

Age of Exploration Notes

An Age of Exploration and Isolation 1400-1800

Essential Questions:

1. What fueled the age of exploration and why did China and Japan withdraw into isolation?
2. Explain what led to European exploration.
3. Describe steps in Portugal's discovery of a sea route to Asia.
4. Explain the rivalry between Spain and Portugal and how the pope resolved it.
5. Identify nations that set up trading empires in eastern Asia.

Thought to ponder: A spirit of adventure motivated Europeans to cross oceans and face danger.

What do people do today to satisfy their sense of adventure?

Other questions:

1. Why were merchants able to sell spices at a high price?
2. How did the Muslims unintentionally help the Europeans take over trade with eastern Asia?

Europeans Explore the East

- The Renaissance encouraged, among other things, a sense of adventure and curiosity.
- This sense, among other factors, encouraged Europeans to explore the world around them.

For God, Glory, and Gold

- Beginning around 1100, European crusaders had battled Muslims for control of the Holy Lands in SW Asia.
- In 1275, Marco Polo reached the court of Kublai Khan in China.
- Beyond these, however, Europeans had neither the interest nor the ability to explore foreign lands.

- By the 1400s, the desire to grow rich and to spread Christianity paired with advances in sailing technology, spurred the Europeans to explore.
- Through overseas exploration, merchants and traders hoped to benefit from the most profitable business in Europe: trading spices and luxury goods from Asia.
- These items had been introduced to Europe during the Crusades, a series of wars between Christians and Muslims from 1096-1270.
- People still wanted these goods after the wars ended. These goods included silk, pearls, nutmeg, ginger, cinnamon and pepper.
- Limited availability meant high prices and high profits.

- The Muslims and Italians controlled trade from East to West: Muslims sold Asian goods to Italian merchants. Italians then marked up the goods and resold them to Europeans.
- Many Europeans were unhappy with this arrangement and they looked for ways to bypass the Italians. This meant finding a sea route to Asia.
- Another motivation for exploration was the desire to spread Christianity. Negativity due to the Crusades and trade with Muslims made many believe it was their "sacred duty" to keep fighting Muslims and to convert non-Christians.
- Explorer Bartolomeu Dias: "To serve God and His Majesty, to give light to those who were in darkness and to grow rich as all men desire to do."

Age of Exploration Notes

- Advances in technology made these explorations possible.
- The caravel, a new type of ship, was sturdier than other models.
- The triangular sail made ships faster.
- The astrolabe was used to determine one's position at night, and the magnetic compass could accurately track directions.

Portugal Leads the Way

- Portugal led the way in using the sailing/navigational technology.
- Prince Henry, the King of Portugal's son, was the nation's most enthusiastic supporter of exploration and discovery.
- He got "gold fever" when he helped conquer the Muslim city of Ceuta in North Africa. He saw the riches available and "was hooked".
- He also sought to spread Christianity, so he founded a navigation school to teach mapmakers, shipbuilders, captains and instrument makers.

- Within several years, Portuguese ships were sailing up and down Africa's coasts and setting up trade ports. They traded gold, ivory and eventually slaves.
- 1488: Bartolomeu Dias sails his ships to the southern tip of Africa and encounters storms. He is thrown off course but finds himself on the other side of Africa. He doesn't continue to India.
- 1498: Vasco da Gama makes it to India and returns to Portugal with cargo worth 60X the cost of the voyage (silks, spices, gems). His 27,000 mile journey gave Portugal a direct sea route to India.

Spain Also Makes Claims

- 1492: While Portugal is exploring, Spain joins the game and sends Columbus west to find their own route to Asia. He finds the Caribbean instead and paves the way for colonizing the Americas.

4th

- The first major effect of Columbus' voyage was to increase rivalry and hostilities between Spain and Portugal.
- The Portuguese believed that Columbus had reached Asia and claimed Portuguese lands for Spain. It took intervention from Pope Alexander VI to settle the dispute. It set up a line of demarcation where Spain got all lands west of the line and Portugal got all land east of the line.
- Portugal complained that Spain got too much, so the line was moved west. In 1494, the **Treaty of Tordesillas** was signed and both nations agreed to honor the line. Colonization could now begin.

Trading Empires in the Indian Ocean

- While Portugal was setting up ports in India, the English and Dutch began to challenge Portugal's trade dominance. By 1600, the Dutch owned the largest fleet of ships in the world (over 20,000 ships).
- Once Portugal's power was displaced, the Netherlands and England fought each other for trade dominance and sea power.

2nd

- Both the Dutch and the British formed East India Companies (EIC) to trade tea and other commodities.
- The EICs had the power to mint money, make treaties and form their own armies... they were mini-governments that established and directed trade throughout Asia.
- The Dutch East India Company (DEIC) was richer and more powerful than the English East India Company (EEIC), so the EEIC was driven out of business.
- The DEIC took control of several Indian Ocean islands and by 1700, the Dutch controlled Indonesia, the Cape of Good Hope and had trade outposts in several Asian nations.
- By 1700, Britain and France also gained a foothold in the region.

6th

- After the failure of the EEIC, the English focused on cloth trading with India.
- 1664: France started its own EIC and was immediately targeted by the Dutch. Eventually the FEIC was established in India but was never really successful.
- Despite all the trade and the power of the EICs, much of Asia was unaffected for the period of 1500-1800.
- Basically, the further east the EICs went, the less success they had in spreading their cultural influence (especially in China and Japan)
- By 1514, when Portuguese ships arrived off of the Chinese coast, China had been united under the Ming dynasty and was one nation (rather than city-states).

Spanish Explorers

Explorer	Reason for exploration	Best Known for
Christopher Columbus	Wanted to find a shorter route to the riches of the East	Discovering the New world, even though he never knew it.
Amerigo Vespucci	Set out to find a sea route to Asia	Realized that he was not in Asia and the land he explored was named after him, The Americas
Ferdinand Magellan	Set out to reach Asia by sailing west	His men were the first to sail around the world
Hernando Cortes	Set out to conquer the mainland and find gold	Conquered the Aztecs
Francisco Pizarro	Set out to conquer the lands of the Incas in Peru	With 180 men he defeated the great Inca empire

Age of Exploration Notes

<i>Other European Explorers</i>			
Explorer	Reason for exploration	Best known for	Explored For
Henry Hudson	To find the northwest passage to India	Being the First English explorer in the New World	English
Jacques Cartier	Trying to find the Northwest passage	Claiming the area around Montreal Canada for France	French
John Cabot	Settlement	Claiming Canada For England	English

Northwest Passage To find a water route to Asia and then to settle colonies to gain wealth from the natural resources.

China Limits European Contact

- In recognition of China's growing power under the Ming, nations from SE Asia to Korea paid them tribute.
- **Tribute:** A payment by one country to another to acknowledge its submission
- China expected Europeans to do the same, and the Ming were not going to let outsiders threaten China's newly found peace and prosperity.
- The Ming dynasty started in 1368, when Hongwu commanded the army that drove the Mongols out of China. That same year, he became emperor. He began reforms almost immediately.