

CHAPTER 3

Explorers Reach the Americas 1000-1535

SETTING THE SCENE

Focus

About 1,000 years ago sailors from Northern Europe briefly explored the shores of Canada. It would be another 500 years before any other Europeans set foot in the Americas.

Concepts to Understand

- ★ How a desire to control trade affected economic development in Europe and sparked a period of exploration
- ★ How technology influenced European exploration

Read to Discover . . .

- ★ why European nations wanted to explore the Americas.
- ★ how the explorers treated Native Americans.



▶ WEST AFRICAN ARMLETS

Journal Notes

As you read the chapter, imagine you are a newspaper editor. In your journal write headlines announcing the important journeys and voyages of travelers described in this chapter.

Americas

1009 Norse make settlement in North America

1179 Mayan capital destroyed

1200 Pueblo culture begins to decline

1000s

1100s

1200s

World

1096 First Crusade to the Holy Land

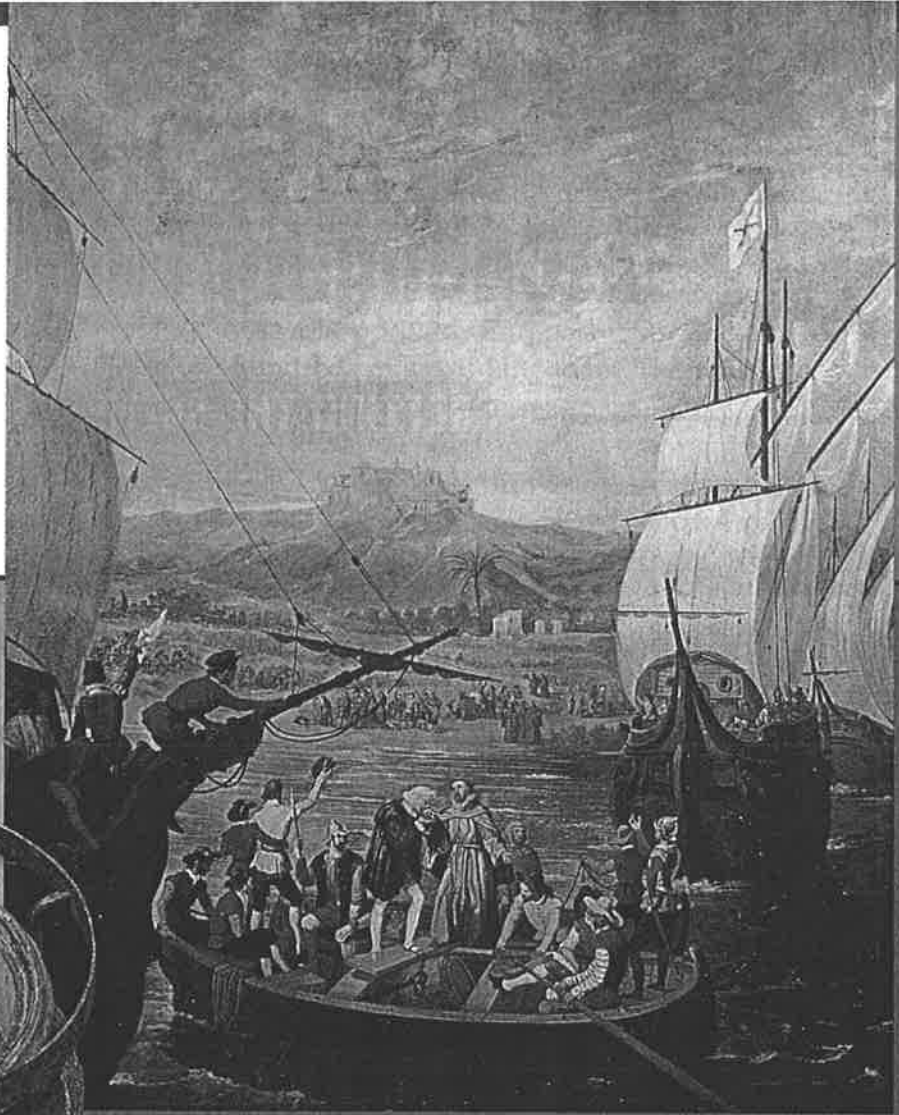
1150 Southeast Asian temple of Angkor Wat is completed

1295 Marco Polo returns to Italy from China

★★★



▲ COMPASS, 1500s



History
AND
ART

Departure of Columbus

Unknown artist

As shown in this painting, Christopher Columbus set sail from Palos, Spain, in 1492. His history-making voyage would be the subject of many paintings of the 1500s.

1492 Columbus lands in the Bahamas

1497 John Cabot sails to Newfoundland

1513 Balboa crosses the Isthmus of Panama

1535 Cartier claims Canada for France

1300s

1300s European Renaissance begins

1400s

1419 Prince Henry founds navigation school

1488 Dias rounds southern tip of Africa

1500s

1500 Songhai Empire rises in Africa

1522 Magellan's crew completes first world voyage

SECTION 1

A Changing Europe

SETTING THE SCENE

Read to Learn . . .

- ★ about Europeans who reached the Americas before Columbus did.
- ★ how Europeans lived during the Middle Ages and the Renaissance.
- ★ why Europeans wanted to find an ocean route to Asia.

Terms to Know

- ★ saga
- ★ Middle Ages
- ★ monarch
- ★ manor
- ★ feudal system
- ★ serf
- ★ Crusades
- ★ Renaissance



People to Meet

- ★ Leif Eriksson
- ★ Marco Polo
- ★ Michelangelo
- ★ Leonardo da Vinci

Places to Locate

- ★ Greenland
- ★ Newfoundland

◀ VIKING HELMET

Trader and sailor **Leif Eriksson** gave these instructions to his crew during the winter of 1001:

“On alternate days we must gather grapes and cut vines, and then fell trees, to make a cargo for my ship.”

Eriksson was a Norse, as Northern Europeans from present-day Sweden, Norway, and Denmark were known. He and his crew were camped somewhere

along the eastern coast of mainland North America—a land that was new to them.

★ The Norse in North America

Eriksson left his camp in the spring—with a “full cargo of timber” and a “tow-boat . . . filled with grapes.” He returned to his home on the North Atlantic island of **Greenland**. The Norse had been sailing far into the Atlantic for centuries.

By 985, they had settled both Iceland and Greenland.

The Vinland Settlement

When Eriksson returned home to Greenland, he gave glowing reports of the land he had visited. He told of lush grasses so sweet that in the morning he would wet his hands in the grass and put the dew in his mouth. Eriksson described streams filled with plump salmon, and vines bent with the weight of juicy grapes. He called the land **Vinland**, which meant "land of wine."

Eriksson's enthusiasm convinced other Norse to go to Vinland. In 1009, about 100 Norse men and women landed on the North American coast. They brought livestock with them and built a small village of earthen-walled houses.

The settlement ended in disappointment, however. Although the Norse traded for furs with nearby Native Americans, the two groups often fought. After five years of conflict, the Norse left Vinland, never to return.

Remembering the Norse

The Norse did not create maps or write reports of where they had been. The only records of their journeys were Norse legends, known as sagas. For centuries, many educated people thought of the sagas as just exaggerated stories. In the 1960s, however, archaeologists found traces of a Norse settlement on the island of **Newfoundland** in present-day Canada. The sagas had in fact recorded true history.

★ Europe and the Middle Ages

When the Norse were visiting the shores of North America, Western and Southern Europeans were just ending a period of isolation known as the Middle

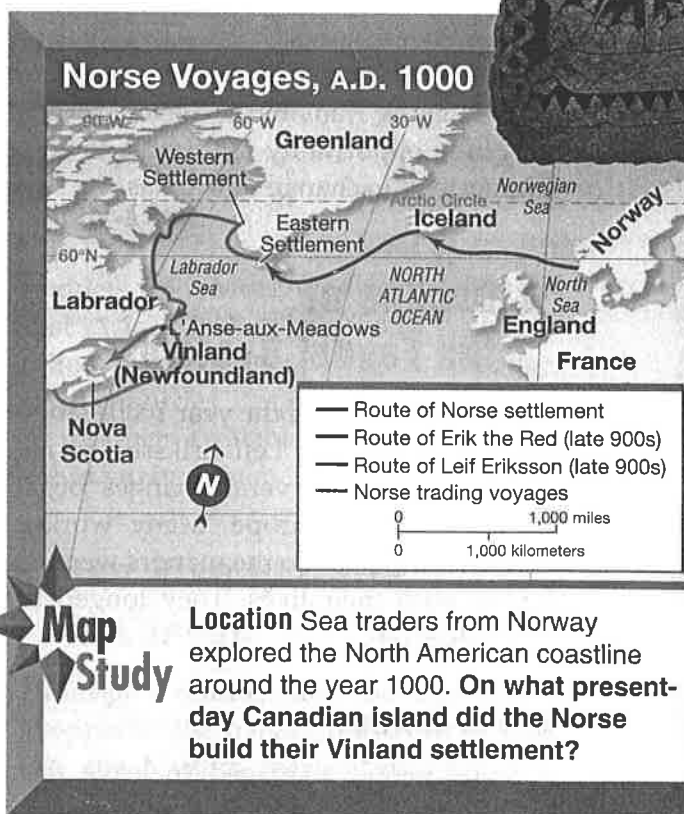
Ages. Few people in other parts of Europe ever heard the Norse sagas or learned of their voyages and settlements.

The fall of the Roman Empire in the year 476 marked the beginning of the Middle Ages in Europe. When Roman rule disappeared, Europe broke up into hundreds of small kingdoms. The power of the kings and queens—or monarchs—who headed the kingdoms was very weak. They often competed with large landowners—called **lords**—in their own kingdoms.

The Feudal System

The lords were mostly free of any control. They ruled their lands, or manors, like tiny independent kingdoms. They made laws for all who lived on their manors and collected taxes and fines. They raised their own armies and sometimes fought one another.

► CARVED NORSE TOMBSTONE



Map Study

Location Sea traders from Norway explored the North American coastline around the year 1000. **On what present-day Canadian island did the Norse build their Vinland settlement?**

At the heart of a manor was the castle, where the lord and family members lived. The castles had walls 2 or 3 feet (61–91 cm) thick to help guard against attackers. Many had the extra protection of **moats**, or waterways, that surrounded the castles. Homes, fields, gardens, and mills were spread out over the manor.

People who lived on a manor performed services for the lord. In exchange the lord promised to protect them. This system of managing the land and its people is called the **feudal system**. Many small farmers and landowners turned over all their land to a feudal lord in exchange for protection. Some agreed to be soldiers in the lord's army.

Landless peasants, or **serfs**, who lived and worked on a manor farmed small plots and shared their harvests with the lord. Serfs were considered part of the manor and remained with the land even if a new lord took over a manor.

For 500 years manors provided for most of the people's needs. People living on different manors had little contact with one another, except perhaps in times of battle between lords.

Trade, travel, and cities that had thrived under Roman rule declined. There was little opportunity for people to communicate or exchange new ideas.

★ Decline of the Feudal System

Beginning around the year 1000—about the same time that Leif Eriksson visited North America—several changes began taking place in Europe. Many workers who had been tied to the manors were not happy with their lives. They longed for more freedom.

Life in Towns

Some people managed to leave their manors and move to towns to earn their

own livings. There they became craft workers or started businesses. Some became traders.

Moving to a town did not always make life more comfortable. The towns at this time were very crowded and dirty. Garbage was tossed into the streets and diseases spread quickly.

Between 1347 and 1352 a deadly disease spread throughout Europe, killing more than one-fourth of its population. Called the **Black Death**, the disease was carried by fleas on rats. This disaster broke down what remained of the feudal system.

The New Middle Class

As Europe slowly recovered from the Black Death, towns began to grow again. People became less separated and isolated as increasing trade brought them into contact with one another. At the same time, a new social class—the **middle class**—began to develop. The **middle class** was made up mostly of merchants who bought and sold goods for a living. It also included lawyers, doctors, and some government officials. Unlike the lords of the manors, people of the middle class were not interested in land and farming. They focused instead on business and trade.

★ Crusades to the Holy Land

Religion played an important role in the changes that took place in Europe during this time. As early as 1096, a series of wars fought for religious reasons helped to open the eyes of Western Europeans to the rest of the world.

Christian and Muslim Conflict

The religious wars were fought in Palestine, a land in Southwest Asia along the eastern edge of the Mediterranean

Linking Past and Present

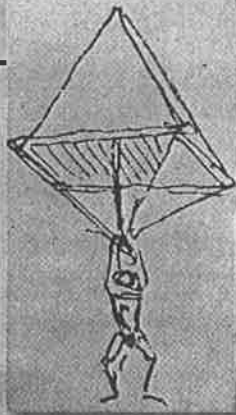
Hanging in the Sky

People dreamed of flying or floating in the sky long before anyone figured out how to do it.

Then

Just a Sketch

The idea for the first parachute came from



► DA VINCI'S PARACHUTE SKETCH

Renaissance artist, scientist, and inventor Leonardo da Vinci. His sketch, drawn in about 1495, showed a fabric parachute in the shape of a large, hollow pyramid.

Now

Safety and Sport

Almost 300 years after Da Vinci, Sebastien Lenormand made the first parachute jump from a tower. Later, parachutes saved the lives of pilots and others whose balloons or airplanes were headed for a crash. They also served as brakes to stop landing aircraft.

Today, parachutes let skydivers jump from heights of as much as 3 miles (5 km) and float freely before opening their parachutes.



► MODERN SKYDIVER

Sea. Palestine was the Holy Land for both Christians and Muslims. Europe's Christians considered Palestine and its city of Jerusalem sacred, or holy. Muslims, followers of the religion of Islam, also considered Palestine a sacred city.

In 1071 a group of Turkish Muslims took over Jerusalem and closed it to all Christians. The Catholic Church was outraged. It called for warriors to free the Holy Land from the Turks. Christians all over Europe answered the call. Between 1096 and 1270, Christians from Europe fought a series of wars, called the Crusades.

During the **First Crusade**, Christians captured the city of Jerusalem. Although the Christians held the city for about the next 100 years, the Muslims eventually recaptured it.

Returning Crusaders

The Crusades had an enormous impact on Europeans. Thousands of soldiers went off to these wars, never to return

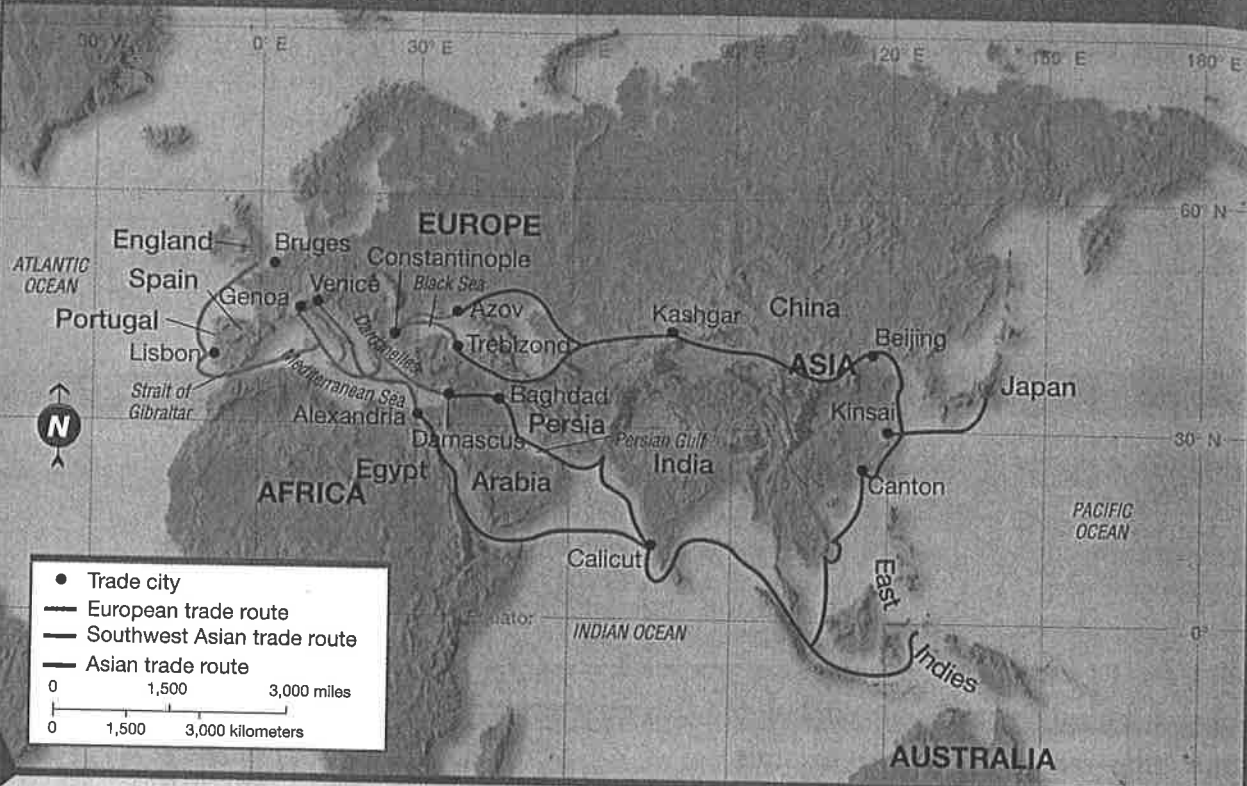
home. Many of those who did return brought back riches from the markets of Southwest Asia. Spices, silk, porcelain, ivory, jewels, soap, and perfumes filled their knapsacks. Some Crusaders also brought back new ideas. They had learned about new medicines to cure the sick and new ways to use spices to prevent food from spoiling.

The Crusaders got the new ideas and products from Muslim markets of Southwest Asia. Muslim merchants regularly traded with India, China, Japan, and other Asian countries. As Europeans learned of the products available from the East, they wanted to buy them.

★ The Rise of Nations in Europe

Europe's middle-class merchants saw an opportunity to make money by trading with the Muslim markets in Southwest Asia. They aided strong rulers in Europe

Trade Routes in the 1400s



Map Study

Location In the early 1400s, Asian merchants brought trade goods to Western markets. At what three cities near the Pacific coast did European traders pick up Asian goods?

in ending the wars among the feudal lords. Ending the fighting made it safe for them to travel to and from the Southwest Asian markets. Starting in the 1200s, European monarchs gained enough strength to begin forming nations, such as France, England, Spain, Portugal, and others.

In Italy, wealthy middle-class merchants gained a monopoly, or total control, over trade with the Muslim markets. In addition to trade goods, the Italian traders gained new knowledge from the Muslims. They learned about the magnetic compass, the astrolabe, and other sailing improvements. Europeans also shared the Muslim system of mathematics and styles of architecture.

Biography ★★☆☆

Marco Polo Reports Wonders

Italy's **Marco Polo**, born into a family of wealthy merchants, grew up in Venice, Italy. In 1271 when Marco was 17, he accompanied his uncle and father on a trading journey to the East Asian land of Cathay, or present-day China. The merchants—traveling on camels for three-and-a-half years—crossed almost 7,000 miles (11,263 km) of Central Asian mountains and deserts. Finally they reached the palace of Cathay's ruler, called the Khan.

Marco Polo spent 17 years in service to the Khan. He saw and learned much. The people of Cathay had an advanced culture.

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▲ MARCO POLO

They read printed books, used paper money, and even had city fire departments. Their large, well-organized cities had canals, orderly road systems, and hot water.

In 1295, when the Polos returned to Italy, Marco told others about the riches he had found and the people he had met. He reported that there were more than 7,000 islands in the Sea of China that he called the "Indies." He talked of incredible "black stones"—or coal—that fueled fires and of rubies the size of a man's arm. , ★★★

★ A Rebirth of Learning

Despite the criticism Marco Polo received, many people read his book, *Description of the World*. It helped make more and more Europeans curious about the world beyond their city walls. That curiosity sparked a period of renewed interest in learning and knowledge called the Renaissance. Europe's Renaissance began in the middle 1300s and lasted until about 1600.

Renaissance Art and Science

The Renaissance was a time of creativity and experimentation. Artists began to present their subjects more realistically than in the past. Artists, such as **Michelangelo** and **Leonardo da Vinci**, created beautiful paintings and drawings to show nature and people as they really looked. Writers such as William Shakespeare also produced many great poems and plays.

Renaissance scientists worked toward a better understanding of the human body and how it functions. They studied the movement of the planets and set up experiments using new scientific instruments they had invented.

★ SECTION 1 REVIEW ★

Checking for Understanding

1. Identify Leif Eriksson, Marco Polo, Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci, Greenland, Newfoundland.
2. Define saga, Middle Ages, monarch, manor, feudal system, serf, Crusades, Renaissance.
3. Why did the Norse want to travel to North America following Eriksson's voyage?
4. How did the Crusades lead to increased trade?

Critical Thinking

5. **Formulating Questions** If people in Renaissance Europe had been able to talk to the Norse, what two questions do you think they might have asked?

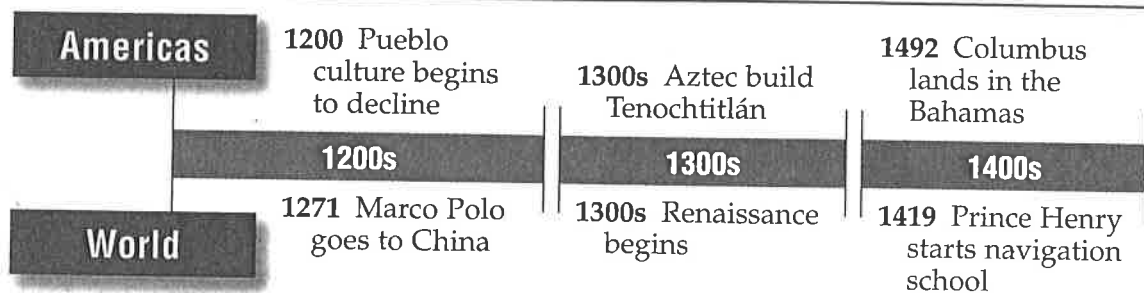
ACTIVITY

6. Find five items at home or in your classroom that were made in other countries. On an outline map of the world, write the names of those items on the countries they came from.

BUILDING SKILLS

Social Studies Skills

Reading a Time Line

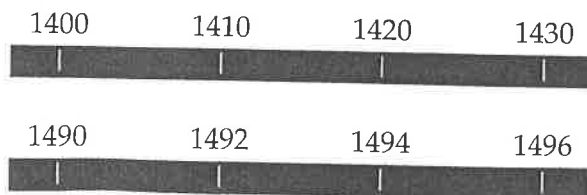


When you read a time line, you not only see when an event took place but you also see what events took place before and after it. A time line can show you if Columbus sailed to North America before or after the Crusades. It can tell you if the Crusades began before or after the Renaissance.

Learning the Skill

A **time line** is a kind of chart that can be presented on a horizontal or vertical line. It lists events that occurred between specific dates. The number of years between these dates is called the **time span**. For example, a time line that begins in 1400 and ends in 1500 would have a time span of 100 years. A time line that begins in 1490 and ends in 1500 would have a 10-year time span.

Time lines are usually divided into smaller segments, or **time intervals**. If you look at the two time lines below, you'll see that the first time line has a 30-year time span divided into 10-year time intervals. The second time line has a 6-year time span divided into 2-year time intervals.



Sometimes a time line shows events that occurred during the same time period but in two different parts of the world. For example, the time line above shows some important happenings in the Americas and the rest of the world during the same time span.

Practicing the Skill

Use the time line above to answer these questions.

1. What time span and intervals appear on this time line?
2. What events appear above the line? What events appear below the line?
3. After Marco Polo's trip to China, how many years passed before Prince Henry started his navigation school?
4. Did Columbus's voyage to the Bahamas occur before or after the Renaissance began in Europe?
5. How many years before Columbus's voyage did Marco Polo set out for China?

APPLYING THE SKILL

6. Create a time line of your family's history. Interview family members to identify at least 8 to 10 important family events. Place them across the top of your time line. Across the bottom of your time line, place at least five important national or world events that occurred during the same time span.

SECTION 2

Portugal and the Age of Exploration

SETTING THE SCENE

Read to Learn . . .

- ★ how Prince Henry led Portugal into the Age of Exploration.
- ★ how trade contributed to the growth of three large empires in Africa.
- ★ about the achievements of Portuguese sea captains.

Terms to Know

- ★ navigation
- ★ caravel
- ★ Age of Exploration
- ★ enslaved person

People to Meet

- ★ Prince Henry
- ★ Mansa Musa
- ★ Bartholomeu Dias
- ★ Vasco da Gama

Places to Locate

- ★ Portugal
- ★ Cape of Good Hope
- ★ India



◀ PRINCE HENRY
THE NAVIGATOR

In the early 1400s, Europeans had no idea what lay in the ocean waters south of Portugal. That would change with **Prince Henry** of Portugal. Henry had no wife or family. As the third son of King John I of Portugal, he had little hope of ever being king. Henry had one driving interest, however. That idea was to make Portugal the world's leading sea power.

★ Prince Henry of Portugal

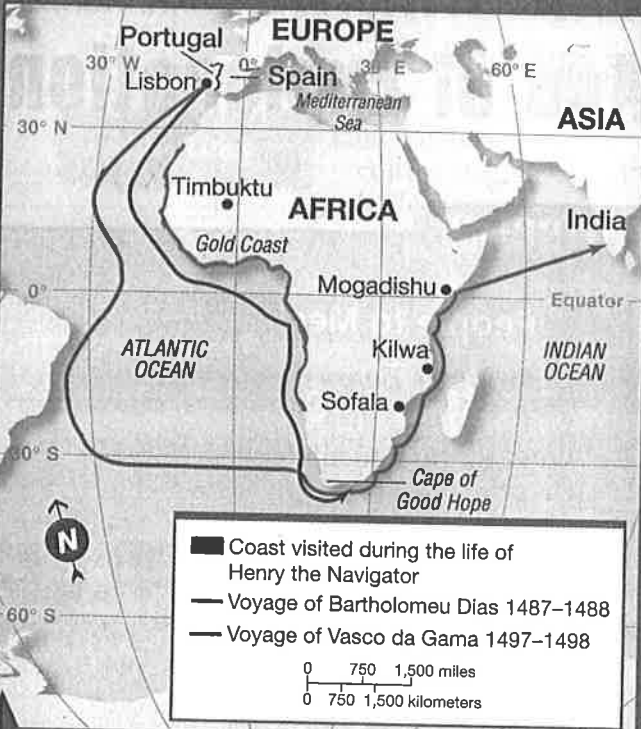
Prince Henry of Portugal was deeply affected by the spirit of learning during

the Renaissance. He was also a very religious man. For the Catholic Church he wanted to spread the Christian faith around the world.

Two special goals for his country guided Henry. One goal was to find an ocean route around Africa to Asia. The other goal was to locate the source of the gold that came from lands far to the south in Africa.

Europeans were familiar with areas of North Africa along the Mediterranean Sea. The rest of the continent, however, was largely unknown to them. The African gold that Europeans received

Portuguese Exploration, 1400s



Map Study

Movement Portuguese explorers were the first to use an all-water route from Europe to Asia. Around what southernmost point of Africa did their sea route take them?



▲ PORTUGUESE CARAVEL

through trade came from Muslim traders who traveled overland and brought the gold to the northern shores of Africa.

To accomplish his goals, Henry realized that Portuguese sailors needed to know more about navigation—the science of piloting ships. He also knew that the Portuguese needed better ships. Henry's first step was to bring together mapmakers, astronomers, and shipbuilders from throughout the Mediterranean world to study and plan voyages of exploration. These experts pooled their talents to uncover knowledge about the seas and to extend the art of navigation.

Portuguese shipbuilders designed a sturdy ship called the caravel. The caravel used triangular sails, fashioned after those

first developed by Arab seafarers. These ships could easily sail against the wind and work their way in and out along coastlines. The caravel was easy to navigate for Portuguese sailors exploring the west coast of Africa.

The Age of Exploration

Prince Henry, who would later be called **Prince Henry the Navigator**, never commanded a ship. Rarely did he even sail on one. Although he would not live to see all that his sailors accomplished, his dream of making Portugal a leading sea power was to come true.

As expeditions returned, Henry's mapmakers corrected and improved their sailing charts. Bit by bit, expedition after

expedition, the Portuguese inched their way down the coast of Africa.

Portugal led the rest of Europe into the great Age of Exploration. The Age of Exploration occurred during the 1400s and 1500s. During this period, sea captains and explorers from many different European countries sailed the oceans and mapped the world more accurately than ever had been done before.

For 40 years, one Portuguese expedition after another set out to explore the Atlantic Ocean and the west coast of Africa. In the 1430s the Portuguese sailed more than 1,000 miles (1,600 km) west into the Atlantic and landed on the Azores Islands.

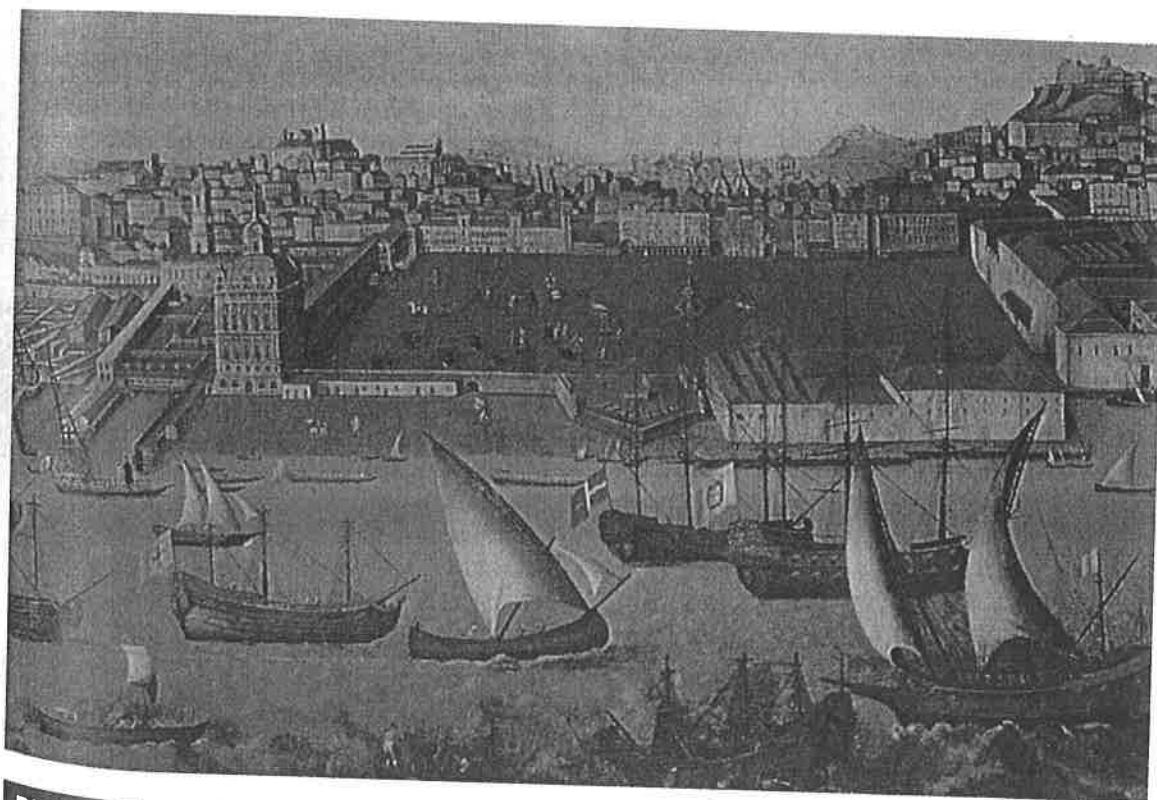
★ Three African Empires

By 1460, the year of Henry's death, the Portuguese had sailed about one-fourth of

the way down the west coast of Africa, looking for a way around it. Their voyages showed them that Africa was not the small peninsula they had believed it to be. It was, instead, a huge landmass. Their stops along the coast also showed them that Africa was a place with many peoples, languages, cultures, and a long history of wealth and power.

During Europe's Middle Ages, large, wealthy kingdoms with important cities of trade and learning developed in West Africa. Three large kingdoms—Ghana, Mali, and Songhai—controlled trade routes that ran from North Africa to the West African coast. Gold, salt, ivory, leather, iron, and other goods passed back and forth through their markets.

Most West Africans traded directly with Muslims from North Africa. Muslim merchants made the 1,200-mile (1,931-km) journey south across the Sahara in large camel caravans to West African markets.



**Picturing
History**

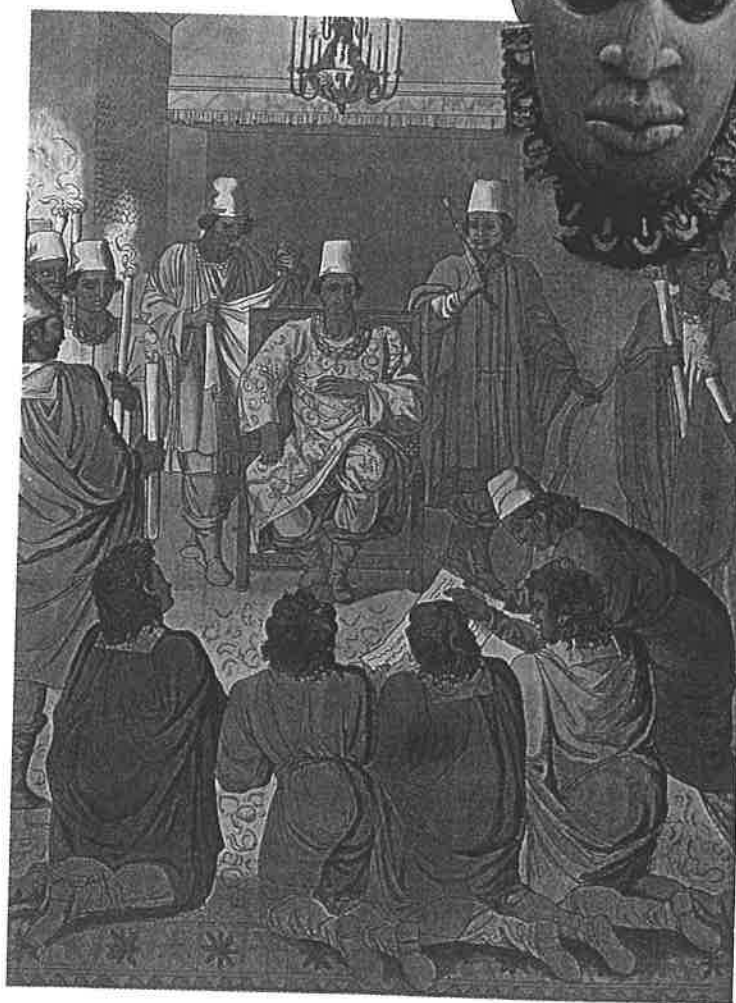
▲ **PORTUGUESE HARBOR** The growing Portuguese trade began to compete with that of other European countries. **What goods did trading ships bring back to Portugal?**

Ghana

Between 700 and 1050, the empire of Ghana flourished in West Africa. In the markets of Ghana's capital, Kumbi, merchants traded large amounts of gold and salt. Dates, ivory, cloth, and honey also changed hands.

Because most of the traders in Ghana were Muslim, the capital city had a large Muslim pop-

► **BENIN IVORY MASK, SIXTEENTH CENTURY**



Picturing History

▲ **THE SLAVE TRADE** King Affonso of the Kongo, tried unsuccessfully to stop the European slave trade. The rulers of Benin and the Gold Coast also tried to resist the Europeans. **Where did Portugal develop a trade in human beings?**

ulation. Many Islamic houses of worship, called mosques, were built. The people of Ghana adapted many Muslim ideas, including a writing and numbering system.

Mali

By the 1200s the empire of Ghana was replaced by the empire of Mali. The Mali trading city of Timbuktu became a leading center of Islamic culture. **Mansa Musa**, the most powerful of the Mali kings, persuaded some of Islam's finest scholars and architects to work in Timbuktu. They built large buildings and several universities. Students from across Africa came to study at the universities. When Mansa Musa died, the kingdom of Mali weakened. By 1500, a third large empire was reaching its height and replaced Mali.

Songhai

The Songhai empire grew rich from trade in gold and ivory. Under Askia Muhammad, who ruled the empire from 1493 to 1528, Songhai rose to the height of its power. As with the Mali empire, Muslim merchants had a strong influence on the culture. They built many mosques and schools and instructed the local people in the ways of the Islamic faith.

Songhai, larger than either the Ghana or Mali empire, extended across a large portion of West Africa. It stood until 1591, when North African soldiers armed with guns invaded and defeated it.

★ Portugal's Search for Riches

Portuguese sea captains stopping along the West African coast heard of the inland trading kingdoms. Such stories of wealth encouraged the Portuguese. Surely they were coming closer to meeting Prince Henry's goal of finding the source of African gold.

As the Portuguese pushed south and rounded the bulge of Africa, they gave names to the lands they visited. The names reflected the products widely traded in each area. The Portuguese called one coastal area the **Ivory Coast**, for example, and another place the **Gold Coast**. There was also an area the Portuguese called the **Slave Coast**.

Enslavement of Africans

It was on the Slave Coast that the Portuguese developed a trade in human beings. They brought Africans back to Portugal and sold them at a public auction as enslaved persons. An enslaved person is one forced to serve another person in ways decided by the slaveholder. Enslaved persons have no freedom, and slaveholders think of them as their property.

★ A Passage to India

The Portuguese continued to take what they found of value in Africa. By the mid-1400s, the Portuguese had met Prince Henry's goal of finding riches and profits. They still had not found a way around Africa and on to Asia.

Year after year, Portuguese sailors continued to inch their way south along the coast of Africa. Then, in 1488, explorer **Bartholomeu Dias** (DEE•AHSH) sailed as far south as present-day South Africa. A storm blew his three ships farther out to sea. When the storm ended nearly two weeks later, Dias realized that it had blown his ships around the southern tip of Africa and into the Indian Ocean.

Too tired to push ahead, Dias and his crew returned to Portugal. The Portuguese king was so encouraged by Dias's report that he named the southern tip of Africa the **Cape of Good Hope**. The king felt sure that he would soon realize his hope of reaching **India** by sailing around Africa.

Crossing the Indian Ocean

The king had to wait about 10 more years. In the summer of 1497 another Portuguese explorer, **Vasco da Gama**, headed south along the coast of Africa. He rounded the Cape of Good Hope in November and then set a course across the Indian Ocean. In May of 1498, Da Gama landed on the west coast of India. Before returning to Portugal, he filled his ships with spices, silks, jewels, glassware, and other Asian trade goods.

★ SECTION 2 REVIEW ★

Checking for Understanding

1. Identify Prince Henry, Mansa Musa, Bartholomeu Dias, Vasco da Gama, Portugal, Cape of Good Hope, India.
2. Define navigation, caravel, Age of Exploration, enslaved person.
3. What two special goals did Prince Henry have for Portugal?
4. What products were traded throughout West African kingdoms?
5. Why were the voyages of Bartholomeu Dias and Vasco da Gama important?

Critical Thinking

6. **Analyzing Information** Why do you think Portuguese seafarers made their voyages of discovery *after* the Renaissance, and not *before* this period?

ACTIVITY

7. Use the scale on the world map in the Reference Atlas in the back of the book to figure out about how many miles the Portuguese sailed to reach the Cape of Good Hope and the west coast of India. Draw a map showing the routes. Put mileage information on the routes.

Motives for Exploration

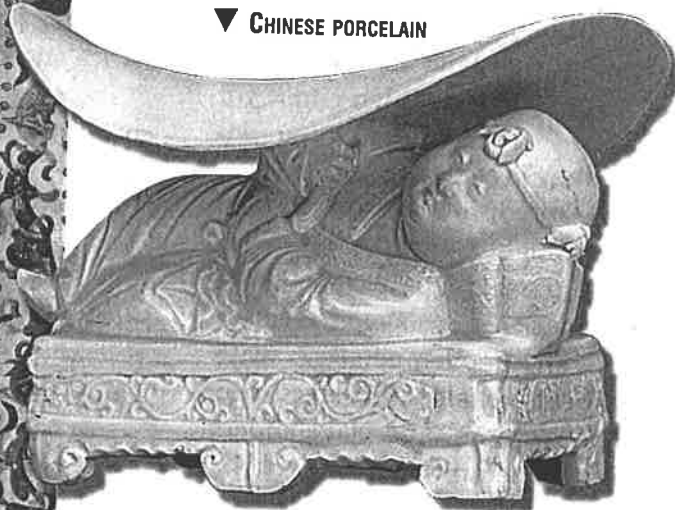


▲ NEW EUROPEAN MARKETS

Have you ever wanted to buy something, but thought the price was just too high? Do you know what made that item so costly? Maybe it comes from far away and the cost of transporting it is high. Perhaps the item is scarce. Gold is expensive because the world supply is short. Buyer demand could also be a factor. If many people want to buy the item, the price will probably be high.

Wealthy Europeans of the 1400s wanted to buy fine porcelain, jewels, silk, and spices from East Asia. Because the Turkish Muslims controlled all the trade routes to Asia, they could also control the prices of goods that

▼ CHINESE PORCELAIN



traveled along those routes. As Europeans demanded more and more Asian goods, the Muslim merchants raised their prices.

To get these goods for less, Europeans wanted to find a way to go around the Muslim traders altogether. The solution they settled on was to find their own route to East Asia by sea.

Making the Economics Connection

1. Name three things that can affect the price of an item.
2. Why did Turkish Muslim traders think they could get the high prices they charged for Asian goods?
3. What was Europe's solution to paying high prices for Asian goods?

ACTIVITY

4. Think of a costly item you have seen in a store. Imagine that you are a merchant who sells the item. Create a newspaper advertisement convincing people to buy the item despite its cost.

SECTION 3

Columbus Reaches the Americas

SETTING THE SCENE

Read to Learn . . .

- ★ why Christopher Columbus believed he could reach Asia by sailing west.
- ★ what places in the Americas Columbus visited.

Terms to Know

- ★ mutiny
- ★ Taino
- ★ colony

People to Meet

- ★ Christopher Columbus
- ★ Queen Isabella
- ★ King Ferdinand
- ★ Amerigo Vespucci

Places to Locate

- ★ San Salvador
- ★ Bahamas
- ★ Cuba
- ★ Hispaniola
- ★ Santo Domingo



► EXPLORER'S
LOG BOOK

More than 150 years after Marco Polo's death, a young Italian sea captain—**Christopher Columbus**—sat down to read Polo's *Description of the World*. While many scholars still didn't take Polo seriously, the young captain believed every word he read.

★ Marco Polo's Geography

Columbus was especially interested in what Polo had to say about the islands of Cipango. What Polo called Cipango is present-day Japan. According to Polo,

Cipango lay some 1,500 miles (2,414 km) off the eastern shore of Asia.

Polo's geography was not accurate. The islands of Japan are actually less than 500 miles (805 km) from the coast of Asia.

Columbus pondered Polo's report. Because the earth is round, Columbus reasoned, a person should be able to sail west from Europe and reach Asia. Furthermore, if Cipango was 1,500 miles off the coast of Asia, it was actually much closer to Europe than anyone thought. Armed with this misinformation, Christopher Columbus began his lifelong quest to reach Asia by sailing west.



**History
AND
ART**

▲ *KOLUMBUS IN FRONT OF FERDINAND AND ISABELLA OF ARAGON IN SANTA FE* by V. Prozik, 1884. With careful attention to detail the artist shows the serious discussion held concerning the planned voyage of Columbus. **For how many years did Columbus try to gain the support of Spain?**

★ Columbus's Vision

Like many Italians of his time, Columbus went to sea at an early age. Then, at 26, he sailed with an Italian fleet along the coast of Portugal.

For several years, Columbus lived in Portugal. The Portuguese taught Columbus new sailing skills and theories about geography. He made several voyages on Portuguese ships to Africa and sailed as far north as Iceland. In the process, he became an expert navigator.

The Portuguese Say "No"

By the early 1480s, Columbus felt ready to make his own trip of exploration. He asked Portugal's King John for money to supply a westward voyage to Asia. Columbus argued that this route would be shorter and easier than the eastward passage around Africa that the Portuguese were looking for. Dias and Da Gama had not yet sailed around Africa when Columbus made his appeal.

Portuguese experts discussed Columbus's plan. They agreed that he could

probably get to Asia by sailing west, but they thought he had misjudged the distance. King John agreed. He refused Columbus's request and claimed that Portugal would continue trying to reach Asia by sailing around Africa.

The Spanish Say "Yes"

By now, Columbus was deeply in debt. He did not give up, however. He left Portugal and went to Spain in 1485 to ask the Spanish monarchs **Queen Isabella** and **King Ferdinand** to finance his voyage.

For seven years, Columbus tried to gain support from the Spanish rulers. Each time he asked, experts studied the matter and refused his plan. Finally, just as Columbus was ready to give up, Queen Isabella consented to give him the backing he needed for the voyage.

★ Voyage Across the Atlantic

On August 3, 1492, Columbus left Spain with three small ships. The largest

ship, his flagship, was named the *Santa María*. The other two were the *Pinta* and *Niña*.

Columbus and a crew of 90 men and boys first sailed south to the Canary Islands. There the small fleet took on supplies, refilled water casks, and repaired sails. Then, in the early morning hours of September 6, Columbus set out westward across the Atlantic Ocean.

Winds and Weather

At first the voyage went smoothly. The weather was calm, and winds pushed the three ships steadily westward. Columbus had discovered the sea route with the most favorable winds.

After about another month of smooth sailing, the crew became impatient. They had never been away from land this many days. They demanded that Columbus

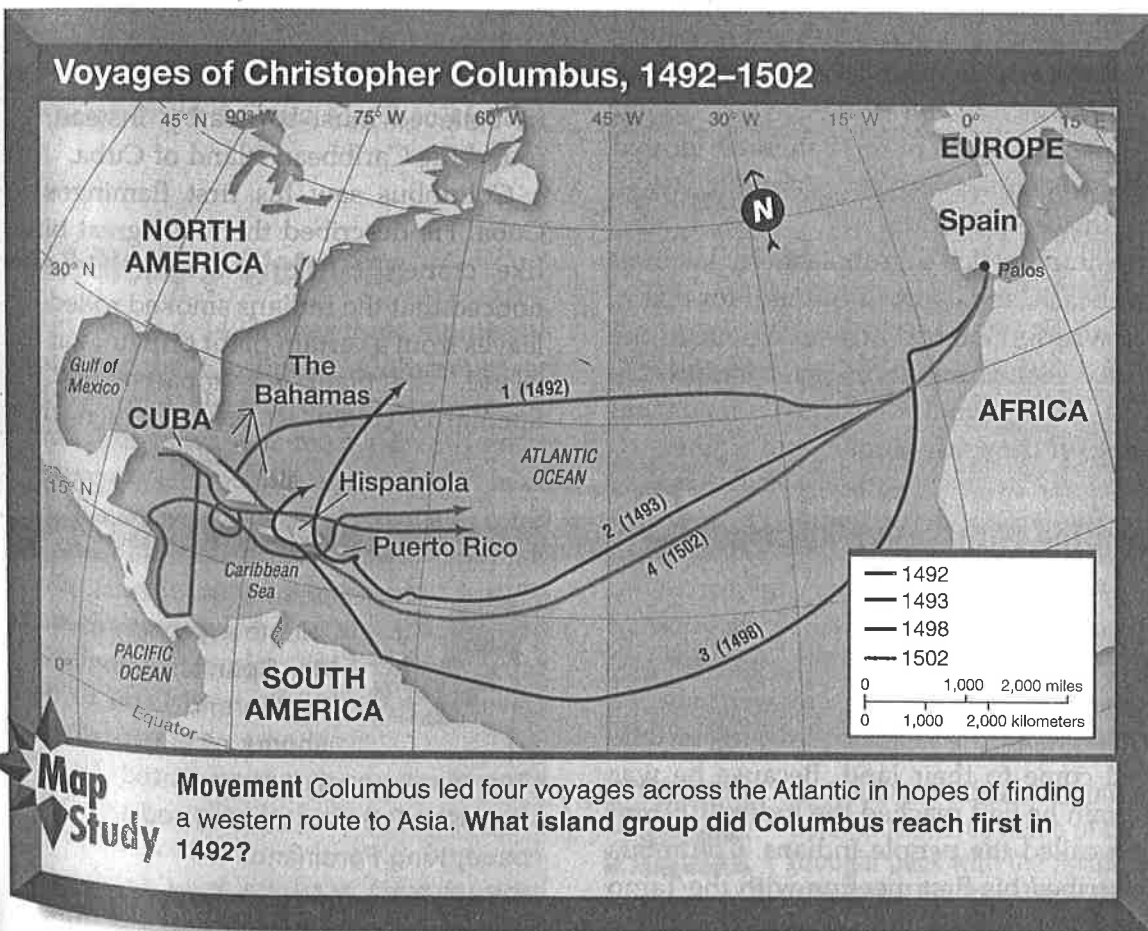
turn back. If not, they would mutiny, or seize the captain and officers and take control of the ship.

★ "Tierra! Tierra!"

Columbus promised his worried crew to sail home if land was not found in another three days. Just two days later the crew began to see drifting tree branches in the water around the ships—a sign that land was nearby. Columbus promised a reward to the first crew member who sighted land.

Landing in the Bahamas

At 2 o'clock the next morning, the lookout sailor on the *Pinta* suddenly shouted, "Tierra! Tierra!"—Land! Land! On October 12, 1492, after 70 days and 2,400 miles





**Picturing
History**

▲ **COLUMBUS REACHES LAND** Columbus and his crew had sailed for more than two months when they reached San Salvador. **For what country did they claim this island?**

(3,862 km) of sailing, Columbus had found land.

At dawn the three ships neared an island with a beautiful, white coral beach. Columbus named the island **San Salvador** which meant "Holy Savior." Today, this island is part of the **Bahamas**, located about 50 miles (80 km) off the coast of southeastern Florida.

Columbus led a group ashore, knelt on the beach, and claimed the land for Spain. He was sure he had arrived on one of the many islands in the Indies—present-day East Indies—that Marco Polo had said were off the coast of mainland China.

Meeting With Native Americans

The Taino, the Native Americans who lived on the island, watched the strange large ships that brought bearded men. At first they held back, but they were curious and finally ran to see the strangers who had come to their land. Because he was certain he had reached the Indies, Columbus called the people Indians. Columbus described his first meeting with the Taino in his log:

“ I . . . gave to some of them red caps, and glass beads to put round their necks, and many other things of little value, which gave them great pleasure, and made them so much our friends that it was a marvel to see. They afterwards came to the ship’s boats where we were, swimming and bringing us parrots, cotton threads, . . . darts, and many other things.”

Columbus quickly noticed the small gold jewelry the Taino wore. He was curious about the source of the gold. One of his goals in sailing to distant lands was to bring back proof of the riches that could be found there.

★ **Exploring the Caribbean**

With six Taino as guides, Columbus left San Salvador to search for Cipango, which he believed must be nearby. Instead, he found the Caribbean island of **Cuba**.

Columbus saw his first flamingos in Cuba. He described them as “great birds like cranes, but bright red.” He also noticed that the Indians smoked rolled-up leaves from a certain plant growing on the island. The plant was tobacco, but the Spaniards called it *tabaco*, which they

★★★ **AMERICA’S FLAGS** ★★★



Spain, 1492 Christopher Columbus proudly carried the Spanish banner of Castile and Leon to the shores of the Bahamas.

The flag’s castle represented Queen Isabella. The lion symbolized her husband, King Ferdinand.



probably took from a Native American word. Columbus and later explorers eventually introduced tobacco to Europe.

Hispaniola

Columbus left Cuba to continue his search for the mainland of Asia—and the source of more gold. He found his way to an island he named **Hispaniola**. Today this island is divided into the countries of Haiti and the Dominican Republic. In Hispaniola, Columbus was sure he had found the source of the Indians' gold because all the people wore gold jewelry.

Columbus and his crew met with their first disaster on Hispaniola. On Christmas Eve, while Columbus and most of the crew were sleeping, the *Santa María* ran aground and was wrecked on a sandbar.

Columbus saw this as a sign that he should have some of his men set up a settlement while he went on to explore further. His crew then used wood from the shipwrecked *Santa María* to build a fort.

★ A Hero's Welcome

On March 4, 1493, after three months of exploring the Caribbean, Columbus set sail for home. He returned to Spain in triumph. His news was received with great excitement, and people were eager to hear his tales of the "Indies."

Columbus reported to the Spanish king and queen, escorted by six Native Americans carrying parrots in cages. He brought gold jewelry and spices as proof that he had found what he still believed to be the Indies.

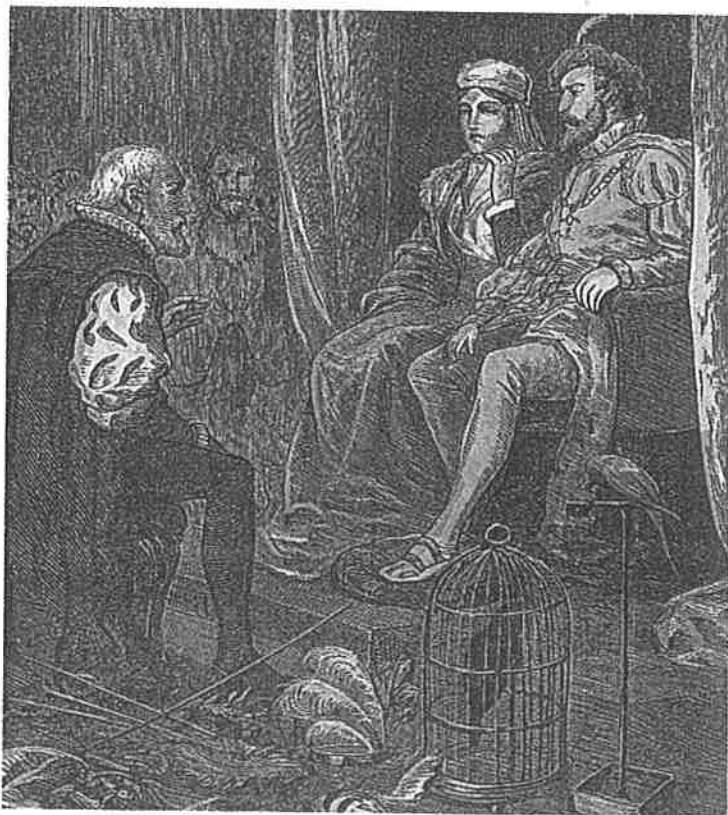
The Spanish monarchs were curious about the people, but they were more interested in the stories of gold. Eager for riches, they were ready to finance more voyages for Columbus.

★ Later Voyages

Columbus sailed to the Americas three more times between 1493 and 1502. He stopped at many of the islands in the Caribbean Sea including present-day Jamaica. He also landed on the coast of present-day Venezuela and sailed along the coast of Central America.

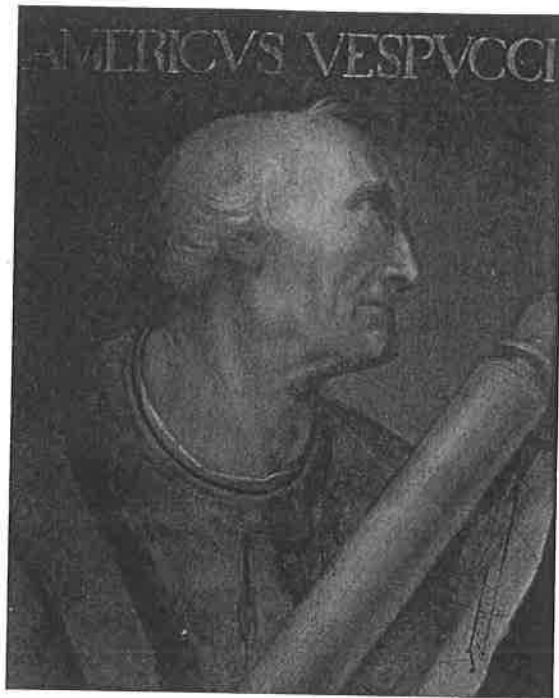
First Spanish Colony

On his second voyage in 1496, Columbus founded **Santo Domingo** on Hispaniola. It was the first permanent European colony in the Western Hemisphere. A colony is a settlement made in another land by people who are ruled by their home countries. Columbus and two of his brothers governed the colony on Hispaniola over the next four years.



Picturing History

▲ **COLUMBUS RETURNS** Upon returning to Spain, Columbus shared some of the treasures he had brought back with the Spanish king and queen. **Why were the Spanish monarchs eager for Columbus to make another voyage?**



▲ AMERIGO VESPUCCI

Meaning of Columbus's Voyages

Columbus's discoveries brought little gold to Spain. Columbus also did a poor job of governing the Spanish colony at Hispaniola. As a result, he gradually slipped out of favor with the Spanish court. He returned from his last voyage in 1504. Columbus died in 1506, unaware that he had arrived at two uncharted continents.

Other Europeans, however, were quick to recognize that Columbus had sailed to

lands that they had never imagined. Soon after Columbus's voyages, other Europeans sailed to the Americas. Still other European sea captains would continue the Age of Exploration with more voyages into uncharted seas. The countries of Spain, France, Portugal, Italy, England, and the Netherlands would all send expeditions searching for new lands and a shorter route to Asia.

★ America, Not Columbia

Amerigo Vespucci (veh•SPOO•chee) was the Italian explorer for whom America was named. Why did Europeans not name America after Columbus?

Vespucci sailed to North America a few years after Columbus. Sailing for Spain and Portugal, he explored the Atlantic coast of South America between 1497 and 1504. Vespucci was one of the first explorers to realize that he had reached uncharted lands. Unlike Columbus, Vespucci wrote that he had come to "a new world," not the East Indies—as the Asian islands were called later. Vespucci published his claims in a booklet that a German mapmaker read in 1507. When the mapmaker drew a map of the two continents, he chose the name "America," based on Vespucci's name.

★ SECTION 3 REVIEW ★

Checking for Understanding

1. Identify Christopher Columbus, Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand, Amerigo Vespucci, San Salvador, Bahamas, Cuba, Hispaniola, Santo Domingo.
2. Define mutiny, Taino, colony.
3. What was Columbus's plan for reaching Asia by sea?
4. What islands did Columbus explore on his first two voyages to the Americas?

Critical Thinking

5. **Interpreting Information** Think about what was achieved by Columbus and other explorers during the Age of Exploration. What other name or title could have been given to this period of time?

ACTIVITY

6. Sketch a freehand historical map of the world using the knowledge available at the time of Columbus.

SECTION 4

Early European Claims to the Americas

SETTING THE SCENE

Read to Learn . . .

- ★ how Spain took control of the Caribbean area.
- ★ about the voyages and claims of Spanish, English, and French explorers.

Terms to Know

- ★ plantation
- ★ Columbian Exchange
- ★ strait
- ★ Northwest Passage

People to Meet

- ★ Vasco Núñez de Balboa
- ★ Ferdinand Magellan
- ★ John Cabot
- ★ Giovanni da Verrazano
- ★ Jacques Cartier

Places to Locate

- ★ Isthmus of Panama
- ★ Strait of Magellan
- ★ Philippine Islands



► DRAKE'S TROPHY

“They have no arms [weapons], and are without warlike instincts; they . . . are so timid that a thousand would not stand before three of our men. So that they are good to be ordered about. . . .”

This was one of Columbus's descriptions of Native Americans he met in the Caribbean. In his logs, Columbus made it clear that he saw the Native Americans as servants to the Spaniards.

★ Spain Conquers the Caribbean

After Columbus set up his colony in Hispaniola, Spain sent more ships and

explorers to the Caribbean Islands. In addition to Hispaniola, the Spanish conquered Cuba, Puerto Rico, and Jamaica in their search for riches.

Treatment of Native Americans

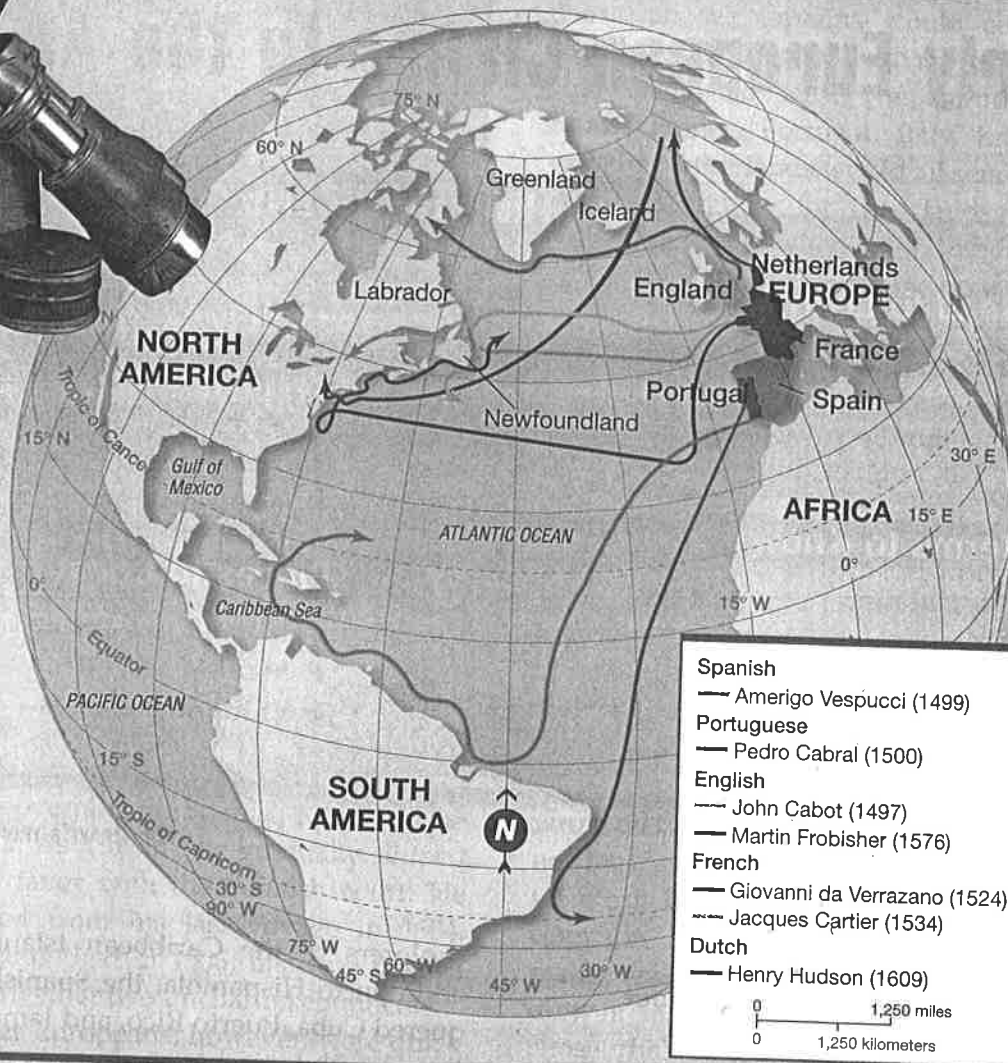
Native Americans soon came to fear the Spaniards. Using guns, which Native Americans had never seen before, the Spaniards killed thousands of people. Those who survived were enslaved.

By 1510 most of the gold in the Caribbean Islands had been mined, so the Spaniards turned to agriculture. They raised cattle and horses brought with them from Spain. They also set up plantations, or large farms that usually produce only one crop to be sold. On the plantations the Spaniards grew sugarcane, cotton, and other crops. Enslaved Native

European Voyages of Exploration, 1497–1609



▲ BINOCULARS AND COMPASS



Map Study

Movement Sea captains from a number of European countries explored the shores of North America, South America, and the islands of the Caribbean Sea. Who was the first English explorer to sail to the Americas?

Americans worked the plantations. When the Spaniards needed more workers, they brought enslaved Africans to the islands. Hundreds of Native Americans were also loaded onto ships and taken back to Spain to be sold into slavery.

The exchange of goods and ideas and people between Europe and the Americas came to be called the Columbian Exchange, named after Christopher

Columbus. The most deadly part of the exchange came with the passing of disease from Europeans to the Native Americans.

Spanish Priests in the Caribbean

The Spaniards felt it was also their duty to bring the Catholic faith to the Native Americans. They sent priests and missionaries along with the soldiers and explorers.

Some Spanish priests tried to defend the Native Americans against the harsh treatment of the soldiers.

One priest, **Bartolomé de Las Casas**, worked among the Native Americans for 50 years. He appealed to the Spanish government to help them. The government in Spain did establish rules for their protection. However, rules made in Europe were difficult to enforce thousands of miles across the ocean in the Caribbean.

★ Balboa and the Pacific

It took about 30 years for European explorers to realize that even after crossing the Atlantic, they were still a long way from Asia. They finally recognized, too, that North and South America were blocking their way. They did not give up the goal of finding a western sea route to Asia, however. They believed they could find a route through or around the two continents.

Spanish explorer **Vasco Núñez de Balboa** was the first European to discover a way across the Americas. His route, however, was a land route. Balboa first sailed to the **Isthmus of Panama**, the thin strip of land that joins North and South America. Then, in 1513 with the help of several hundred Native Americans and 190 crew members, he crossed the isthmus on foot.

The 45-mile (72-km) crossing was very difficult and took about a month to complete. Some reports said the treetops over the soldiers' heads were so dense that the sky was blocked out for days. Balboa's crew had to walk overland through thick plant growth in severe heat. They hacked their way through with large knives, fighting off insects, snakes, and fever.

At last Balboa saw an expanse of water ahead. In full armor, he rushed into the water to claim it and all the land it touched for Spain. Although he did not know it at the time, the waters Balboa claimed were another ocean—the **Pacific Ocean**.

★ Magellan Sails Around the World

After Balboa arrived at the Pacific Ocean, European explorers still had to cross an ocean to reach Asia. No one realized how large that ocean was, but **Ferdinand Magellan**, a Portuguese sea captain sailing for Spain, would be the first to find out.

Magellan was convinced he could find a way around the tip of South America, across the sea that Balboa had discovered, and on to Asia. He began his journey in 1519 with five ships and 241 sailors. His list of supplies included 2,800 pounds (1,271 kg) of cheese, 1,300 pounds (590 kg) of honey, 10,000 sardines, 800 pounds (363 kg) of flour, and 250 strings of garlic bulbs.

Naming the Pacific

Once Magellan reached southeastern South America, it took his fleet several months to travel down the coast. He stopped for supplies, to make repairs, and

World Voyages, 1519–1580



Map Study

Location Magellan and Sir Francis Drake were the first known sea captains to sail around the world. For which European countries did Magellan and Drake sail?



▲ FERDINAND MAGELLAN

was often delayed by bad weather. Whenever he went ashore, he claimed the land for Spain.

When Magellan approached the southern tip of South America, he sailed into a rocky, treacherous **strait**—a narrow channel of water. The strait was filled with many tiny islands and narrow, curving channels that came to dead ends. For six long weeks, the ships inched their way through the strait.

Finally, on the western side of South America, the ships came into a vast, calm ocean. Magellan named the waters “Pacific,” which means “peaceful.” Compared with the stormy Atlantic, the Pacific Ocean looked still and quiet. The dangerous strait through which his ships had just passed would later be called the **Strait of Magellan**.

To the Philippines and Spain

Magellan expected to reach Asia in just a few weeks after rounding South America. After months of sailing, however, there was still no sight of land.

Finally in the spring of 1521, after a brief stop on the island of Guam, Magellan

landed in the **Philippine Islands**. It would be his final stop. Only three ships remained, and many crew members had died. Magellan was killed when he became involved in a war among the islanders.

In 1522 the *Victoria*—the last of Magellan’s original five ships—returned to Spain. The *Victoria* was the first ship ever to circle the world, an important accomplishment. Of the 241 men who set out on the 3-year, 50,000-mile (80,450-km) voyage, only 18 completed the trip.

★ The English Sail West

Although Spain led the way in the exploration of the Americas, other European countries were also interested in the lands to the west. England was the first country to send an expedition to the Americas after Columbus’s voyages for Spain.

John Cabot’s First Voyage

An Italian sea captain, born Giovanni Cabotto, led England’s first voyage to America. In the 1480s, Cabotto moved to England and changed his name to **John Cabot**. Hearing of Columbus’s voyages, he convinced England’s King Henry VII to send him across the Atlantic in search of Asia.

Cabot made his first trip in 1497 and returned with news of a large landmass north of where Columbus had landed. Cabot had landed off the coast of Canada, on present-day Newfoundland. According to one account—in which he was most likely describing the Inuit—Cabot reported:

“The people of [the land] are dressed in the skins of animals; they use in their wars bows and arrows, lances and darts, and certain clubs of wood, and slings.”

Like Columbus, Cabot assumed he had reached Asia. He thought if he traveled along the coast he would eventually reach China and the Indies.

Cabot's Second Voyage

The following year, Cabot made another voyage across the North Atlantic with five ships. After exploring the coast of North America, one ship turned back to England after a bad storm. The others never returned, disappearing without a trace. Cabot's fate is still a mystery.

The English put aside any further interest in the Americas after Cabot's disappearance. His voyages, however, gave England its first claim to land in North America.

★ The French and the Northwest Passage

Neither Balboa nor Magellan had revealed a route through or around the American continents. Other Europeans wondered if there might be a sea route farther north. They even gave such a possible waterway a name—the Northwest Passage.

The French began a search for the Northwest Passage in 1524. They hired Italian sailor **Giovanni da Verrazano** for their first explorations.

Verrazano explored the eastern coast of North America between present-day North Carolina and Nova Scotia. He was the first European to sail into the harbor of present-day New York City. Verrazano was unable to find a water route through North America to Asia, however.

The French tried to find the Northwest Passage again 10 years later. In 1534 and 1535, the French navigator **Jacques Cartier** (kahr•TYAY) made two voyages. He sailed partway up the St. Lawrence River and claimed present-day Canada for France. Like many more explorers who came after him, Cartier had no luck finding a water passage to Asia.

The Spaniards meanwhile took little interest in the idea of a Northwest Passage. They continued to focus on the more southern regions of the Americas.

..... *Footnotes to History*

Northwest Passage Found A Northwest Passage does exist—in the cold and ice-jammed waters around the islands of northern Canada. Explorers found the route during the 1800s. Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen, however, was the first to successfully make an all-water trip through the Northwest Passage. His voyage lasted three years, from 1903 to 1906.

★ SECTION 4 REVIEW ★

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★ Checking for Understanding

1. Identify Vasco Núñez de Balboa, Ferdinand Magellan, John Cabot, Giovanni da Verrazano, Jacques Cartier, Isthmus of Panama, Strait of Magellan, Philippine Islands.
2. Define plantation, Columbian Exchange, strait, Northwest Passage.
3. What did Balboa set out to find?
4. Why was Magellan's voyage important?

Critical Thinking

5. **Comparing Points of View** Why might other European countries have felt more of a need to develop a Northwest Passage than Spain did?

ACTIVITY

6. See if you can figure out a possible Northwest Passage. Sketch your route on an outline map of North America.

CHAPTER 3 ★ REVIEW

Using Key Vocabulary

Match the numbered items in Column A with their definitions in Column B.

Column A

1. feudal system
2. monarch
3. navigation
4. colony
5. plantation

Column B

- a. territory governed and often settled by another country
- b. science of sailing and piloting ships
- c. large farm that usually grows only one crop meant to be sold
- d. system for managing land during the Middle Ages
- e. king or queen of a country

Reviewing Facts

1. Explain how the feudal system in Europe limited people's contact with one another.
2. Describe how the Crusades heightened European interest in trade.
3. Identify the first permanent European colony in the Western Hemisphere and when it was founded.
4. Explain how the Age of Exploration led to slaveholding in Europe and America.
5. List the achievements of explorers Balboa, Magellan, and Cartier.

Understanding Concepts

Economic Development

1. What changes brought about a growth in trade in Western Europe beginning around 1000?

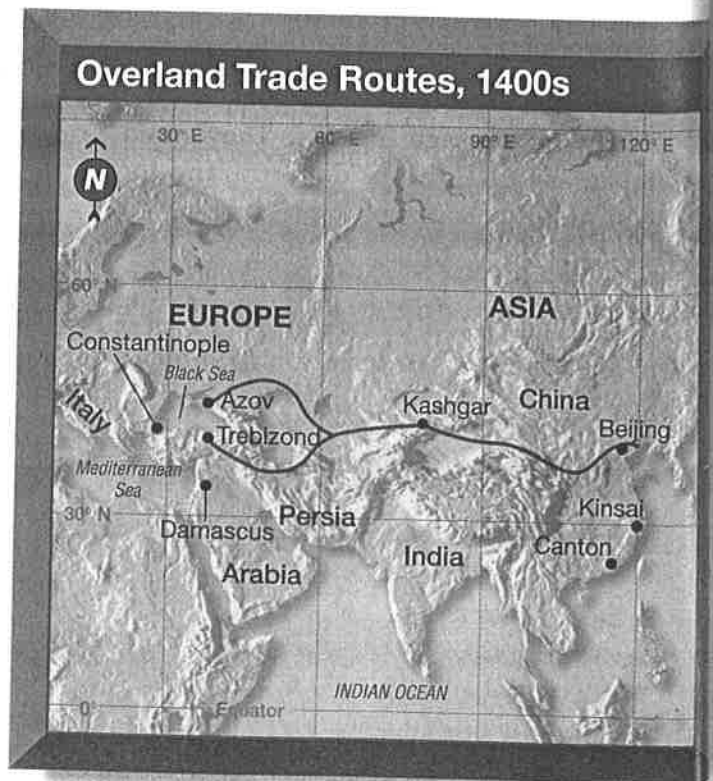
2. Why did Spain continue exploring the Americas even though Columbus had not found much gold?

Influence of Technology

3. How did the development of skills and crafts by manor workers influence the feudal system?
4. How did Prince Henry of Portugal help to improve navigation?
5. What were some of the things that scientists were interested in during the Renaissance?

Critical Thinking

1. **Making Inferences** Why do you think Western Europe did not try to find a sea route to Asia until after the 1400s?
2. **Analyzing Information** Which of the voyages discussed in this chapter do you think had the greatest impact on the history of the United States? Explain your answer.



CHAPTER 3 ★ REVIEW

1480–1499

- 1488 Dias sails around the Cape of Good Hope
- 1492 Columbus arrives in the Bahamas
- 1498 Columbus begins third voyage to America
- 1498 Da Gama reaches India

1500–1519

- 1513 Balboa reaches the Pacific Ocean
- 1518 Spaniards bring enslaved Africans to America

1520–1539

- 1522 Magellan's world voyage completed
- 1534 Cartier explores Canada

History and Geography

Overland Trade Routes

Study the map of overland trade routes in the 1400s shown on page 86. Then answer the following questions.

- Location** What Chinese city was at the eastern end of the route across Asia?
- Place** At what body of water in the west did the overland routes end?
- Movement** Through what continents did the overland routes pass?
- Location** What cities shown on this map would prosper more from trade routes over water rather than trade routes over land?

Cooperative Learning Interdisciplinary Activity: Language Arts

As a group, choose an explorer discussed in this chapter. Use library sources to research the explorer's life and achievements. Prepare an interview with that explorer. Plan the questions to ask and the answers you would expect the explorer to give. Include questions relating to the explorer's life as well as the explorations. Write the interview as a magazine article.

If you prefer, make a taped interview in which one member of your group speaks as the explorer and the other members ask questions.

Practicing Skills

Reading a Time Line

Study the time line above. Then answer the following questions.

1. What is the time span on this time line?
2. How far apart are the intervals on this time line?
3. Which two events occurred in 1498?
4. How many years were there between Columbus's voyage to the Bahamas and the completion of Magellan's world voyage?

Writing ABOUT History

Using Your Journal

Imagine your boss at the newspaper has asked you to write a front-page story for tomorrow's paper. Choose one of the headlines from your journal and write a story to go with it.