

Age of Exploration Notes

Causes of Exploration:

- Europe is heavily dependent on the spice trade with Asia = desire for quicker route to the Indies. They needed a direct trade (Arabs acted as middle man)
- Land route through Middle East was dangerous – sea routes
- Church leaders wanted to stop the spread of Islam and spread Christianity
- Renaissance thinkers had expanded the European world view = new possibilities of exploration, invention, and discovery

Training/Technology

- Navigation, maps, ocean ships
- Ancient sailors stayed close to land; exploration era meant venturing into the unknown
- Sun, moon, stars locations = traveling direction
- Hourglass = duration of travel
- ****Calculations were very inaccurate**
- Chinese compass/Arab astrolabe
 - Astrolabe took patience and skill to use
- **Cartographers** - mapmakers
 - skills gradually improved
 - by about 1300 there was an accurate coastline along the Mediterranean

Ptolemy

- Hellenistic astronomer
- Introduced the grid system of map references based on latitude and longitude (still used today)
- Ideas reappeared during the Renaissance

Portugal - **focused on trade rather than colonization**

- **Prince Henry the Navigator**
 - 1420-1580
 - son of King John I of Portugal
 - not a sailor
 - never made an ocean voyage
 - he brought mapmakers, mathematicians, and astronomers together to study navigation
 - his explorers discovered the Azores, the Madeira Islands, and the Cape Verde Islands – these areas became the Portuguese Empire in the 1500s

- **Bartholomeu Dias**

- August 1487
- Goal: find the tip of Africa
- Discovery: route to the southern tip of Africa (Cape of Good Hope)
- proved there is a direct route to the Indies around the **Cape of Good Hope**

- **Vasco da Gama**

- 1497
- Discovery: **sailed from Portugal to India** in 10 months. Found silk, porcelain, and spices = made Portuguese goods look inferior

Brazil – became Portugal’s most important colony

- Claimed by Pedro Alvares Cabral
- Spain controlled the rest of South America
- Slaves & settlers grew income-producing crops (sugarcane, tobacco, coffee, and cotton)

Spain

- Christopher Columbus
 - Italian explorer = sailed for Spain
 - Goal: reach India by sailing west, wrapping around the world
 - Discovery: Bahamas
 - August 1492
 - four total voyages
 - died believing he had reached India
 - he called the Native Americans “Indians” because he truly believed he was in India
 - **Columbian Exchange**

Amerigo Vespucci

- Suggested that Columbus that Columbus had discovered a “New World”
- *America* derives from *Amerigo*
- He was the first cartographer to draw a map that included the large land mass between the Atlantic and the Pacific

- **Line of demarcation** – in 1493, the pope drew an imaginary line running down the middle of the Atlantic from the North Pole to the South Pole.

- An agreement that Spain was to have control of all lands to the west of the line, while Portugal was to have control of all lands to the east of the line. Portugal feared that their line was so far to the east that Spain might take over their Asian trade.

- **Treaty of Tordesillas** – 1494, Spain and Portugal signed this agreement to move the line of demarcation farther west. The treaty divided the entire unexplored world between two powers; Spain and Portugal.

- Ferdinand Magellan

- 1519
- Portuguese man = sailed for Spain
- Goal: find a western passage to Asia
- explored the western coast of South America, searching for an inlet route
- reached a southern strip of water, named the **Strait of Magellan**
- two ships survived through the strait and reached the present-day Philippines
- Magellan was killed, some crew escaped back to Spain
- 1522 – the final ship- arrived back in Seville, Spain, making the first **circumnavigation** of the globe

***This proved that (1) the world is round, (2) Columbus had discovered a new world, and (3) that all the world’s oceans are connected**

- Hernan Cortes

- **conquistador** – Catholic explorers who spread Catholicism and wanted to get rich
- arrived in Mexico in 1519
- was believed to be an Aztec god – welcomed into the empire by Montezuma
- **conquered the Aztecs** – primarily caused by advanced technology (guns, cannons, horses)

- Francisco Pizarro
 - conquistador
 - invaded the Incan empire in Peru (1532), massacred the Incas

Viceroy – royal representatives to control the new lands in America

- New world was known as the “West Indies”
- Two goals in the new world: (1) acquire wealth, and (2) convert Native Americans to Christianity
- Silver = primary source of wealth
- **encomienda system**
- major decline in Native American population

The Netherlands

- small country on the North Sea
- minimal resources
- Amsterdam becomes world’s largest commercial city in the 1600s = highest standard of living
- First Dutch expedition to East Asia returned in 1599
- 1602 = establishment of the Dutch East Indian Company, which expanded trade and ensured close relations between the government and Asia
- Henry Hudson
 - Founded New Amsterdam on Manhattan Island at the mouth of the Hudson River
 - By the 1700s, Dutch power was declining and England was emerging as Europe’s maritime power

Religious conflicts and civil wars kept English and French interest in their home lands

France

- Giovanni da Verrazano
 - Italian – sailed for France
 - 1524
 - Goal: find a northwest passage through America to Asia
 - Discovery: explored North American coast from North Carolina to Maine without success
- Jacques Cartier
 - 1534
 - continued search up the St. Lawrence River to present day Montreal
 - claimed most of eastern Canada for France
- Samuel de Champlain
 - 1608
 - founded Quebec – first permanent French settlement in the Americas
- Jacques Marquette and Louis Joliet
 - explored the Mississippi Valley
- Robert Cavalier (Sieur de La Salle) – claimed the entire inland region surrounding the Mississippi River for France

England

- John Cabot
 - 1497
 - Italian born navigator
 - explored the coast of present-day Newfoundland
 - Jamestown, Virginia
 - 1620 – Pilgrims land at Plymouth, Massachusetts

Slave Trade

- **Triangular Trade** – triangle formed by Europe, Africa, and America
- European ships left with manufactured goods, traded them for slaves in Africa, sailed to America, traded for goods/money, and returned to Europe to sell
- **The Middle Passage** – middle leg of the triangular trade; slaves were packed together tight and some died of disease or suffocated. Some committed suicide by jumping overboard while others refused to eat

The Ages of Exploration brought changes to global cultures. Overseas trade and the conquest of empires expanded Europe's economy. This search for wealth led to the rise of modern capitalism, an economic system in which money is invested in business to make profits.

- Cities replaced villages in Europe
- Rapid population growth – led to higher demand of goods and services
- At the same time, European advancement led to disruptive effects of cultures in other parts of the world.