

#### Native Americans & Explorers

Native Americans were here long before the European explorers came to the Americas. When Columbus first landed in the Bahamas, he saw Native Americans. Columbus thought he was in the West Indies so he called the native people, Indians. Most natives were friendly to the Europeans giving them food, furs, and other gifts.



#### Native Americans & Explorers

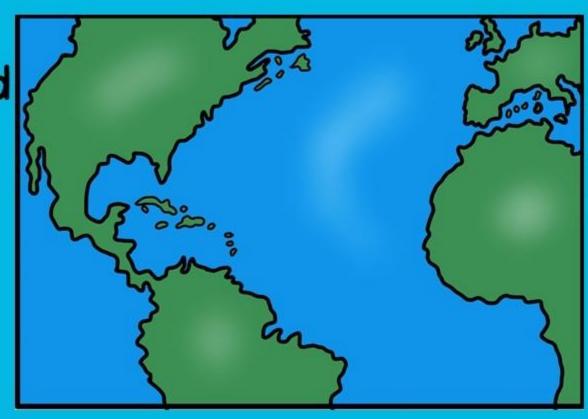
For a while, the Native Americans and Europeans traded items with each other. The Europeans mainly wanted furs, gold, silver, and natural resources like timber to build new settlements. The Native Americans wanted metal pots and copper kettles to replace their clay pots and hand woven baskets.

#### Native Americans & Explorers

Many times Europeans grew frustrated trying to communicate with the Native Americans. When they discovered that they did not have gold, jewels, or other riches the explorers wanted, they began treating them poorly. The Native Americans believed that the Earth and land was owned by everyone. It didn't take too long before many European settlers were building new colonies, forcing the Native Americans to change their way of life and move to new areas.

News of Columbus's journey spread quickly all throughout Europe. Some European rulers did not want Spain to gain all the wealth, riches, land, and power in the New World. England, France, Italy, and Portugal started sending explorers to find gold, silver, spices, and land to claim for themselves. They were also interested in finding a shorter passage to Asia.

During this time, countries in the Far East (Asia) such as China and India, had jewels, spices, and silk that were greatly desired in Europe. But traveling there was difficult. There were two ways to get there.



They could travel over land on the Silk Road. The Silk Road was over 4,000 miles long. It took months to travel, trade, and return home with new wares.

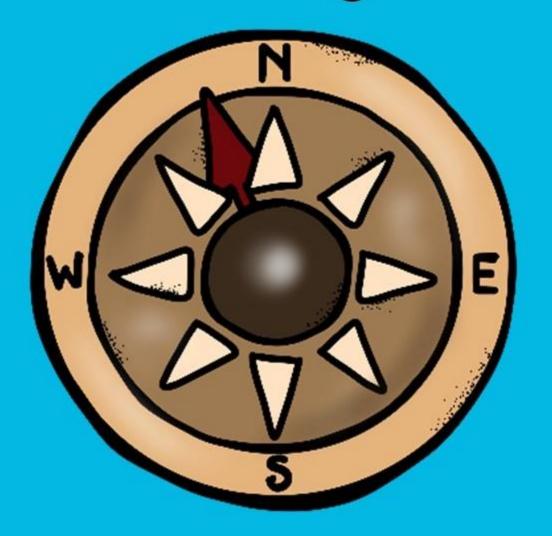


By ship was a very long journey as well because they had to go around the southern tip of Africa. Both routes proved to be long, difficult, and dangerous so explorers were always trying to find a shorter and safer route. They called it the Northwest Passage.



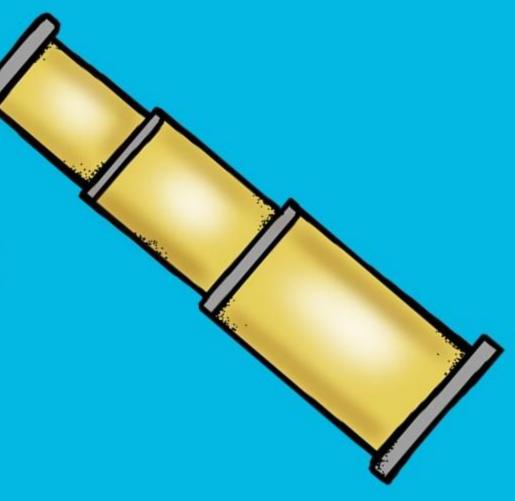
### Instruments to Navigate

A magnetic compass was used to help sailors navigate on the open seas. A compass has a magnetic needle that always points toward true north. The Chinese invented the first compass about 2,000 years ago.



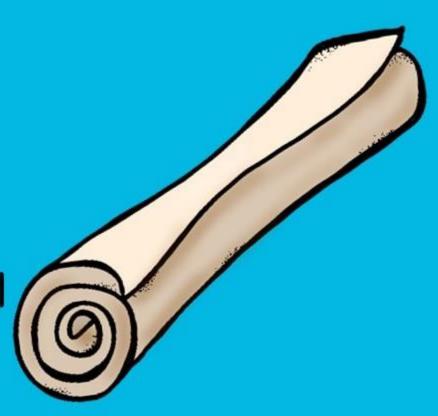
## Instruments to Navigate

At the very top of the ship sat a crew member. He was looking through a telescope to see far into the distance. What was he looking for? He kept an eye out for dangers ahead including other ships, glaciers, huge whales, and rough seas. Of course he was always watching for land too! Land-ho!



### Instruments to Navigate

Although maps were not completely accurate during the time of the early explorers, they definitely helped them find their way. During the Age of Exploration, mapmakers used a grid of crisscross lines as a guide. The lines helped a navigator to find the distance from port to port. Using both a compass and a map helped them sail in the correct direction across the wide ocean.



### Voyage to the New World

The journey across the Atlantic Ocean to the New World was not an easy one. Rough seas would pound against the ship causing the crew to get sea sickness. There was a limited supply of food and water. Everyone had to eat small rations because they never knew exactly how long it was going to take to reach land.

# Voyage to the New World

During this time, there were no motors or engines to drive the ship. They were totally dependent upon the wind, currents, and the captain's navigation. No one knew what dangers lurked deep in the ocean. Some thought there were sea monsters or giant snakes. Many had heard stories about pirates raiding ships and taking crew members as prisoners.



## Voyage to the New World

The crew members took turns working and directing the ship, with half the crew sleeping while the off half worked. During their off times, they kept busy by fishing, story-telling, singing songs, and playing games. There were barrels of food and supplies including rice, flour, salted meats, water, beans, and bread. They also brought fishing poles, hooks, cloth to make new sails, gunpowder, cannon balls, warm clothes, and blankets.

Columbus believed that the circumference of the world was less than 20,000 miles around. He thought that traveling west across the Atlantic Ocean was the fastest and safest way to get to China. His goal was to find a shorter route to India and China in his quest for gold, silk, and spices.



Many people thought he was crazy but he didn't give up! Sailing trips were expensive so Columbus went to the King and Queen of Spain to ask them to pay for his journey. They agreed to sponsor him.

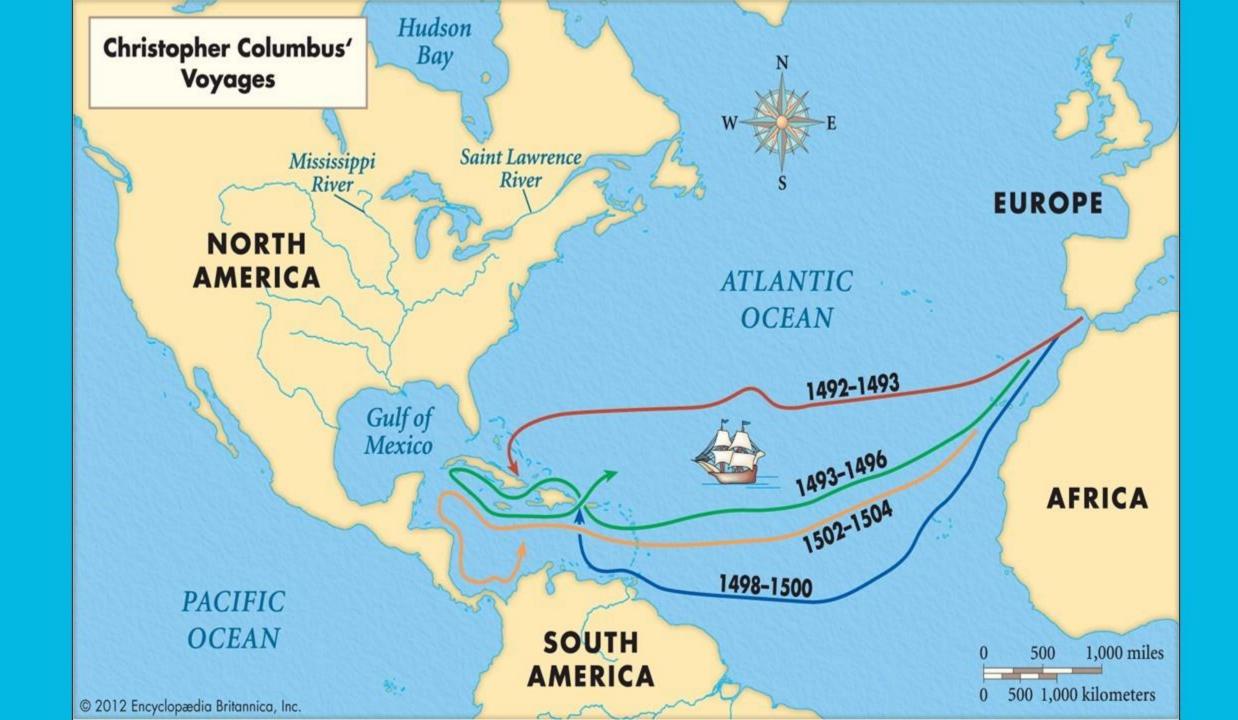


They gave him 3 ships and a crew of 90 men. The ships were named *The Nina, The Pinta,* and *The Santa Maria.* It took them 70 days, over two months, to sail across the Atlantic Ocean.



Columbus expected to see buildings of gold but instead he was greeted by the Native Americans. The Indians, as Columbus called them, were friendly and gave them food. He had landed in the Bahamas. He left a group of men behind to create a settlement and headed back home. When he made it back to Spain, he was called a hero!

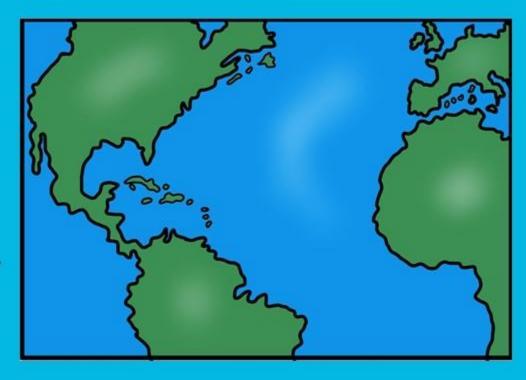




Giovanni Caboto was born in Italy. Even at a young age, he loved the sea. When he was 40, he changed his name to John Cabot and moved his family to England. He knew that England's king wanted to explore new lands so he told him of his idea. Cabot believed he could sail westward across the Atlantic Ocean to reach Asia.



He was given one small ship, called the Mathew, and a crew of 18 men for his voyage. One of the crew member's was Cabot's son, Sebastian. It took five weeks to cross the Atlantic Ocean. Cabot thought he was in China, but he had landed on an island near Canada.



Cabot named the island St. John. Cabot returned to England to share his success. He was given the title of "The Great Admiral." The king was happy and paid for a second longer trip to explore this "New Found Land" as it was called. Cabot was given 5 ships, 300 crew members, and permission to start a colony in the new land.



Unfortunately, after leaving on his second voyage, John Cabot and his crew disappeared. They were never heard from again. His son, Sebastian, went on many more expeditions and became a skilled map-maker.



## Voyages of Cabot



Henry Hudson

Henry Hudson grew up in London, England. As a teen he served as a cabin boy on several voyages. He decided then that he wanted to spend his life exploring new places. It wasn't long before he became the captain of a ship in search for a new trade route to the Far East.

# Henry Hudson

Henry believed he could find a shorter trade route to Asia by sailing north into the Artic Ocean. The leaders of the Muscovy Company agreed to pay for his voyage and gave him a ship called the *Hopewell*. Hudson and his crew traveled around the coast of Greenland and Norway. There he saw a large body of water filled with so many whales that he named it Whales Bay. His trip was stopped short by glaciers but Henry's discovery of whales led to the valuable Whaling Industry.

# Henry Hudson

Henry Hudson faced many obstacles such as freezing temperatures, stormy weather, and mammoth glaciers. Most of his crew became unhappy as he always pushed onward through dangerous weather and limited supplies. On his fourth and final journey, Henry explored the coast of Canada before his ship became trapped by ice in the Hudson Bay. They were never seen or heard from again.



Voyages of Hudson



#### Juan Ponce De León

Juan grew up during an exciting time in Spain. Christopher Columbus had just returned from his first voyage and news about a New World spread quickly. Columbus was planning to set sail again soon and was looking for men to join his crew. Juan Ponce de Leon sailed with Columbus on his second trip to the Americas.



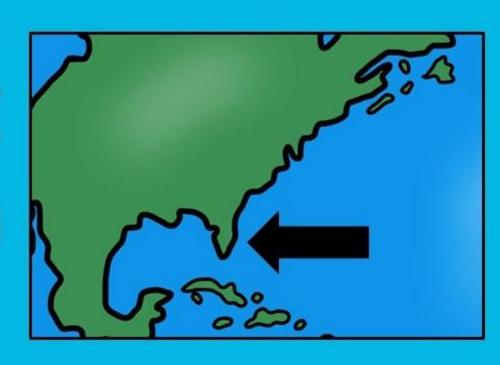
### Juan Ponce De León

After arriving in Hispaniola, Juan was sent to lead the forces to the nearby island of Puerto Rico. Many claimed it was full of gold. Ponce de Leon was a mighty leader and conquered Puerto Rico and named the first city San Juan.



#### Juan Ponce De León

Juan Ponce de Leon went to the King of Spain and asked to discover new lands and riches for Spain. The king agreed to the mission and gave him 3 ships and 60 crew members. About one month later, they landed on a warm, sunny, beautiful place. Ponce de Leon named it Florida, which means "covered in flowers" in Spanish.



Voyages of Ponce De León



Jacques Cartier

Jacques began sailing with French explorer Giovanni da Verrazano on his explorations of the coast of Canada when he was young. It was not long after that trip that the King of France sent Jacques Cartier on his own voyage to explore the New World.



#### Jacques Cartier

In 1534, the King of France sent Jacques Cartier to find riches and a northwestern passage to Asia. Jacques landed about a month later at the mouth of the St. Lawrence River in what is now Canada. Cartier followed the St. Lawrence River for over 1,000 miles during his three voyages. He hoped it would lead him to the Pacific Ocean on the other side of North America. But it did not.





#### Jacques Cartier

Cartier overcame many obstacles during his voyages including harsh weather, icy waters, and terrible snow storms. During one of his trips, his crew became ill with a disease called scurvy.

At first the Native Americans were friendly but when they learned that Cartier was there to claim the land and riches for France, they began attacking them.

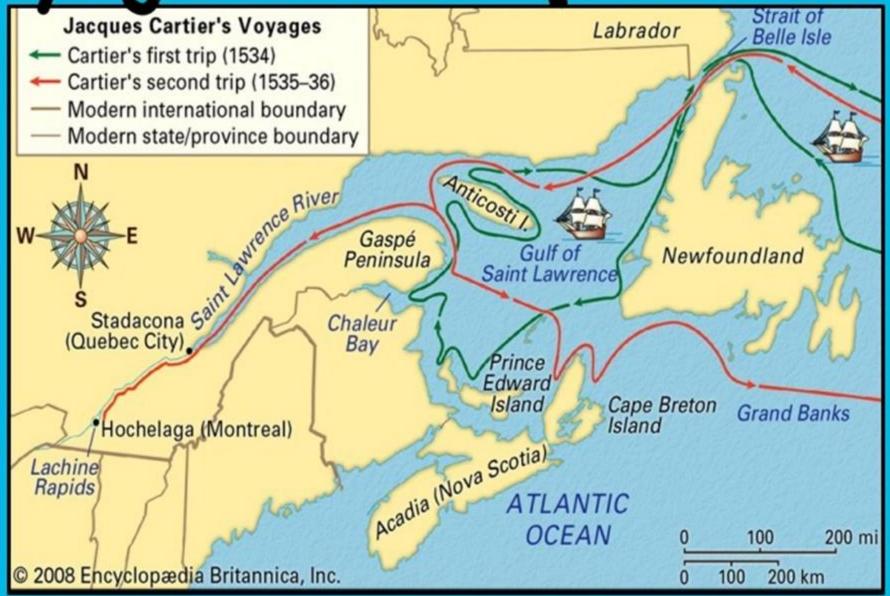




Jacques Cartier tried to set up a new colony near present day Quebec. But he was forced to the new settlement after being attacked by the Native Americans. His travels along the St. Lawrence River paves the way for future exploration of Canada.

Today, Jacques Cartier is remembered for his discovery of the St. Lawrence River and for giving Canada its name.

Voyages of Jacques Cartier

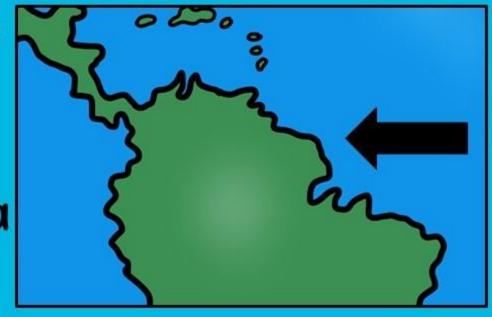


# Vasco Núnez De Balboa

Vasco Nunez de Balboa was born in Spain. From a young age, he wanted to become a famous explorer. As a boy he practiced fencing with a sword which helped him later in life. He came from a poor family so he decided to leave Spain looking for riches in the New World.

# Vasco Núñez De Balboa

In 1501, Balboa joined an expedition from Spain to Colombia. He explored the coast of Colombia looking for gold, silver, and other riches. Because of a leaky ship, he ended up staying in Hispaniola for a short time working as a farmer. Balboa started a new colony, named Darien. It was the first European settlement in South America!

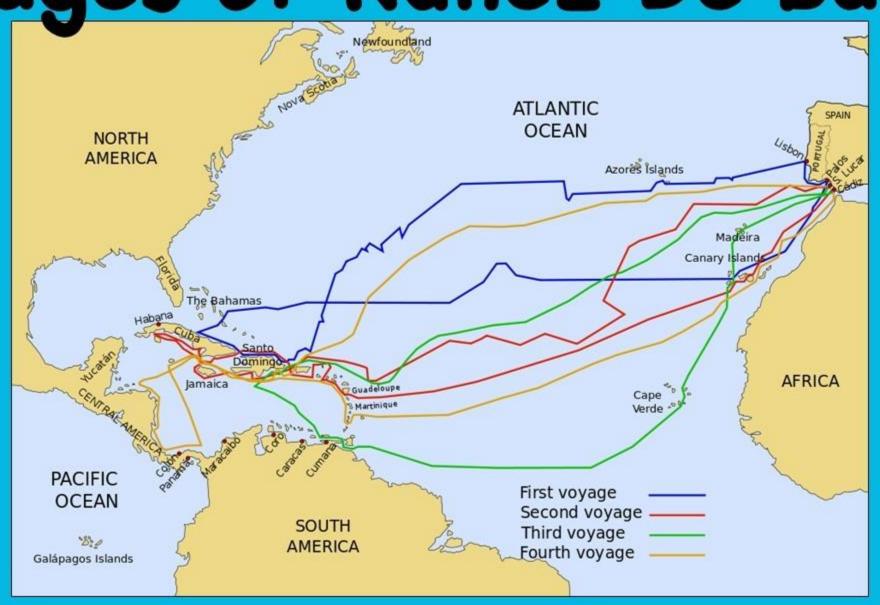


# Vasco Núñez De Balboa

Balboa is best known for discovering a land route across Panama to the Pacific Ocean. In 1513, he was the first European to see the Pacific Ocean! Then he sailed up and down the coastline of South America conquering the Native American's villages and claiming the land for Spain.

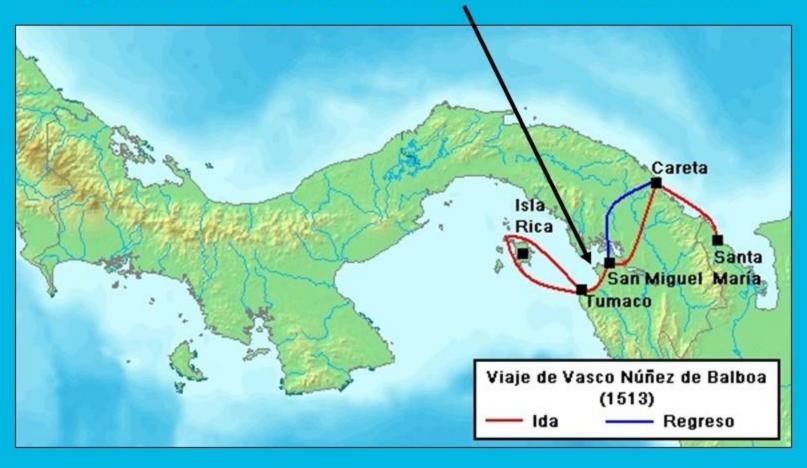


# Voyages of Núñez De Balboa



## Voyages of Núñez De Balboa

This is where Balboa crossed over land in 1513 to see the Pacific Ocean for the first time.



Hernando de Soto was born in Spain around 1500. Many famous explorers such as Columbus and Balboa were from Spain. In fact, Hernando de Soto was a teenager when Balboa discovered the Pacific Ocean. It came as no surprise to his parents that Hernando wanted to be an explorer too. In 1514, de Soto went on his first expedition to the New World.



A few years later in 1531, under explorer Francisco Pizarro, Hernando de Soto went on an expedition to Peru. On this journey, he discovered a route leading to Cuzco, the capital city of the Incas. Known for his bravery, de Soto went on ahead without Pizarro. There he led an attack ending in the capture of the Inca's capital city. This attack resulted in the defeat of the Incan Empire.



Back home in Spain, Hernando de Soto grew restless. Using all his savings, he prepared for another expedition, this time to North America. On April 6, 1583, de Soto set sail with ten ships and a crew of 700 men. On May 25, 1539 they landed at Tampa Bay, Florida. For the next three years, they explored the southeastern United States in search of gold and riches. They had many encounters and battles with the Native Americans along the way.



Even though de Soto was a young explorer, he was bold and demanding in his encounters with the natives. After exploring Florida, they traveled north into Georgia and Alabama. Then in the spring of 1541, he discovered the mouth of the Mississippi River. Before heading back, he led his men through Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. With this voyage, Hernando de Soto became the first European to cross the Mississippi River. Before heading back, de Soto and his men explored westward into Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. and Texas



Hernando de Soto overcame many obstacles during his missions. He encountered many Native American groups on his journey. Hernando de Soto treated many Native American tribes poorly and took many captive. In Alabama, Hernando de Soto fought a long and difficult battle against the Native Americans in Tuscaloosa.



Today, he is best known for helping explorer Francisco Pizarro conquer the Incas. He is also known for exploring the southeastern United States and being the first European to have crossed the Mississippi River. His discovery of the Mississippi River led to further exploration and expansion into the Midwest.



Artifacts give us many clues and a sneak peek into the Mighty Inca Empire. The Inca Empire was huge! It stretched along the Pacific coast into Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia, Chile, and part of Argentina. The capital city of Cusco was where the great Inca emperor lived and ruled.



The Incas built their towns and villages high up in the Andes mountains. The Andes are the world's second highest mountain range. Living in the mountains can be difficult. How do you think the Incas were able to build their homes, or farm at such great heights? The Incas were very smart! They used the natural resources all around them to their advantage. In fact, they became expert builders. Building hanging bridges across mountain gorges was a clever way to make travel easier.



Today, if you went to Peru, you can still see the magnificent city in the sky called Machu Picchu. Machu Picchu has more than 3,000 steps and 150 buildings, temples, and houses that flow through this stunning city. It is believed to have been a royal home for Inca leaders.



Do you love potatoes? You can thank the Incas for them. Since potatoes are one of the few crops that can grow in a cooler climate, it became the main part of their diet. Once again, the Incas used their environment to the fullest by growing their crops right into the earth on the terracing hillsides. The Incas domesticated, or tamed, animals such as llamas, alpacas, and vicuñas because they were able to balance easily on the narrow pathways on the mountainsides.

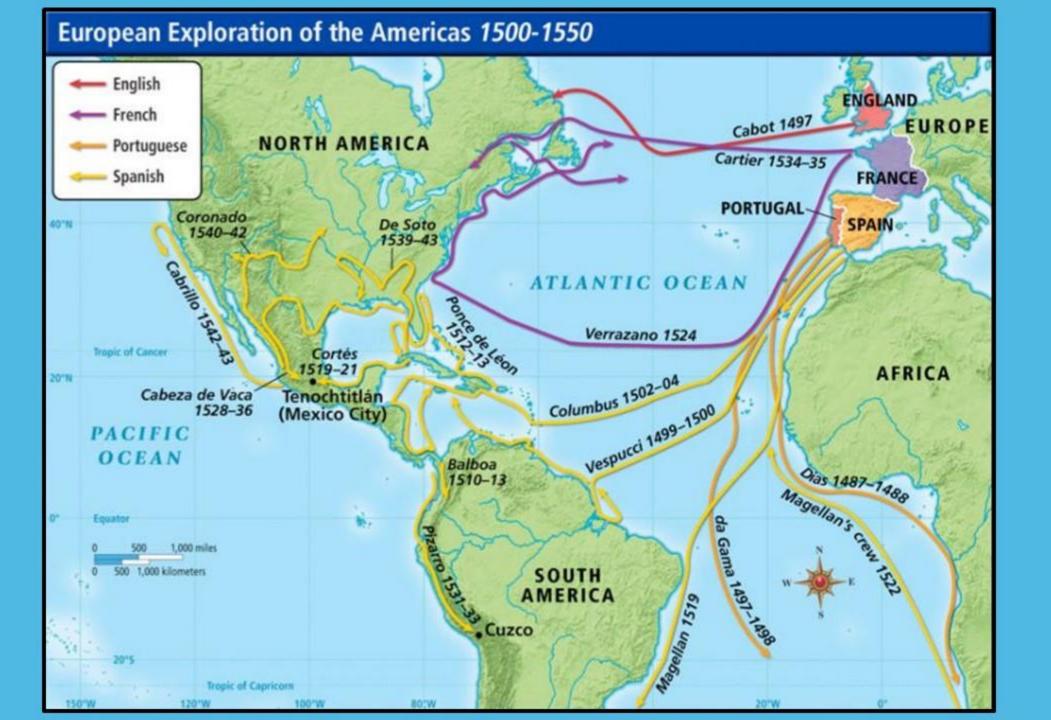


Religion was vital to the Incas. One of their most famous ceremonies was the Sun Festival. It was held each spring in Cusco. Like many other ancient civilizations, the Incas believed in honoring their gods by performing sacrifices. The great Inca Empire ended suddenly when Spanish explorers, Francisco Pizarro and Hernando De Soto, conquered them.



### Voyages of de Soto



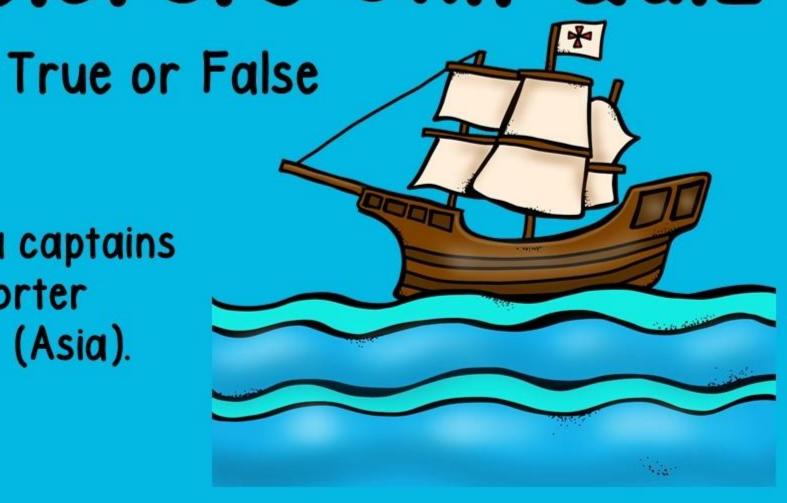


I. During the age of exploration, many sea captains were looking for a shorter route to the Far East (Asia).



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True



True or False

2. In 1513, Balboa was the first European to see the Pacific Ocean!



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True or False

3. On his 2<sup>nd</sup> voyage, John Cabot and his crew disappeared and were never heard from again!



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True



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4. Hudson explored many new areas such as the coast of Canada as well as Hudson Bay and Hudson River.



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True or False

5. On Columbus's first voyage, it took him 30 days to cross the Atlantic Ocean.



True or False

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False



True or False

6. In 1493, Juan Ponce de Leon went with Christopher Columbus on his second voyage to America.



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True or False

7. The Native Americans and European explorers respected and helped each other.



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False



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Today, he is best known for helping explorer Francisco Pizarro conquer the Incas. He is also known for exploring the southeastern United States and being the first European to have crossed the Mississippi River.



## Early Explorers Vocabulary



# Explorer



A person who travels to unknown places usually in search of something valuable or rare like gold, silk, and jewels.

#### Native



A person who was born in the country in which she or he currently lives.

## Sponsor



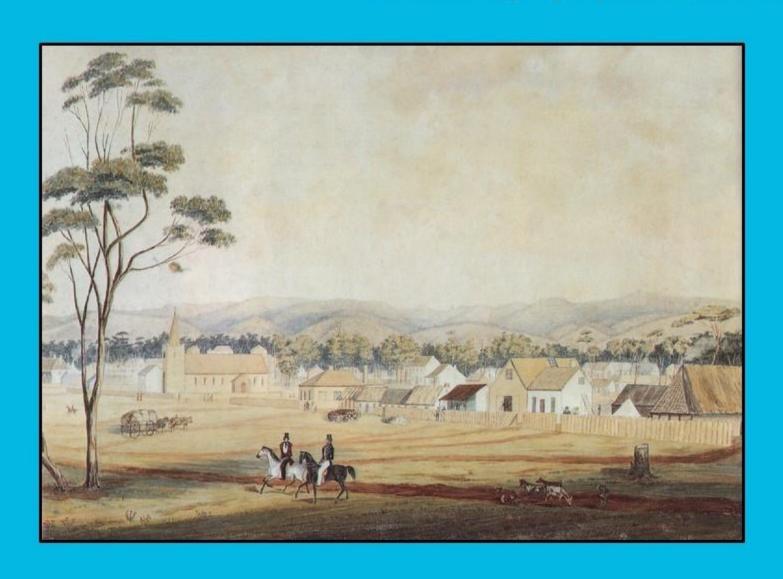
A person, country, or business that agrees to pay for a project or activity in exchange for new information, land, or valuables.

# Navigator



The person in charge of plotting and directing the course of a ship.

#### Settlement



A place where a group of people live.

#### Vessel



A ship or large boat.

## Voyage



A trip by water, over land, by air, or through space.

## Territory



Any large area of land.

## Cargo



Goods carried by a ship, airplane, truck, or other vehicle.

#### New World



The name sometimes used for North and South America.

### Colony



Lands settled and ruled by people from another country.

# Expedition



A journey or voyage taken by a group of people with a goal or purpose in mind.

#### The Incas



The Inca Empire stretched along the Pacific coast into Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia, Chile, and part of Argentina.