




Explorers of Africa



Prince Henry the Navigator

 Portugal (1394-1460)

Goals of exploration:

-  establish a Christian empire in western Africa
-  find new sources of gold
-  create maps of the African coast

Impact: Trips funded by Henry the Navigator led to more exploration of western Africa



Bartolomeu Dias

 Portugal (1450-1500)

Rounded the southernmost tip of Africa in 1488

Goal of exploration:  find a water route to Asia

Impact: Led the Portuguese closer to discovering a water route to Asia



Vasco da Gama

 Portugal (1460S-1524)

Rounded the southernmost tip of Africa;

Reached India in 1498

Goal of exploration:  find a water route to Asia

Impact: Found a water route to Asia and brought back jewels and spices, which encouraged further exploration

Explorers of the Caribbean

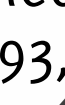


Christopher Columbus

 Spain (1450-1506)

In 1492, Columbus sailed the ocean blue

(He sailed again in 1493, 1498, and 1502)

Goal of exploration:  find a water route to Asia


Impact: Discovered the New World and led to exploration of the Americas



Vasco Núñez de Balboa

 Spain (1475-1519)

Discovered the Pacific Ocean and the Isthmus of Panama in 1513

Goal of exploration:  further exploration of the New World

Impact: Discovered the Pacific Ocean and a new passage for exploration

Explorers of South America



Ferdinand Magellan

 Spain (1480-1521)

Magellan's ships completed the first known circumnavigation of the globe.

Goal of exploration:  find a water route to Asia across the Pacific

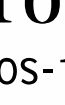
Impact: Discovered a new passage between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans



Francisco Pizarro

 Spain (1470S-1541)

Conquered Peru and the Incan empire for Spain in 1532-38

Goal of exploration:  seeking gold and silver for Spain

Impact: Spread Spanish influence in South America


Explorers of North America



Juan Ponce de León

 Spain (1474-1521)


Explored Florida in 1513 and 1521, but likely thought it was a Caribbean island

Goal of exploration:  seeking gold for Spain

Impact: Explored mainland North America



Hernán Cortés

 Spain (1485-1547)

Led by a Spanish castaway, Cortés came into contact with the Aztec empire, which he conquered for Spain in 1521

Goal of exploration:  seeking gold for Spain


Impact: Conquered the Aztec Empire; brought Spanish crops, animals, language, laws, customs, and religion



Hernando de Soto

 Spain (1496/8-1542)

Traveled through Florida west into the continent in 1539-42

Goal of exploration:  seeking gold, silver, and jewels


Impact: First known European to cross the Mississippi River



Francisco Vázquez de Coronado

 Spain (1510-1554)

Traveled through through modern-day Arizona and New Mexico and into modern-day Kansas

Goal of exploration:  fabled "golden cities," which were actually Adobe pueblos

Impact: Opened up the Southwest of the modern-day US to Spanish settlement



John Cabot

 England (1450-1500)

Explored the northeastern coast of North America, 1497-98

Goal of exploration:  a northwest passage through the New World to the Orient

Impact: Established an English presence in North America



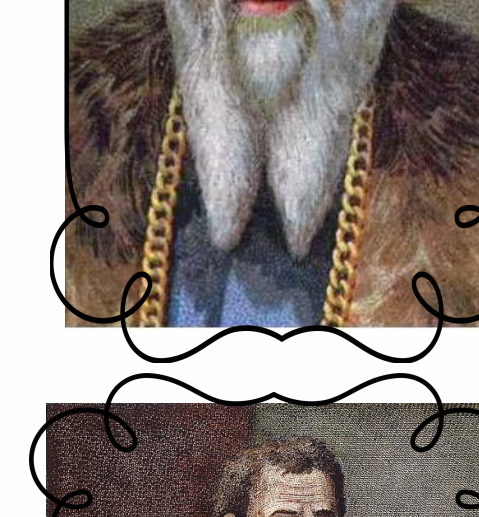
Giovanni da Verrazzano

 France (1485-1528)

Sailed from France up the northeastern coast of North America to Nova Scotia in 1524

Goal of exploration:  establish a presence in the New World for France

Impact: Helped to establish a French claim in North America



Jacques Cartier

 France (1491-1557)

Explored the St. Lawrence River as far inland as modern-day Montreal in 1534

Goal of exploration:  establish a presence in the New World for France

Impact: Helped to establish a French presence in modern-day Canada



Sir Francis Drake

 England (1540S-1596)

Circumnavigated the globe; explored the coast of California, claiming it for England; and returned to Europe through the Pacific, Indian, and Atlantic Oceans

Goal of exploration:  establish English presence in the New World and assert English dominance over Spain

Impact: Led to an increase of tensions between Spain and England