

Activity 1 of 3 for NTI May 18 - 22 - Introduction to Exploration of North America

Go to: https://www.ducksters.com/history/renaissance/age_of_exploration_and_discovery.php

Click on the link above to read the article. There is a feature at the bottom that will allow you to have the text read to you, if you want. After you read the article, answer the questions below. You can **highlight** or **bold** your answers if completing electronically. I have copied the website text below if you need it.

The Age of Exploration (also called the Age of Discovery) began in the 1400s and continued through the 1600s. It was a period of time when the European nations began exploring the world. They discovered new routes to India, much of the Far East, and the Americas. The Age of Exploration took place at the same time as the Renaissance.

Why explore?

Outfitting an expedition could be expensive and risky. Many ships never returned. So why did the Europeans want to explore? The simple answer is money. Although, some individual [explorers](#) wanted to gain fame or experience adventure, the main purpose of an expedition was to make money.

How did expeditions make money?

Expeditions made money primarily by discovering new trade routes for their nations. When the [Ottoman Empire](#) captured Constantinople in 1453, many existing trade routes to India and China were shut down. These trade routes were very valuable as they brought in expensive products such as spices and silk. New expeditions tried to discover oceangoing routes to India and the Far East.

Some expeditions became rich by discovering [gold](#) and silver, such as the expeditions of the Spanish to the Americas. They also found new land where colonies could be established and crops such as sugar, cotton, and tobacco could be grown.

Henry the Navigator

The Age of Exploration began in the nation of Portugal under the leadership of Henry the Navigator. Henry sent out ships to map and explore the west coast of Africa. They went further south than any previous European expedition and mapped much of western Africa for the Portuguese. In 1488, Portuguese explorer Bartolomeu Dias was the first European to sail around the southern tip of Africa and into the Indian Ocean.

Christopher Columbus

Soon the Spanish wanted to find a trade route to the Far East. Explorer [Christopher Columbus](#) thought that he could sail west, across the Atlantic Ocean, to China. He could not get the Portuguese to fund his expedition, so he went to the Spanish. Spanish monarchs Isabella and Ferdinand agreed to pay for Columbus' trip. In 1492 Columbus discovered the New World of the Americas.

Portugal and Spain

[Portugal](#) and [Spain](#) became the early leaders in the Age of Exploration. Through the Treaty of Tordesillas the two countries agreed to divide up the New World. Spain got most of the Americas while Portugal got Brazil, India, and Asia.

Spain sent over conquistadors to explore the Americas and to conquer the peoples there. [Hernan Cortes](#) conquered the Aztec Empire in Mexico and [Francisco Pizarro](#) conquered the Inca Empire in Peru. They made Spain rich with the gold and silver they found in the Americas.

Portugal sent out [Vasco da Gama](#) who found a trade route around the southern tip of Africa and to India. They also explored much of the Far East and were the first Europeans to establish a trading colony in China at Macau.

Colonies

Other countries such as Great Britain and the Netherlands established colonies in the New World. Eventually Great Britain would surpass all of the European nations in terms of the size of their world wide empire including the thirteen colonies in the Americas that later became the United States.

Geography

The Age of Exploration was one of the most important times in the history of world geography. A significant portion of the unknown world was mapped during this short period. Also, many advances were made in navigation and mapping which helped future explorers and travelers.

Interesting Facts about the Age of Exploration

- During the Age of Exploration Europeans referred to the entire area of Southeast Asia and India as the "East Indies".
- The first expedition to circle the globe was led by Portuguese explorer [Ferdinand Magellan](#). Unfortunately, Magellan was killed during the expedition and did not complete the voyage.
- Some areas of the world were not fully mapped or discovered until well after the Age of Exploration including Eastern [Australia](#), the interior of Africa, the Arctic, and the Antarctic.
- Many explorers such as [Captain James Cook](#) and [Sir Francis Drake](#) searched for a Northwest Passage to East Asia, but it wasn't until 1906 that explorer [Roald Amundsen](#) completed the journey.

1. What were most of the explorers looking for on their expeditions?

- a. The edge of the Earth
- b. Giant sea monsters
- c. New trading routes
- d. New continents
- e. The lost city of Atlantis

2. Why did countries fund expensive and risky expeditions?

- a. To find gold and silver
- b. To find lands they could colonize
- c. To find new trading routes to the East Indies
- d. All of the above
- e. None of the above

3. The Treaty of Tordesillas divided up the New World between what two countries?

- a. Spain and Portugal
- b. England and France
- c. Germany and Austria
- d. Italy and Greece
- e. Spain and France

4. Who was Henry the Navigator?

- a. The first European to sail around the south of Africa
- b. The first explorer to discover the Americas
- c. The conqueror of the Inca Empire in South America
- d. The first explorer to circumnavigate the world
- e. The King of Portugal who sent out explorers to map the west coast of Africa

5. Which explorer discovered a trade route around the southern tip of Africa to India?
- a. Vasco da Gama
 - b. Christopher Columbus
 - c. Hernan Cortes
 - d. Henry the Navigator
 - e. Francisco Pizarro
6. What country sponsored the expedition of Christopher Columbus where he discovered the Americas?
- a. England
 - b. Spain
 - c. Portugal
 - d. Germany
 - e. Italy
7. Which country founded the thirteen American colonies that later became the United States?
- a. Spain
 - b. Netherlands
 - c. England
 - d. Portugal
 - e. Germany
8. Which explorer conquered the Aztec Empire in Mexico?
- a. Christopher Columbus
 - b. Bartolomeu Dias
 - c. Francisco Pizarro
 - d. Hernan Cortes
 - e. Vasco da Gama
9. True or False: The Age of Exploration took place at about the same time as the European Renaissance?
- a. TRUE
 - b. FALSE
10. What area of the world was still not mapped at the end of the Age of Exploration?
- a. Much of central Africa
 - b. Arctic and Antarctic
 - c. East Australia
 - d. All of the above
 - e. None of the above

Activity 2 of 3 for NTI May 18 - 22 - Explorers Podcast

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5kRfdSFfwY>

Click on the link above to watch the video. After you watch, answer the questions below. You can **highlight** or **bold** your answers if completing electronically. You can read the transcript below of the video.

Video transcript:

Once upon a time, for thousands of years, the human beings on two continents, Europe and North America, just ignored each other. Then, in the late 980s, a group known as the Norsemen, more famously known as Vikings, left Iceland, heading west. Led by Erik the Red, who had been banished from Iceland for murder, they eventually came across the island of Greenland, and settled there. Later, Erik had a son named Leif Eriksson (get it, Erik SON), who grew up to head even further west, leading a ship to what is today known as Labrador, the Baffin Islands, and Newfoundland. Thus, Eriksson became the first known European to explore North America.

Almost 500 years later, Christopher Columbus became the next European to explore the Americas. In 1492 Columbus sailed the ocean blue. Sorry about that. Anyway, after ten weeks at sea, Columbus reached what is now known as the Bahamas. He named the place they landed San Salvador. Thinking he had reached Asia, he kept going until he reached modern-day Cuba, which he assumed was China. When Columbus returned to Spain the next year, he had products with him totally unknown to Europe like coconuts, tobacco, and potatoes. He also had stories of darker-skinned native peoples he encountered whom he called "Indians" because he had thought he was sailing in the Indian Ocean. Columbus later made three more trips to America between 1494 and 1502, exploring modern day Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Jamaica, and Trinidad. After all this, he still was convinced he was exploring Asia. Others weren't so convinced.

Spain and Portugal sent many other ships to explore this "New World" in those early years, and on one of the ships sent by Portugal was a dude named Amerigo Vespucci, an Italian who was not convinced they were exploring Asia. After his trip viewing modern-day Brazil, he was sure this land was part of a new continent. Vespucci spread the word about the new continent, convincing people he was right and Columbus was wrong. In 1507, the German cartographer Martin Waldseemuller made a world map in which he named the new continent America after the Latin feminine version of Vespucci's first name, which is Americus.

Meanwhile, it became clear there were two Americas, meaning a North America and a South America, after Spanish explorers went exploring like crazy up north. In 1513, Juan Ponce de Leon went searching for the Fountain of Youth and ended up finding and naming Florida. By the way, he never found a Fountain of Youth. That same year, Vasco Nunez de Balboa made it through the Isthmus of Panama to be the first European to reach the eastern coast of the Pacific Ocean.

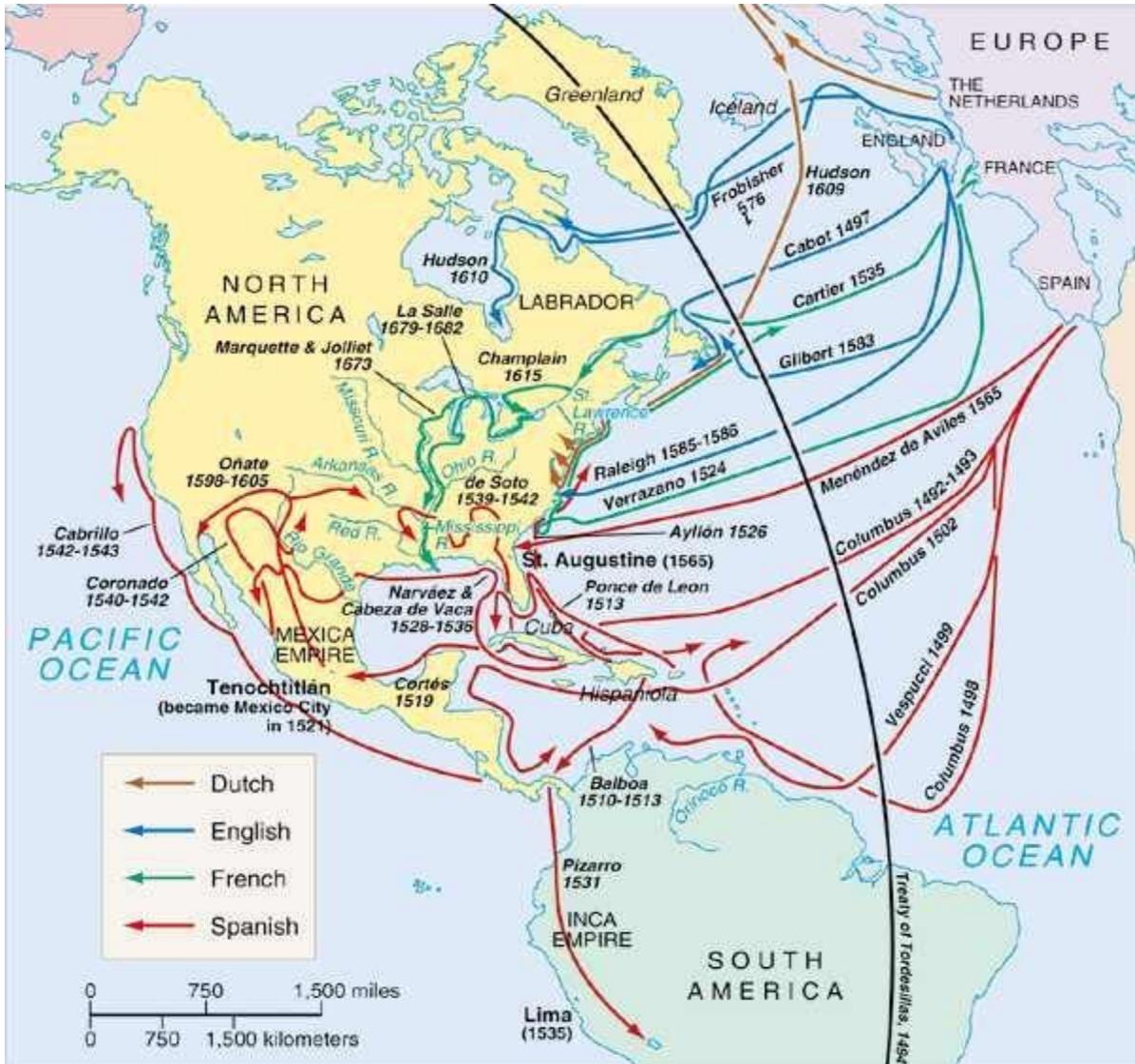
In 1519, the Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan and his crew sailed around the bottom tip of South America, across the Pacific to the Philippines, where Magellan was killed in the Battle of Mactan. But his crew kept on going afterwards, with Juan Sebastian Elcano now leading, sailing around the southern tip

of Africa and returning to Europe in 1522, becoming the first expedition to circumnavigate the entire planet.

In the 1500s, Spain became the richest country in the world because of its explorers who were also conquistadors. The same year Magellan's crew sailed out from Spain, Hernando Cortes and his army conquered the Aztec Empire of modern day Mexico. By 1521, Cortes had taken control of all of the Aztecs gold and silver mines. In 1531, Francisco Pizarro and his expedition took out the Inca Empire of Peru, gaining access to the Inca silver mines of Potosi. So yeah, Spain had so much precious metals they didn't know what to do with it all, and even caused prices to skyrocket in Western Europe because of it. However, they killed a bunch of people to get it.

1. Which group was first to arrive in North America? What was the approximate date?
2. Who was Leif Erikson? Why is he famous?
3. How many years AFTER Erikson did Columbus explore parts of North America?
4. What were three things that Columbus brought back to Europe?
5. Who was one of the first Italians to explore North America? How did his thinking differ from Columbus' about this land?
6. What eventually happened to Magellan?
7. Which country began richest in the world during the 1500's? Why did they become so rich?
8. What killed millions of natives living in North America?
9. Which French explorer sailed through the St. Lawrence River area of modern day Canada?
10. The English were not as good as the Spanish in exploration, but they did do something better. What was it?
11. What Age and also Era did these explorers start?

Activity 3 of 3 for NTI May 18 - 22 - Mapping Exploration
 Using the map, answer the questions below.



1. Where did Coronado sail? When did he sail?
2. Which two explored modern day South America?
3. Which explorer sailed through the modern day Great Lakes and the Mississippi River?
4. Which explorers started their journey in England? Hint: look for blue lines.