

Chapter

Exploration



1400–1607

For many years, people in Europe knew of a distant land to the east called Asia, or the Far East. They wanted to explore routes to the Far East. In this chapter, you will learn about these explorations and how they affected world history.

Goals for Learning

- ▶ To describe the importance of new technology in early navigation and exploration
- ▶ To identify the major European explorers and the areas they explored
- ▶ To describe how England's and Spain's power in Europe changed after the Spanish Armada was defeated
- ▶ To identify the first European colonies and who started them

1477 Marco Polo's book is published

1497 John Cabot explores North America

1513 Vasco Núñez de Balboa sees Pacific Ocean

1524 Giovanni da Verrazano reaches North Carolina

1607 English arrive at Jamestown

1400

1500

1525

1550

1575

1600

1607

1492 Christopher Columbus explores West Indies

1499 Amerigo Vespucci explores South America

1519 Ferdinand Magellan finds waterway to Pacific Ocean

1535 Jacques Cartier explores St. Lawrence River

- ★Compass
Device used to show direction
- ★Globe
Model of the Earth
- Merchant
Buyer and seller of goods
- ★Monarch
Person who rules a kingdom or territory
- ★Noble
Someone who is part of a society's upper or ruling class
- Publish
To print something, such as a book, newspaper, or magazine
- ★Territory
Land belonging to a country or government

For many years, Arab traders brought jewels, fine silks, perfumes, and spices by land from the Far East. These goods were sold to **merchants** in Italy who then carried them along the Mediterranean Sea to other Europeans. **Monarchs**, people who rule kingdoms or **territories**, and **nobles**, people of the upper class, were eager to buy these goods. The routes traders used were long and dangerous. People soon began to think about finding a route to the Far East by sea.

How Did Exploration Begin?

During the 1400s, several events had a great effect on exploration. One event was the development of the **compass**. The compass had markings and a pointer that showed the direction of north. The compass helped sailors to know what direction they were going. Water travel became much safer.

The second great development was in mapmaking. Maps were being drawn more correctly. Maps helped people to accept that the Earth was round.

A third event was the production of an improved **globe**. A globe is a model of the Earth. Unfortunately, early globes showed only one ocean separating Europe from Asia. They also did not show North America. At that time, people believed that the world was much smaller than it really is.

In 1477, a book was **published** about the experiences of Marco Polo, who explored the Far East during the thirteenth century. The book described China as a land of great wealth. This excited the people in Europe. They began to dream of finding a safer and shorter route to Asia and its riches. The lands in Asia were given the name "Indies" because they included India, China, and the Spice Islands.

- *Continent
Large land mass on Earth; for example, North America or Africa
- *Voyage
The act of traveling, especially by sea

Who Explored the West Indies?

A man from Italy named Christopher Columbus wanted to find an all-water route to the Indies. He was one of many who believed that since the Earth was round, he could reach the Indies by sailing west.

Columbus did not have enough money to make his dream come true. He tried to get help from the kings of Portugal and England, but they both turned him down. The king and queen of Spain also refused to help at first. Finally, just as he was about to give up hope of making his journey, Queen

Isabella of Spain agreed to pay for his **voyage**. He set sail in August 1492 with three small ships—the *Niña*, the *Pinta*, and the *Santa María*.

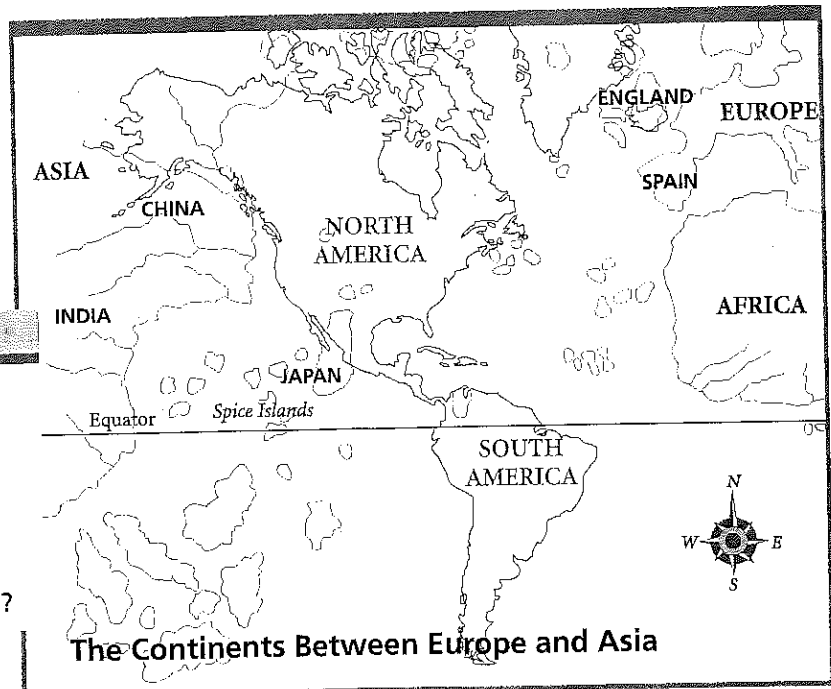
Columbus did not know that between Europe and Asia lay two great **continents**, or masses of land. When his crew sighted land on October 12, 1492, he thought he had reached the Indies. He called the natives he found on the island “Indios.” This word later became “Indians” in English.

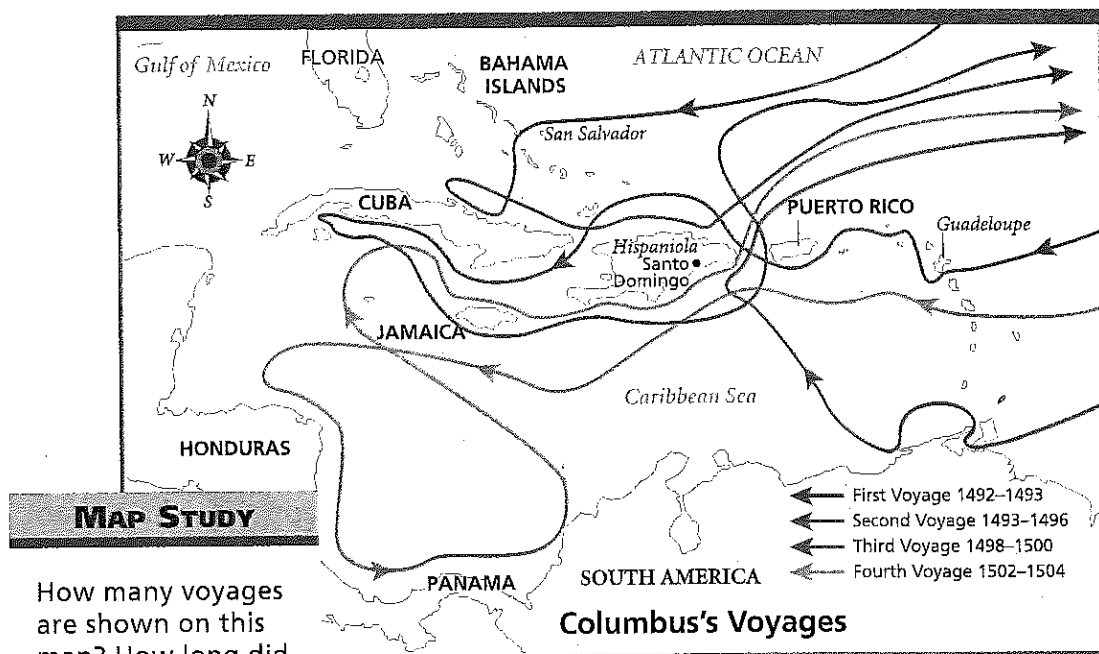


Queen Isabella of Spain agreed to pay for Columbus's voyage. He explained his plan to Isabella and her Royal Court before she agreed.

MAP STUDY

Why did Columbus think he could sail directly to the Far East? In which direction would Columbus need to sail to reach Asia?





How many voyages are shown on this map? How long did Columbus's fourth voyage last?

Columbus made three more voyages across the Atlantic Ocean. He explored other islands, still believing them to be the East Indies. Because of his mistake, this group of islands is now called the West Indies.

Columbus started the first Spanish colony at Hispaniola on his second voyage to the Indies. Soon there were many Spanish settlements on the islands of Hispaniola, Cuba, and Puerto Rico.

SECTION 1 REVIEW Write the answers to these questions on a separate sheet of paper.

- 1) Why did Europeans want to find a water route to the Far East?
- 2) Who paid for Christopher Columbus's first journey?
- 3) How did the compass aid in exploration?
- 4) What effect did the development of maps have on most people?
- 5) How were goods from the Far East brought to Europe?

What do you think



There were many reasons why the Europeans wanted to find a water route to the Far East. What do you think was the main reason? Why?

Other countries soon learned of Columbus and his voyages. In 1497, England sent John Cabot to explore. Cabot was an Italian from Venice who lived in England and had taken an English name. Like Columbus, Cabot thought he could reach the East Indies by sailing west. Cabot set sail farther north. He had one small ship and a crew of eighteen. Cabot reached what is now Newfoundland after one month. He claimed much land for England.

Cabot made a second trip to explore the east and northeast coasts of North America. He was disappointed he had not found the rich cities of China. He still believed he had been just off the coast of the Asian continent.

The mystery of the two continents that lay between Europe and the Far East had not been solved. Columbus and Cabot were sure they had reached Asia. The map on page 41 clearly shows that Cabot was no closer than Columbus.



America got its name from the Italian explorer Amerigo Vespucci.

In 1499, an Italian named Amerigo Vespucci made several voyages to explore the northeastern coast of what is now South America. Vespucci's letters and records described what he found. He called it a new land. People in Europe were so impressed with his descriptions that they named the continent "America." People also called it the "New World."

Who Explored on Land?

One of the first Spanish explorers to go to the New World after Columbus was Juan Ponce de León. In 1513, he led a group in search of gold and the "Fountain of Youth." According to legend, water from the Fountain of Youth made people young again. Ponce de León reached the

Commission
To appoint a person or group to do something

Conquer
To gain something by force; defeat

★**Empire**
A large amount of territory under one ruler

★**Mainland**
Main part of a continent

★**Slavery**
Forcing a person or group to work without pay or rights

southeastern tip of the **mainland**, or main part of the continent. Because of the beautiful flowers and trees there, he named the place "Florida," the Spanish word for flower.

Also in 1513, Vasco Núñez de Balboa led a group of men in search of gold and silver. They became the first Europeans to see the Pacific Ocean from its eastern shore. One of the men with Balboa was Francisco Pizarro. During this trip, Pizarro heard about the rich **empire** of the Incas. An empire is a large amount of territory under one ruler. Pizarro was determined to **conquer** the rulers and take their land and riches for Spain.

By the year 1533, the Incas had been defeated and forced into **slavery**. Their rights were taken away and they were forced to work for the Spanish. Slaves removed huge amounts of gold and silver from mines in the Andes Mountains and shipped it to Spain. Pizarro was later killed by men who worked for Pizarro's former partner, Diego De Almagro.

What Did Ferdinand Magellan Do?

Ferdinand Magellan, a Portuguese captain, was **commissioned** to sail in search of the Far East in 1519. He crossed the Atlantic Ocean and reached the coast of South America. He then journeyed south to the southern tip of South America. The stormy waters led from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean. Magellan had found the water route around the New World.



Have you seen a photograph of Earth from space? You can see from one that the world is round. Europeans in the early 1400s could not even imagine a photograph, much less one taken from space. Many of them still believed that the world was flat. They did not know the Western Hemisphere existed. Ferdinand Magellan's trip in 1519 proved that the world is round. Still, many areas of the world were unknown to Europeans. Their maps and globes were far from complete. Now every area of Earth has been explored. You can find a map for any part of it you want to see.



Ferdinand Magellan

Magellan never completed his journey to the Far East. He was killed in the Philippines. Only one of his five ships and eighteen of his 270 men finally reached the Far East before returning to Spain. It took them three years to complete the trip around the world.

Magellan's voyage was very important. It proved the Earth was really round and provided Europeans with valuable information about the great land that separated Europe and Asia.

Who Was Hernando Cortés?

Also in 1519, Spanish explorer Hernando Cortés landed on the coast of what is now Mexico. He was searching for gold and silver. Two years later, his army was equipped with cannons, armor, and sixteen horses. They

defeated the Aztec king, Montezuma, and captured his empire in central Mexico.

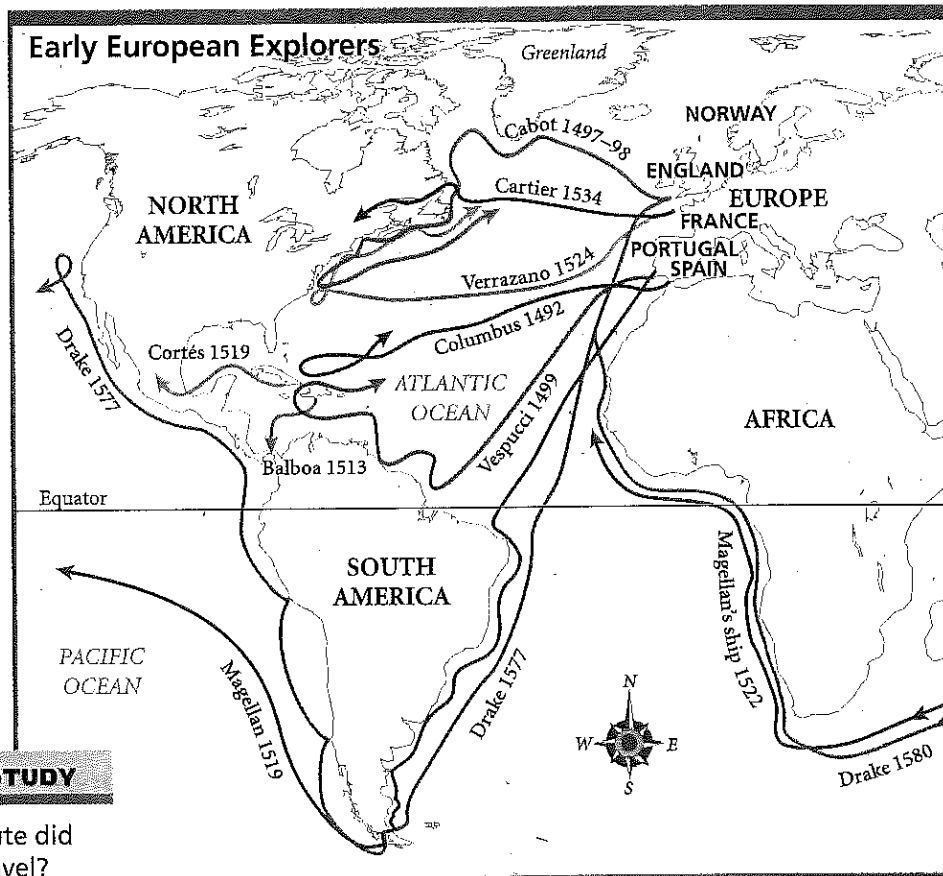
What Was the Northwest Passage?

An Italian by the name of Giovanni da Verrazano set sail from France in 1524. Some people in Europe believed there was a northern route to the Far East.

MONTEZUMA II: c. 1480–1520



Montezuma II was the king of the Aztec Empire that stretched from the Gulf of Mexico to the Pacific Ocean. His father had founded the empire. Like his father, Montezuma expanded the kingdom. He built beautiful temples and hospitals. The capital of the empire, Tenochtitlán, was set on an island in the middle of a lake. In 1519, the Spanish explorer Hernando Cortés marched on Tenochtitlán, the present Mexico City. Montezuma thought that Cortés was a god who had been expected to return to Earth that year. Because of that, Montezuma sent Cortés rich gifts. Cortés wanted more treasure, however, so he attacked Tenochtitlán. Montezuma died from wounds he got during the attack.

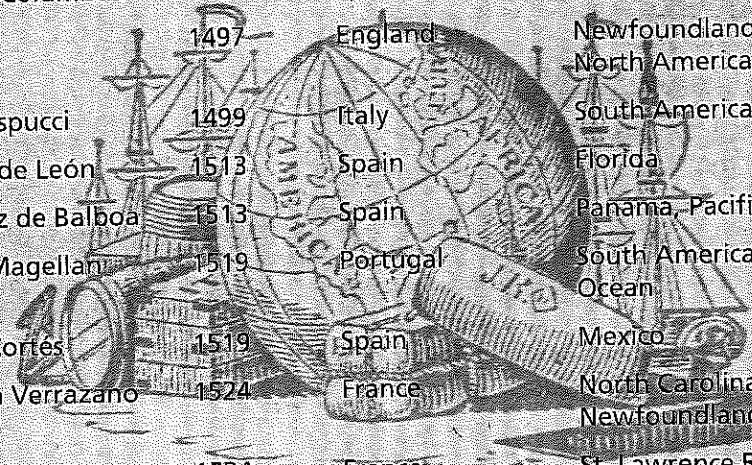


MAP STUDY

What route did Drake travel?
 How long did Magellan's trip take?

This became known as the Northwest Passage. Verrazano carried the French flag to the New World in search of the Northwest Passage. After a stormy voyage of some fifty days, Verrazano reached the American coast of what is now North Carolina. From North Carolina, he sailed north to Newfoundland. His records of the voyage greatly added to Europe's growing knowledge of this new continent.

In 1534, France sent Jacques Cartier in search of the Northwest Passage. He explored the St. Lawrence River in Canada. He thought this great river was the true way to the East. After three voyages to its shores, he finally realized he was mistaken. Cartier was very disappointed with his failure to find the waterway. The lands he claimed for France would later be of great value.



| Explorer | Explorations Began | Sponsoring Country | Places Explored |
|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--|
| Christopher Columbus | 1492 | Spain | West Indies |
| John Cabot | 1497 | England | Newfoundland, North America |
| Amerigo Vespucci | 1499 | Italy | South America |
| Juan Ponce de León | 1513 | Spain | Florida |
| Vasco Núñez de Balboa | 1513 | Spain | Panama, Pacific Ocean |
| Ferdinand Magellan | 1519 | Portugal | South America, Pacific Ocean |
| Hernando Cortés | 1519 | Spain | Mexico |
| Giovanni da Verrazano | 1524 | France | North Carolina, Newfoundland |
| Jacques Cartier | 1534 | France | St. Lawrence River, Canada |
| Sir Francis Drake | 1577 | England | South America, Washington, Pacific Ocean |

What Did Sir Francis Drake Explore?

Sir Francis Drake of England was also an important explorer. His **expedition**, or journey, began in 1577. Drake sailed to the New World and around the southern tip of South America. He traveled up the Pacific coast as far as what is now the state of Washington. Then he crossed the Pacific Ocean and returned to England by 1580. His expedition was the second to sail around the world.

*Expedition
Journey made by a person or group for a certain purpose

SECTION 2 REVIEW Write the answers to these questions on a separate sheet of paper.

What do you think ?

Many early explorers fought with or conquered native peoples. Why do you think the explorers did this? What more peaceful actions could the explorers have taken?

- 1) How did America get its name?
- 2) What was Ponce de León searching for in the New World?
- 3) List the countries that sent explorers.
- 4) Where did Magellan find the water route around the New World?
- 5) Who searched for the Northwest Passage?

★Armada

Fleet of warships

★Charter

Written agreement granting power in the name of a state or country

★Colony

Group of people living in a new area under rule of their native land

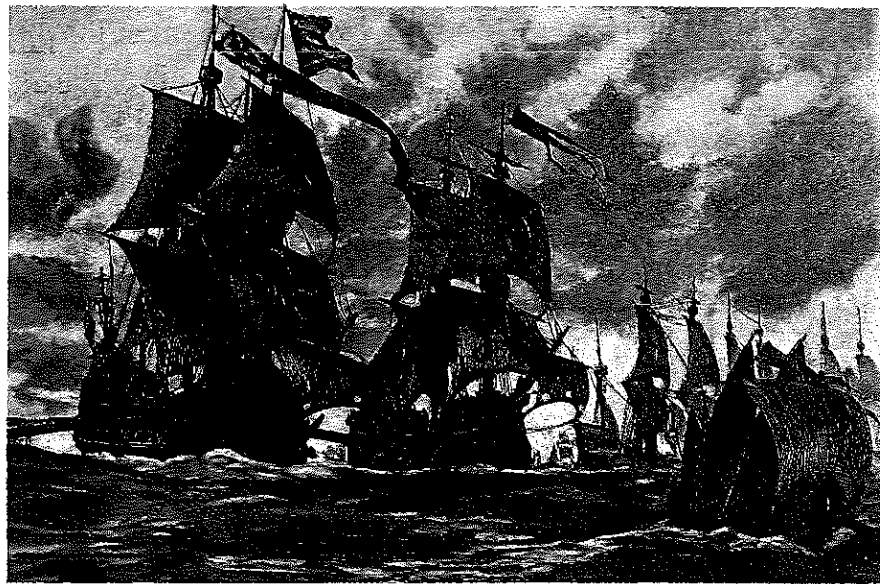
Loot

To take or damage things by use of force

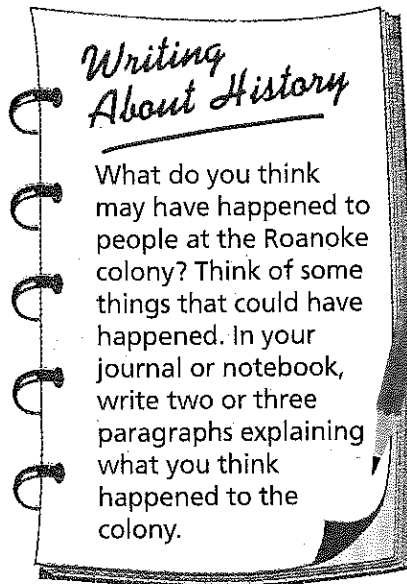
Spain began to benefit from the great treasures and contributions of the New World. Other countries grew jealous of these treasures. French, Dutch, and English ships began seizing Spanish ships on the high seas and **looting** Spanish towns along the coast of America. King Philip II of Spain was very angry with England for these attacks. He sent a fleet of ships in 1588 to crush the English and overthrow Queen Elizabeth I of England. Much to his disappointment, however, the more skilled English sailors defeated this fleet, called the Spanish **Armada**. Spain's power began to weaken after this defeat. England's power increased.

What Was Roanoke?

In 1578, Queen Elizabeth granted an agreement, or **charter**, to Sir Humphrey Gilbert to begin a **colony**. A colony is a group of people living in a new area. Gilbert wanted to establish a colony in the New World. However, Gilbert died during his second attempt at establishing a colony. Sir Walter Raleigh, Gilbert's half brother, received the charter.



English ships defeated the Spanish Armada in the English Channel.



Between 1584 and 1587, Raleigh sent three different expeditions to the New World. The first group was sent to explore and gather information. The second group was sent to live in the new colony. The colony did not do very well, and many people died. Others returned to England.

Raleigh would not give up his plan to start a colony. He asked John White to lead a third and final group. They settled on Roanoke Island off the coast of North Carolina. White returned to

England in 1587 to get more supplies. He was unable to return to Roanoke until 1590. No trace could be found of the settlers when he returned. The group had simply disappeared. For that reason it is called the Lost Colony. The only clues were the letters "CRO" carved on one tree and the word "CROATOAN" carved on another. No one knew what the word meant. Included among the missing were White's daughter and granddaughter, Virginia Dare, the first English child born in America.

What Other Colonies Were Started?

The French had shown some earlier interest in starting colonies in America, but little came of it. Seventy years had passed since Cartier discovered the St. Lawrence River and claimed much of Canada for France. The first French colony was started on the St. Lawrence River in the early 1600s. The leader of this small colony, Samuel de Champlain, named the settlement Quebec.

France's territories in America were later called New France. New France never attracted many settlers. The population remained very small for over 100 years. Although Spain, Portugal, and France had claimed large areas of land, only a few scattered colonies were successful.

★Political
Relating to
government or
the way it runs



King James I of England

What Other Colonies Did England Start?

Major changes took place when King James I took the English throne in 1603. He had strict religious rules. He had little patience with those who disagreed with him. English people started to look for a new place to live. The faraway lands of the New World were appealing. These people were looking for religious and **political** freedom.

Two groups of wealthy nobles and merchants formed the Virginia Company of London. They were interested in making money from trade. King James granted them a charter for land within the region of Virginia in 1606. A second charter was granted in the same year to the Plymouth Company. It included land farther to the north in what is now New England.

Three small ships and about 100 men reached the shores of Virginia in April 1607. The place where they landed was named Jamestown in honor of their king.

SECTION 3 REVIEW Write the answers to these questions on a separate sheet of paper.

- 1) Which country defeated the Spanish Armada?
- 2) What was the name of the first English colony?
- 3) What happened to the Roanoke colony?
- 4) Where was the first French colony started? Who was its leader?
- 5) Why did the people of England dislike the way King James I ruled?

What do you think



What did the defeat of the Spanish Armada do to England's and Spain's power in Europe? Why do you think this was important?

SOURCE READING

Cabeza de Vaca's Journal

In 1527, Spanish explorer Alvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca set out to colonize what is now Florida. In 1528 after shipwrecking off the Texas coast, he and his crew explored Mexico and what is now the southwestern United States. They traveled over American Indian trails and had much contact with Indians. Here is part of Cabeza de Vaca's journal.

"I ordered . . . our strongest man to . . . find any worn trails. . . . We had begun to worry what . . . happened to him, so I detailed another two men to check. They met him shortly and saw three Indians with bows and arrows following him. . . . Later 200 bowmen . . . reinforced the first three. . . . They looked like giants to us in our fright. . . . We gave them beads and bells, and each . . . gave us an arrow as a pledge of friendship. . . .

The next morning, the Indians [brought] . . . fish and . . . roots. . . . Provided with what we needed, we . . . embark[ed] again. . . . We had rowed . . . from shore when a wave . . . capsized the boat. . . . We lost everything. . . .



At sunset the Indians, not knowing we had tried to leave, came again with food. When they saw us looking so strangely . . . I explained . . . that our barge had sunk and three . . . drowned. . . . The Indians, understanding our full plight, sat down and [wailed] . . . When the cries died down, I conferred . . . about asking the Indians to take us to their homes. Some . . . who had been to New Spain warned that the Indians would sacrifice us. . . . But . . . I . . . beseeched the Indians. They were delighted. . . .

In the morning, they brought us fish and roots and acted in every way hospitably. We . . . somewhat lost our anxiety. . . ."

From: Alvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca's journal in *Adventures in the Unknown Interior of America*, translated by Cyclone Covey.

Source Reading Wrap-Up

- 1) Why were Cabeza de Vaca and his men frightened of the Indians?
- 2) What were some kindnesses the Indians showed the explorers?
- 3) What caused the American Indians to sit down and wail?
- 4) Why did the explorers ask to go to the Indians' homes, even though they thought they might be killed?
- 5) How did you react to the way the Indians treated Cabeza de Vaca and his men?

CHAPTER SUMMARY

★ In the 1400s, the development of the compass and improvements in mapmaking and globes helped exploration.

★ In 1477, Marco Polo's book, describing the Far East excited the people of Europe and encouraged exploration.

★ Christopher Columbus made his first voyage in search of the Far East in 1492. He explored what was later called the West Indies.

★ John Cabot explored North America in 1497. He claimed much of northeastern North America for England.

★ Amerigo Vespucci made several voyages to South America beginning in 1499. Later, the continent he explored was named America after him.

★ Juan Ponce de León searched for gold and the Fountain of Youth in 1513. He named the land he explored Florida.

★ Vasco Núñez de Balboa led a voyage in 1513 in search of gold and silver. He and his crew were the first Europeans to see the Pacific Ocean.

★ Ferdinand Magellan led a voyage around the world in 1519.

★ Hernando Cortés conquered the Aztecs in 1521.

★ Giovanni da Verrazano searched for the Northwest Passage in 1524. He later reached North Carolina and Newfoundland. Jacques Cartier searched for the Northwest Passage in 1534. He explored the St. Lawrence River in Canada.

★ Sir Francis Drake led the second expedition around the world between 1577 and 1580.

★ The English defeated the Spanish Armada in 1588.

★ Sir Walter Raleigh led three expeditions to the New World between 1584 and 1587. Under Raleigh, John White formed a colony in Roanoke, North Carolina. The colony later disappeared.

★ The first French colony was started on the St. Lawrence River in the early 1600s.

★ In 1606, King James I granted charters for land in the New World. The Virginia Company settled a colony in Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607.

UNIT 1 SUMMARY

★ Hunters crossed a land bridge from Siberia to North America about 20,000 B.C. These earliest Americans may have migrated across North America and into South America.

★ People who settled in Mesoamerica between 1200 B.C. and A.D. 1521 had early advanced civilizations.

★ The Hohokam, Mogollon, and Anasazi societies were in the North American Southwest. The Pueblo and Navajo civilizations developed in the Southwest after the Anasazi society declined.

★ Between 700 B.C. and A.D. 300, the Adena and Hopewell people lived in the Ohio River Valley. Civilizations may have been in the Mississippi River Valley as early as 4500 B.C.

★ The Pacific Northwest civilizations began around A.D. 400.

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