The Drive to Explore

- The Age of Exploration was driven in large part by the search for wealth.
- Europeans wanted luxuries such as silk, perfume, and jade from China and India, but Italy controlled the flow of these goods.
- Many of the explorers who set out in the 1400 and 1500s tried to find another way to China hoping to gain a foothold in trade.
- Some set out for fame and glory. They hoped that making a big discovery would make themselves a name.
- Other explorers hoped to spread their faith.
- Some just wanted to see what was out there like Marco Polo who traveled to China and served in the court of Kublai Khan for a while.
ADVANCES IN TECHNOLOGY

• To make long voyages, sailors needed precise means to calculate their location.
• The compass brought from China allowed sailors to tell at any time what direction was north.
• The astrolabe was a tool adapted from the Muslims that allowed them to calculate their location based on the stars and the sun.
• Skills in shipbuilding were also a big part of navigation.
• Bigger ships that allowed them to travel through rougher water and carry more supplies.
Another new ship that aided in exploration was the caravel.
   - A fast and light sailing ship.
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It steered with a ruder at the rear instead of side oars used on earlier ships.
It also had lateen sails, triangular sails that could be turned to catch the wind from any direction.
It was also equipped with weapons including cannons.
Based on all these features it becomes one of the favorite exploratory ships
Portugal was the first country to launch large-scale voyages of exploration.

Prince Henry, or Henry the Navigator, was not himself an explorer, but he was a patron and supporter of those that did want to explore.

Henry sent explorers in every direction.

As a result, the Portuguese began to settle some of the islands in the Atlantic.

They also learned a lot about the African coast line including that gold and slaves were not in short supply.

Henry wanted to find a water route to India, but he died before it happened.

Bartolomeu Dias was the first to sail around the tip of Africa, the cape of good hope.

They might had sailed farther but violent storms forced them back.
Vasco da Gama

- Vasco da Gama heard of Dias' success and decided to take it all the way to India.
- Though the journey took 10 months to complete, they eventually reached the Indian city of Calicut.
- The success of da Gama urged the Portuguese to try again.
- This time they sent Pedro Cabral, he sailed far to the west to make sure he avoided the windless gulf of Guinea.
- While out he spotted and claimed the territory now known as Brazil.
- Now that Portugal had established trade with India and Asia, they became one of the wealthiest countries in Europe.
The Spanish

- The Spanish were also eager to get a piece of the trade routes with the east.

- King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain agreed to finance a voyage for Christopher Columbus, and Italian navigator.

- Columbus believed he could sail west to get east. And thus make it to India faster.

- Although correct in theory, he did not know there was a continent between them.

- As a result he reached an island in the Caribbean about 2 months into his voyage that he thought was an Asian island known as the indies. So he named the inhabitants "Indians."
COLUMBUS

* Columbus returned to Spain with many exotic items.
  - Parrots, jewels, gold, and exotic plants.
* He also brought back several natives that were baptized Christians.
* Believing they had found a new route to Asia, the Spanish hail Columbus a hero.
* His error was not realized until 1502 when Amerigo Vespucci sailed around the coast of South America and concluded it was not Asia but a new land.
* America was later named after him for this vital discovery.
* The Spanish, now realizing it was a new land, decided to explore it.
* Vasco Nunez de Balboa led an expedition across the isthmus of Panama. After three weeks of difficult travel, Balboa became the first European to see the Pacific Ocean.
After Balboa, the Spanish realized they had another sea to cross. What they did not know was how big it was. Ferdinand Magellan set out to sail all the way to India, by way of the Americas. He figured this new ocean could not be much bigger than the Atlantic. He set out with 5 ships and 250 men. His voyage was long and difficult. His men got sick, mutinied, starved, and almost died of thirst. When Magellan finally reached the Philippines, he was killed by some of the local natives. His crew carried on, and in early September 1522, 18 men out his original crew arrived in Spain. They were the first people ever to circumnavigate the world.
The English

- John Cabot set out shortly after Columbus from England.
- Like Columbus he mistakenly thought that Canada was Asia.
- After returning to England, he set out again, but never returned.
- Sir Francis Drake was set out by the Queen to find Asia.
- Drake was an Explorer and pirate.
- He sailed around South America and explored the west coast of the Americas.
- He stopped in what is now California.
- He tried to sail north and find a way back into the Atlantic. But it was too cold so he headed west instead.
- He too sailed all around the world and ended up back in England.
- Hoping to find a shorter route to Asia than the one Magellan had discovered, the English sent Henry Hudson.
- He tried to sail across the northern part of the continent to no avail, but the British did discover a lot of vital water ways in North America.
Jacques Cartier, like Henry Hudson tried to find another way to Asia through the north. He sailed past the island of Newfoundland into the St. Lawrence River. He claimed everything he could see for France. It was later called Canada. Henry Hudson later contracted with the Dutch for another voyage to the new land. Once again he tried to find passage to the west to no avail, but he did explore the river that bears his name. He also reached and explored the Hudson Bay area.