanish flag, set out on a voyage around the world. Even though he was killed along the way, one of his ships made it back to Europe in 1522. Other countries began to send out explorers. John Cabot, from England, reached eastern Canada in 1497. Jacques Cartier, a Frenchman, claimed all of eastern Canada for France in 1534.

All the countries that sent out expeditions profited from the colonization of the newly reached lands. These lands were rich in gold and other natural resources, which the explorers took with them back to Europe. This global exchange is called the *Columbian exchange* because it began with Columbus. Unfortunately, many Europeans harmed the civilizations of the natives in the new lands. This was especially true in Mexico and South America, where the Spanish enslaved and slaughtered the people. Millions of other Native Americans died from diseases introduced by Europeans. These people, such as the Incas, Mayans, and Aztecs, had developed great civilizations of their own, but the Spanish wiped the people out in order to take their gold and other riches. The Columbian exchange increased population growth around the world, from Europe to West Africa to China. At the same time, the Native American populations declined drastically during the early years of western invasion.



Columbus gives thanks for a safe voyage.