

UNIT 1, SECTION 3: THE AGE OF EXPLORATION

Europeans Explore the Seas

- during the Crusades, many luxury goods came from Asia to Europe - Mongol empire - united much of Asia in the 1200s-1300s - more goods flowed to Europe
- Black Death, breakup of Mongol empire disrupted trade, but by the 1400s, more trade goods came to Europe, especially spices (cinnamon, cloves, nutmeg, pepper) - used as a food preservative/flavor enhancer, used in making medicines and perfumes
- Spice Islands (located in present-day Indonesia) - main source of spices for Europeans

Motives

1. desire for wealth - Europeans wanted direct access to the riches of Asia - Portugal, then Spain, sought a sea route to Asia that bypassed the Med. Sea
2. religion - many Christians wanted to continue a crusade against Muslims, wished to spread their religion to other lands
3. curiosity/adventure - the Renaissance spirit fired people's desire to learn more about lands beyond Europe

Improved Technology

1. cartographers (mapmakers) - created more accurate maps and sea charts
2. astrolabe - navigational tool used to determine latitude at sea
3. caravel - large ship used by the Portuguese - combined square (European) sails with triangular (Arab) sails, rudder and masts of Chinese ships - added weaponry (cannon)

Portugal Sails Eastward

- by the 1400s, Portugal led the way in exploration

Mapping the African Coast

Henry the Navigator - Prince Henry of Portugal - gathered scientists, cartographers, other experts - trained captains, crews for long voyages - sent ships to explore the west coast of Africa

- 1488 - Bartholomeu Dias rounded the Cape of Good Hope (southern tip of Africa)
 - opened the way for a sea route to Asia

On To India

Vasco da Gama - 1497 - sailed around Cape of Good Hope, reached India in 10 months

- disastrous voyage home - many sailors died of thirst, hunger and **scurvy** (disease caused by lack of vitamin C)
- he brought back spices from India, returned in 1502 - Portuguese seized key ports around the Indian Ocean, created a vast trading empire

Columbus Sails to the West

Christopher Columbus - navigator from Genoa, Italy - planned to sail west, hoped to find a shortcut to Asia

- Portugal wouldn't fund his voyage, but he persuaded Ferdinand & Isabella of Spain to finance his trip - they were seeking new sources of wealth and eager to spread Christianity

- Aug. 3, 1492 - began voyage heading west across the Atlantic with 3 ships: the *Nina*, the *Pinta*, and the *Santa Maria* - spotted land on Oct. 12 (Bahamas) - called the natives Indians because he thought he was in the Indies (islands of SE Asia) - after returning to Spain and making 3 more voyages, he remained convinced he had reached Asia (many began to realize he'd reached new continents unknown to Europeans)

Line of Demarcation

Portugal & Spain - both laid claims to lands explored by Columbus - to keep the peace, Pope Alexander VI set a Line of Demarcation dividing the non-European world into two zones: trading/exploring rights west of the line -> Spain - east of the line -> Portugal - recognized by both countries in the Treaty of Tordesillas - 1494

Naming the "New World"

- 1507 - a German cartographer, reading reports written by Italian sailor Amerigo Vespucci, labeled the new region America - islands explored by Columbus in the Caribbean were called the West Indies

The Search Continues

Vasco Nunez de Balboa (Spain) - 1513 - crossed isthmus of Panama, came to a huge body of water he called the South Sea

Juan Ponce de Leon (Spain)- 1513 - was searching for the legendary Fountain of Youth, discovered Florida (Spain settlements began as a result)

Ferdinand Magellan (Spain) - 1519 - his 5 ships sailed around South America - put down at least two mutinies - 1520 - faced brutal storms rounding the continent - strait became known as the Strait of Magellan - entered Balboa's South Sea, renamed it the Pacific ("peaceful") Ocean

Circumnavigating the Globe

- most of Magellan's crew wanted to return home, but he wanted to push on to the Spice Islands - took 4 months to cross the Pacific - 1521 - reached the Philippines - Magellan was killed there after getting involved in a local conflict - one ship, 18 sailors made it back to Seville, Spain on Sept. 8, 1522 (3 years after voyage began) - first crew to **circumnavigate** (sail around) the world

Sir Francis Drake (England) - first navigator to survive a voyage around the world (1577-1580) - an explorer/pirate - brought gold/riches back to Queen Elizabeth I

Searching for a Northwest Passage

- English, Dutch, and French searched the coast of North America for a northwest passage to Asia

- passage never found, but exploration led to new claims in the New World:

1. John Cabot (sailed for England) - found rich fishing grounds off Newfoundland (Canada), claimed for England
2. Jacques Cartier (France) - explored St. Lawrence River
3. Henry Hudson (sailing for the Dutch) - explored the Hudson River