

## Age of Exploration and Trade

### Lesson 1 The Age of Exploration

#### ESSENTIAL QUESTION

*How does technology change the way people live?*

#### GUIDING QUESTIONS

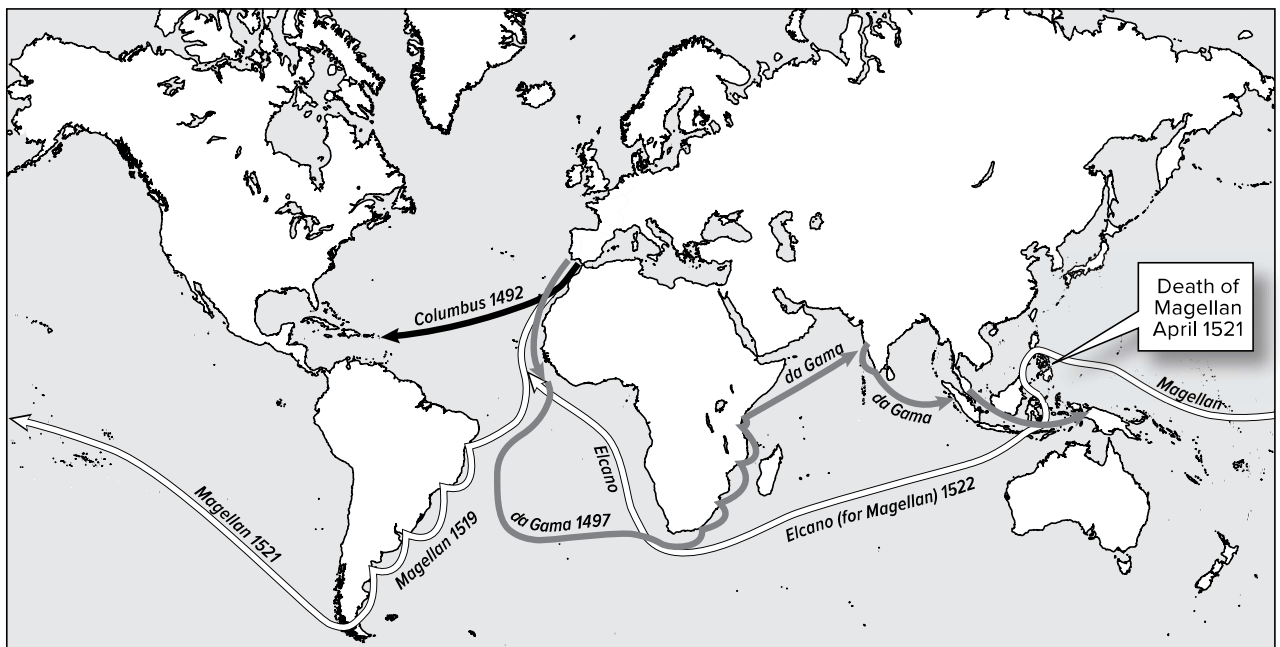
1. *Why did Europeans begin to explore the world?*
2. *Which leaders were responsible for European exploration of the world?*

#### Terms to Know

**conquistadors** Spanish soldiers who conquered people in other lands

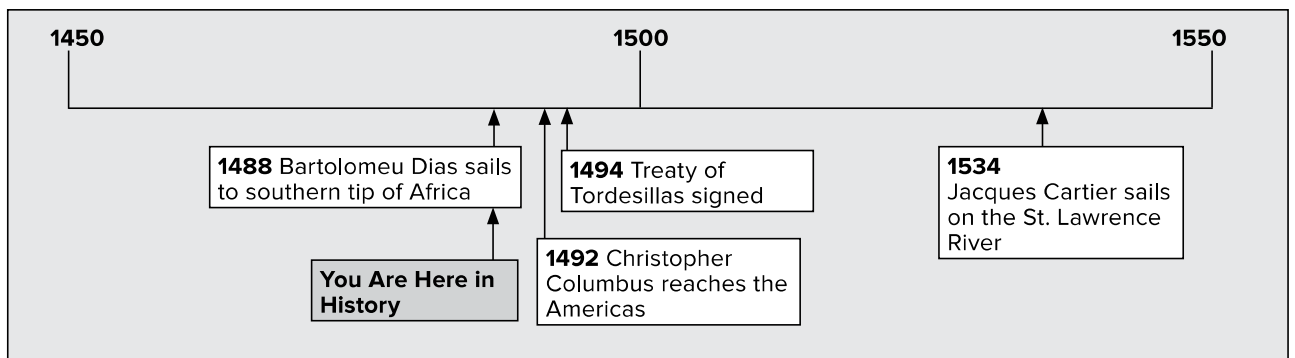
**circumnavigate** to go completely around something, such as the world

### Where in the world?



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### When did it happen?



## Age of Exploration and Trade

### Lesson 1 The Age of Exploration, *Continued*

#### Europe Gets Ready to Explore

In the 1400s and 1500s, countries in Western Europe began exploring the world. They wanted spices, silk, and other goods from Asia.

Political change in the countries between Europe and Asia made it more difficult and expensive to trade goods by land. If European traders could not get there by land, maybe they could get there by sea. Their ships, however, were not equipped to travel the Atlantic Ocean.

By the 1400s, they had the tools they needed. From the Arabs, they learned about the astrolabe and the compass. The astrolabe was an ancient Greek tool used to find latitude. The compass was a tool that sailors used to figure out which direction they were going.

European shipbuilders made better ships. They used sails invented by the Arabs that were shaped like triangles. These sails let a ship go in any direction. No longer did they have to go just where the wind blew.

By the 1400s, many people in Europe knew the world was round. However, they had maps of only Europe and the Mediterranean region. Sailors began to study ancient maps and books.

#### What Europeans Needed to Find Asia

- astrolabe and compass for directions
- sails for ships
- maps from Ptolemy and al-Idrisi

A Greek geographer named Claudius Ptolemy had drawn maps of the world. He wrote down the latitude and longitude of over 8,000 places. Europeans began studying his maps. Sailors and explorers were able to get copies of the maps because of the invention of the printing press.

Sailors also studied the works of an Arab geographer named al-Idrisi. Europeans learned about the Indian Ocean. They decided that sailing around Africa was the best way to get to Asia.

Even though the Europeans had new tools, exploration was still dangerous and costly. During this time, towns and trade also grew. This made Europe's governments stronger. By the 1400s, four kingdoms were looking for a sea route to Asia. All of them had ports on the Atlantic Ocean. The race was on between England, Portugal, Spain, and France.



#### Marking the Text

1. Underline the reason Europeans decided to sail to Asia.



#### Describing

2. What improvements did Europeans make to their ships?

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#### Identifying

3. Who were Ptolemy and al-Idrisi?

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#### Reading Check

4. How did new technology make it possible for Europeans to make long ocean voyages?

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**Age of Exploration and Trade**

**Lesson 1** The Age of Exploration, *Continued*

**FOLDABLES®**



**Describing**

5. Place a two-tab Foldable along the dotted line to cover the text *Early Voyages of Discovery*. Cut the tabs in half to form four tabs. Title the anchor tab *Explorers*. Label the four tabs *Portugal*, *Spain*, *England*, and *France*.

Identify the explorers of each country and briefly describe their travels in the new world.



**Drawing Conclusions**

6. Why was Portugal able to begin exploring before other countries?

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**Marking the Text**

7. Circle the names of explorers who came to the Americas.

**Early Voyages of Discovery**

In the early 1400s, England and France were still fighting each other, and Spain was battling the Muslims. Portugal was free to lead the way to explore new trade routes to Asia. Prince Henry of Portugal paid for many voyages of exploration. About 1420, his sailors traveled along Africa's west coast. They made maps of what they found.

In 1488 Bartolomeu Dias reached the southern tip of Africa. Nine years later, Vasco da Gama rounded the tip of Africa. He raced across the Indian Ocean to the southwest coast of India. He had found a water route to East Asia.

An Italian navigator then came up with a different plan to get to Asia. His name was Christopher Columbus. He decided to sail west, not east, across the Atlantic Ocean.

Columbus had three ships: the *Santa María*, the *Niña*, and the *Pinta*. They left Spain in 1492 and headed west. After many weeks, they finally saw land. Columbus thought he was in Asia. He did not realize he was in the Americas.

He made several more trips. He brought **conquistadors**, or Spanish soldier-explorers, with him to conquer the people of the new lands. Europeans eventually realized they had found new continents.

**Major explorers:**

- Bartolomeu Dias
- Vasco da Gama
- Christopher Columbus
- Ferdinand Magellan
- John Cabot
- Giovanni da Verrazano

The English heard about Columbus's trip. They also wanted to find a route to Asia. In 1497 John Cabot headed across the Atlantic Ocean. Cabot came to the coast of Canada. He did not find a path to Asia. Cabot was lost at sea on his second trip. He was never heard from again.

In 1520 Ferdinand Magellan sailed south along the coast of South America. He found a way around the continent. He then went west. His sailors almost starved. After four months at sea, they reached the present-day Philippines. There, Magellan died

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**Lesson 1** The Age of Exploration, *Continued*

in a battle between local groups. His crew then went west across the Indian Ocean. They went around Africa and back to Spain. They were the first known people to **circumnavigate**, or sail around, the world.

In 1524 France sent Giovanni da Verrazano to find a northern route to Asia. He drew maps of the east coast of America, but he did not find a way to Asia. Ten years later, Jacques Cartier entered the St. Lawrence River. He claimed much of eastern Canada for France.

After these early trips, France stopped exploring for a time. By the mid-1500s, France and England were involved in religious conflicts and civil wars. It wasn't until the early 1600s that these countries began exploring again. Spain and Portugal had territories in South America, Mexico, and the Caribbean. So France and England began to establish their colonies in North America.

**Check for Understanding**

List five things Europeans needed to find a new route to Asia.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

List two explorers who reached Asia from different directions.

6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_

**Defining**

8. What does it mean to circumnavigate something?

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\_\_\_\_\_

**Reading Check**

9. Why was it important for the explorers of the Americas to use information they learned from earlier explorers?

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**FOLDABLES®**

10. Place a two-tab Foldable along the dotted line. Title the anchor tab *Technology & Exploration*. Label the two tabs *Advances in Ships and Sailing* and *Explorers Try to Reach Asia*.

On both sides of the tabs, write five or more words that you remember about technology and exploration.

Glue Foldable here