



## **1. Which nations had the greatest impact on the Age of Exploration and where did they focus their voyages?**

- Norway: The North Atlantic Ocean between Europe, Iceland, Greenland over to Canada (c. 1100-1200's)
- Italy: The Silk Road to China, South China Sea to Indian Sea and across the Mediterranean Sea (c. 1200 - 1300's)
- China: The Pacific & Indian Oceans from Southeast Asia to India and Madagascar (c. 1300 - 1400's)
- Portugal: The Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Africa towards India and the lands along the African coast (early 1400's)
- Spain: The Middle to Southern Atlantic Ocean between Europe to present day southern United States, the Islands of the Caribbean and the land known as Central and South America (c. 1492 - 1700's)
- France: The Northern Atlantic Ocean from Europe to present day New York, Maine into Canada (c. 1500 - 1700's)
- Holland: The Atlantic and Indian Oceans between present day India and Vietnam, NJ and NY (c. late 1500 - 1600's)
- England: The Middle Atlantic Ocean from Europe to present day VA, NC, GA, MD, PA, CT, RI, MA (c. 1600 - 1700's)

## **2. The Northwest Passage**

- All European Nations that sailed to the New World were looking for a faster, cheaper and safer trade route to China. They believed that there had to be a great river somewhere that would lead them directly to the coast of China bypassing the dangers of the Silk Road and sailing around the tip of Africa.
- By the early 1500's all of Europe knew that the world was not flat and that besides the Atlantic Ocean there were at least two other extremely large oceans named the Pacific and the Indian. Most European's did not know how those oceans were connected if in fact they even were. Slowly Europe begins to realize that the New World divided the Atlantic from the Pacific but estimated that a large river existed in present day Canada that allowed the water from the two oceans to flow between each of them.
- This route was believed to be a short cut for trading ships looking to sell goods in China. Since China was one of the richest nations in the world during that era, Europe commits to exploring the New World in the hopes of being the first to find and control "The Northwest Passage" which would allow them to gain total economic control of the world.
- The Passage was actually not found until after 1900 by Norwegian sailor Rould Amundson

## **3. Main/Famous Explorers by County:**

- Norway: Leif Erikson (World Explorer), Rould Amundson (South Pole, NW Passage), Erik "The Red" Thorvaldsson (Greenland and North Atlantic)
- Italy: Marco Polo (1st European to establish the Silk Road and sail the South China Sea and Mediterranean)
- China: Zheng He (1st Asian to sail the Coast of Southeast Asia, India and East Africa, rumored to even reach islands in the Atlantic)
- Portugal: Prince Henry "The Navigator" (teacher of sailing), Vasco De Gama (1st European to India via Sea), Bartholomew Diaz (1st European to sail around Africa), Ferdinand Magellan (1st to circumnavigate the World), Vasco De Balboa (1st European to cross the New World ocean to ocean)
- Spain: Christopher Columbus (1st European to Caribbean and South America), Amerigo Vespucci (proved New World was not India or Asia), Francisco Pizzaro (Conquered Most of South America), Juan Ponce De Leon (discovered the Gulf Stream and Florida), Francisco Coronado (1st to explore the Southwest USA), Hernando De Soto (1st to explore the Southeast USA), Hernando Cortez (explored Mexico and killed off the Aztecs)
- France: Giovanni De Verrazano (1st European that explored North Carolina to New York Coast), Jacques Cartier (1st European to explore the Northeast United States), Samuel De Champlain (1st to explore Canada), Jacques Marquette and Robert De La Salle (both were 1st to explore the Great Lakes and Mississippi River)
- Holland: Abel Tasman (1st European to sail to New Zealand, Tasmania, Tonga and Fiji)
- England: Henry Hudson (St. Lawrence River and Hudson River in NY and Eastern Canada), Sir Walter Raleigh (financed 1st English voyages to the New World, the Lost Colony), Sir Francis Drake (1st to sail around South America and 3rd around the world discovered many islands in Polynesia), Captain James Cook (1st European to discover Australia), John Cabot (claimed Canada for England after following Columbus' secret routes)

#### 4. Sailing Technology:

- Latitude & Longitude allowed cartographers to make detailed maps there are actually quite accurate.
- The Compass allowed navigators to find true magnetic north which in turn allowed them to follow maps regardless of how off course they may have been moved due to storms and darkness
- The Sextant allowed navigators to measure angles and distance between two fixed points such as land or stars
- The Telescope allowed objects from afar to be seen up close, helped to prevent accidents and gave advanced warning of impassible routes
- Nocturnals, Hour Glasses and Quadrants kept time (the 1st watches)
- Almanacs were detailed records of storm, weather and agriculture patterns
- The Astrolabe calculated latitude/longitude
- Caravels were light, small, durable and maneuverable vessels that revolutionized the sailing world, 5 -10 caravels can now replace almost 40- 50 other vessels that were strong enough to cross the ocean all while doing it faster

#### 5. Conquistadors:

- Spanish soldiers were hired as explorers to sail to the New World and claim all lands for Spain.
- They were brutal to the natives and demanded gold in exchange for not destroying entire civilizations.
- Responsible for killing almost all of the Incas, Aztecs and Mayans
- When gold could not be found, Conquistadors would allow natives to live as long as they lived in a state of slavery, converted to Catholicism and helped build missions and military forts for Spain (**The Encomienda System**)
- Used the code of "God, Gold, Glory" to commit murder, arson, torture, rape, theft and genocide in the New World and to escape punishment by the Pope and/or King of Spain upon returning to Europe

#### 6. The Columbian Exchange:

- The Columbian Exchange refers to a period of cultural and biological exchanges between the New and Old Worlds. Exchanges of plants, animals, diseases and technology transformed European and Native American ways of life. Beginning after Columbus' discovery in 1492 the exchange lasted throughout the years of expansion and discovery.
- Europeans had never heard of, eaten, seen or even knew of: tobacco, pumpkins, turkeys, squash, pineapples, cocoa, potatoes, avocados, peppers, cassava, peanuts, tomatoes, corn, beans or vanilla until they met the natives.
- Natives had never heard of, eaten, seen or even knew of : coffee, peaches, pears, olives, bananas, citrus fruit, honey bees, sugar, onions, turnips, grapes, wheat, rice, barley, oats, cows, sheep, pigs, horses, disease (small pox, the flu, typhus, measles, malaria, diphtheria, whooping cough, and syphilis until they met the Europeans.

