



## Words

**cinnamon** = a sweet brown substance that gives cake and other sweet foods a special taste

**convinced** = to be sure that something is true

**emerge** = to come up

**empire** = a group of countries that are controlled by a king

**explore** = to travel around a place and find out something about it

**jewels** = very valuable stones, like diamonds

**merchant** = a person who buys and sells goods

**passageway** = a route

**preserve** = to last longer

**population** = the people of a country

**prove** = to show that something is true

**quadrant** = an instrument used for sailing to find out where you are

**reach** = get to

**refrigerator** = a kitchen machine that is used to keep food cool

**silk** = a smooth cloth that is very thin. It is made by a silkworm

**spices** = powder or seeds that are used to make food taste better

**stretch out** = extend, reach out

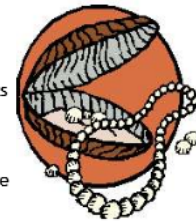
**trading post** = a place where people could buy or sell goods

**valuable** = things that cost a lot

**voyage** = a journey by sea

# Age of Exploration

By the end of the 15th century many things were changing in Europe. The **population** started to grow more quickly and a new class of **merchants emerged**. They wanted to buy and sell expensive and **valuable** products from Asia—like gold, **jewels** and **silk**.



In those days, people had no **refrigerators** to **preserve** their food. They dried meat and often used salt to make it last longer. To make food taste better they used **spices**, like pepper or **cinnamon**.

For centuries Europeans brought these goods on a land route from Asia over thousands of dangerous kilometres. In the 15th century the **overland** routes were being controlled by the Turkish **Empire**, which made it even more difficult for European **merchants** to pass through.

As a result, some European countries, like Spain and Portugal, decided to find out if there was a sea route to India. With the help of new kinds of ships that could sail faster and instruments, like the **quadrant**, they started the Age of Exploration.

## Portuguese exploration

At the end of the 15th century the Portuguese started to **explore** the west coast of Africa. They set up **trading posts** and collected gold and silver. They were **convinced** that by sailing around the coast of Africa they would find a route to India.

In 1487, the Portuguese explorer Bartholomeu Dias sailed around the southern part of the continent and got as far as the east coast of Africa, but a storm made him turn back.

On his return **voyage**, he saw a piece of land that **stretched** out into the sea. The Portuguese named it the Cape of Good Hope because they were hopeful of finding a **passageway** to India.

In 1497 Vasco Da Gama set out from Lisbon, sailed around the Cape of Good Hope and into the Indian Ocean. He **reached** the west coast of India in May 1498. He took some **spices** and gold back with him to **prove** that he had reached India.



Vasco da Gama's route to Africa in 1497/98



### Words

**achieve** = get, reach

**admire** = to think very highly about someone

**crew** = the people who work on a ship or plane

**explorer** = someone who travels through unknown places and wants to find out things about them

**fame** = to be known by many people because you have done something great

**mainland** = the main area of land that forms a country, the islands do not belong to it

**mass** = a very large piece of something

**merchant** = a person who buys and sells goods

**mouth** = the place where a river flows into the sea

**native** = a person who was born there

**navigator** = a person on a ship who tries to find a route somewhere

**present** = to show

**reach** = get to

**reject** = to say no

**Spice Islands** = islands near Asia that were famous for having many spices

**various** = many different kinds of

**voyage** = a journey by sea

# Age of Exploration

## Christopher Columbus

Christopher Columbus was probably the most famous **explorer** of the era. He **achieved fame** by sailing west in search of a sea route to India. Instead of reaching India he discovered that there was an unknown **mass** of land in between, land that the Europeans knew nothing of.

Columbus was born in Genoa, Italy in 1451 and during his early years his father took him on **various** sailing trips and wanted to make a **merchant** out of him.

Like many **navigators** of that time, Columbus also wanted to sail to India and the Far East. He thought that if he sailed west he would also **reach** the **Spice Islands** of Asia and India. When he went to the king of Portugal to **present** his plan, but it was **rejected**. Queen Isabella of Spain **admired** young and brave men like Columbus and so she gave him three ships—the Nina, the Pinta and the Santa Maria—and a **crew** of 90 men.

Columbus left Spain on August 3, 1492. After two months of sailing westward, he landed on an island of the Bahamas, San Salvador, on October 12, 1492. Because he thought he had **reached** the islands near India he called the **natives** Indians.

All together, Columbus made four **voyages** to the New World between 1492 and 1504. He **explored** the coasts of Cuba, Jamaica, Hispaniola, and Puerto Rico. On his last two **voyages**, Columbus reached the **mainland** of Central and South America and travelled as far south as the **mouth** of the Orinoco River.



After he came home from his fourth voyage, Christopher Columbus fell ill and died in 1506.

After sailing westward for two months Columbus reached the West Indies on October 12, 1492.



### Words

**cattle** = cows that are kept on farms for milk and meat  
**century** = a hundred years  
**claim** = to take something legally  
**conquer** = to get control of a country by fighting  
**conquistador** = a Spanish explorer who conquered parts of America in the 16th and 17th centuries  
**empire** = a group of countries that are controlled by a king  
**expand** = to reach from one place to another  
**explorer** = a person who travels around a place and wants to find out something about it  
**found** = to start a company or create a new town  
**huge** = very, very big  
**in exchange** = if you give a person something, you get something else from him  
**in honour** = to show how much you respect or like somebody  
**journey** = trip, expedition  
**narrow** = thin, not wide  
**natives** = people who were born in a country and live there  
**permanent** = to exist for a long time  
**reach** = get to  
**riches** = a lot of money, gold and silver  
**settlement** = a new town that is built in a place where people have not lived before  
**settler** = a person who lives in a place where not many people have lived before  
**set up** = start, open up  
**Spaniard** = a person from Spain  
**territory** = new land  
**vast amounts** = a lot of  
**wheat** = a grain that you make white bread out of

# Age of Exploration

## Other Spanish Explorers

During the early 1500s Spanish **explorers** travelled across most of Central and South America. They **founded** colonies and brought **settlers** to the New World. They also made the native Indians work for them. The **Spaniards** brought new products to the Americas, like **wheat**, horses, **cattle** and sheep. **In exchange**, they grew plants that were not known in Europe, like corn and potatoes and brought them back to the Old Continent.



In 1513 the Spanish **explorer** Vasco de Balboa landed in Panama, the part of Central America that is very **narrow**. With his men, he fought his way through 50 miles of **jungle** and was surprised to see a new sea, the Pacific Ocean.



One of the most important Spanish **conquistadors** was Hernando Cortes. He **conquered** the Aztec **empire** in 1521. In 1532 and 1533 Francisco Pizarro **conquered** the Incas. These **natives** ruled an empire that **expanded** from Columbia to the northern parts of Argentina. The Incas had great **riches**, **vast amounts of** gold and silver. When the Spanish got there they took all of it away from the Incas.

## French and English explorers

The French and the English concentrated their **journeys** on the northern part of the continent, because they thought that there also had to be a north-western route to India.

In 1497 John Cabot, an Italian who sailed for England, landed on the east coast of Canada. In 1534 Jacques Cartier sailed down the St. Lawrence River and **reached** the Great Lakes. He **claimed** this **territory** for the king of France.

During the 1600s the French and English began to **set up** colonies. The French concentrated on the St. Lawrence valley and the Great Lakes and **founded** towns like Montreal, or Detroit.

At the end of the **century** Louis Joliet and Jacques Marquette sailed down the Mississippi River. The land near the Gulf of Mexico was called Louisiana, **in honour** of the French king. **Settlements** like St. Louis or New Orleans show French **origin**.

The first **permanent settlement** in North America was **founded** at Jamestown, Virginia in 1607. In 1610 Henry Hudson sailed around north-eastern Canada and **discovered** a **huge** body of water which he thought was the Pacific Ocean. Today it is known as Hudson Bay.



### Words

**century** = a hundred years

**expedition** = a trip to a dangerous , mostly unknown place

**crew** = the people who work on a ship or plane

**damaged** = broken

**explorer** = a person who travels around a place and wants to find out something about it

**mainland** = the main area of land that forms a country, the islands do not belong to it

**mapmaker** = a person who draws maps

**navigator** = a person on a ship who tries to find a route somewhere

**sight** = view

**strait** = a narrow passage of water between two areas of land

**suggest** = to tell somebody what they should do

**tip** = the end of something

**voyage** = a journey by sea

Magellan's journey  
around the world

# Age of Exploration

## Amerigo Vespucci

Amerigo Vespucci was an Italian-born **explorer** who explored the **mainland** of America at the end of the 15th **century**. A German **mapmaker** believed that Vespucci was the first to reach the New World ,so he **suggested** naming the new land America.

Although Vespucci was probably not one of the greatest explorers of the time, he was the first **navigator** who explored South America.

## Magellan sails around the world

In 1519 the Portuguese sailor Ferdinand Magellan set out to find India by sailing around South America. He sailed for Spain because the Portuguese didn't give him any money for this **expedition**.

Magellan had 5 ships and a **crew** of 240. When he reached the southern **tip** of South America, he got into bad, stormy weather. Two of his ships were badly **damaged** and couldn't continue the journey. With three ships he sailed through a **strait**, that later was named after him , the Strait of Magellan.

When he reached the Pacific Ocean, he sailed for there months without any **sight** of land. Finally , in April of 1521 he landed on the Philippine Islands. Magellan got into a fight with native islanders and was killed there.

Only one ship could continue the **voyage**. It crossed the Indian Ocean and sailed around the Cape of Good Hope. With only twenty people on board it reached Spain three years after it had set out.





### Words

**cut off** = block, so that nobody can pass through

**discover** = to find something for the first time

**empire** = a group of countries that are controlled by a king

**mapmaker** = a person who draws maps

**pilgrim** = a religious person who travels a long way to a holy place

**sailor** = someone who works on a ship

**settlement** = a new town that is built in a place where people have not lived before

**tip** = the end of something

# Age of Exploration

## Timeline

- 1450** Prince Henry the Navigator builds a school for **sailors**.
- 1453** The Turkish **empire cuts off** the land route from Asia to Europe. Search for a sea route begins.
- 1487** Bartholomeu Dias discovers the southern **tip** of Africa.
- 1492** Christopher Columbus lands on an island of the Bahamas.
- 1497** John Cabot **discovers** Newfoundland while he searches for a north-western passage to India.
- 1498** Vasco Da Gama finds a sea route to India by sailing around Africa.
- 1502** Amerigo Vespucci returns from his explorations of South America. A German **mapmaker** names the New World after him.
- 1513** Vasco de Balboa discovers the eastern shore of the Pacific Ocean.
- 1519-1522** Magellan sails around the world.
- 1521** Hernando Cortez defeats the Aztec **empire**.
- 1533** Francisco Pizarro defeats the Inca **empire**.
- 1534** Jacques Cartier sails down the St. Lawrence River and **discovers** the Great Lakes.
- 1577** Sir Francis Drake is the first Englishman to sail around the world.
- 1607** The first **settlement** is called Jamestown.
- 1610** Henry Hudson **discovers** Hudson Bay.
- 1620** The Mayflower lands with **pilgrims** in the New World.
- 1673** Father Jacques Marquette and Louis Joliet **explore** the Mississippi River.

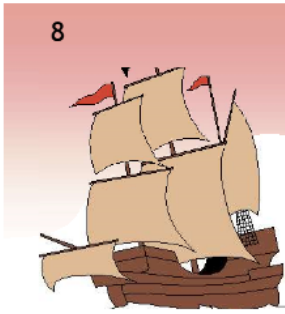


# Age of Exploration

Answer the questions in your own words!

1. What were the merchants of the 15th century interested in ? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What did people use to preserve meat ? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Why couldn't Europeans use the land route to Asia any more ? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What made travelling by sea interesting in this era ? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Who were the first explorers to find a sea route around Africa ? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Why did the Portuguese name the southern tip of Africa the "Cape of Good Hope" ? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Which country did Christopher Columbus come from ? Where was he born ? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Why did he sail for Spain ? \_\_\_\_\_
9. On which group of islands did Columbus land in 1492 ? \_\_\_\_\_
10. Why did he call the natives Indians ? \_\_\_\_\_
11. How many voyages did Columbus make ? \_\_\_\_\_
12. What are conquistadors ? \_\_\_\_\_
13. Name two famous empires in Central and South America at that time ? \_\_\_\_\_
14. What did the Spanish want from the Indians ? \_\_\_\_\_
15. Who was the first explorer to see the Pacific Ocean ? \_\_\_\_\_
16. Which part of America did the French concentrate their journeys on ? \_\_\_\_\_
17. Where was the first settlement in America ? \_\_\_\_\_
18. Why is America named after Vespucci ? \_\_\_\_\_
19. Why did Magellan have to give up some of his ships ? \_\_\_\_\_
20. What happened to Magellan on the Philippine Islands ? \_\_\_\_\_





## Age of Exploration

Match the dates from the box below!

1487 - 1492 - 1497 - 1498 - 1506 - 1512 - 1513 - 1519 - 1533 - 1620

- \_\_\_\_\_ Magellan starts his journey around the world.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Cortes conquers the Aztec empire.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Bartholomeu Dias sails around the southern part of Africa.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pizarro defeats the Incas.
- \_\_\_\_\_ John Cabot sails along the east coast of Canada.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Mayflower lands with pilgrims in America
- \_\_\_\_\_ Columbus discovers America.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Vasco de Balboa lands in Panama and discovers the Pacific Ocean.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Columbus dies.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Vasco da Gama reaches India.

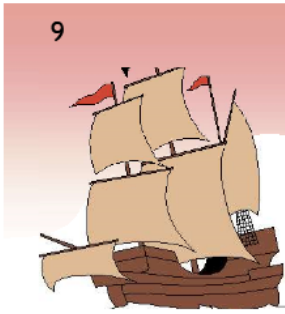
Complete the text with words from the box !

The \_\_\_\_\_ of the 15th century were very \_\_\_\_\_ in buying and selling \_\_\_\_\_ goods. They \_\_\_\_\_ gold, \_\_\_\_\_ and silk — products that they got from \_\_\_\_\_. People of those days also needed \_\_\_\_\_ to make food taste better.

For \_\_\_\_\_, European merchants brought these goods on a \_\_\_\_\_ from Asia. But by the 15th century, the \_\_\_\_\_ became so \_\_\_\_\_ that they controlled the most important routes and wanted more \_\_\_\_\_ from the Europeans traders.

So some countries, like \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, wanted to find another route to Asia. They thought that they could \_\_\_\_\_ India and the \_\_\_\_\_ by sea.

Asia  
centuries  
interested  
jewels  
land route  
merchants  
money  
Portugal  
powerful  
reach  
Spain  
Spice Islands  
spices  
traded  
Turks  
valuable



## Age of Exploration

Match the two halves of the sentences !

A	European merchants of the 15th century	_____	but he didn't give him any ships.
B	The Portuguese set up trading posts	_____	brought corn and potatoes back to Europe.
C	Christopher Columbus went to the king of Portugal with his plans	_____	because he thought he had reached Asia.
D	Queen Isabella was a person	_____	and claimed the land for the king of France.
E	On his last voyages Columbus	_____	bought and sold goods from Asia
F	He called the natives Indians	_____	named the New World after Amerigo Vespucci.
G	Spanish explorers	_____	explored the mainland of South America
H	The conquistadors were Spanish explorers	_____	have French names
I	Jacques Cartier sailed down the St. Lawrence River	_____	he got into bad weather and lost two ships.
J	Most towns along the Mississippi River	_____	on the west coast of Africa
K	A German mapmaker	_____	who admired young and brave men.
L	When Magellan reached the southern tip of America	_____	who defeated Indian empires in America

Unscramble the words and find the names of famous explorers .

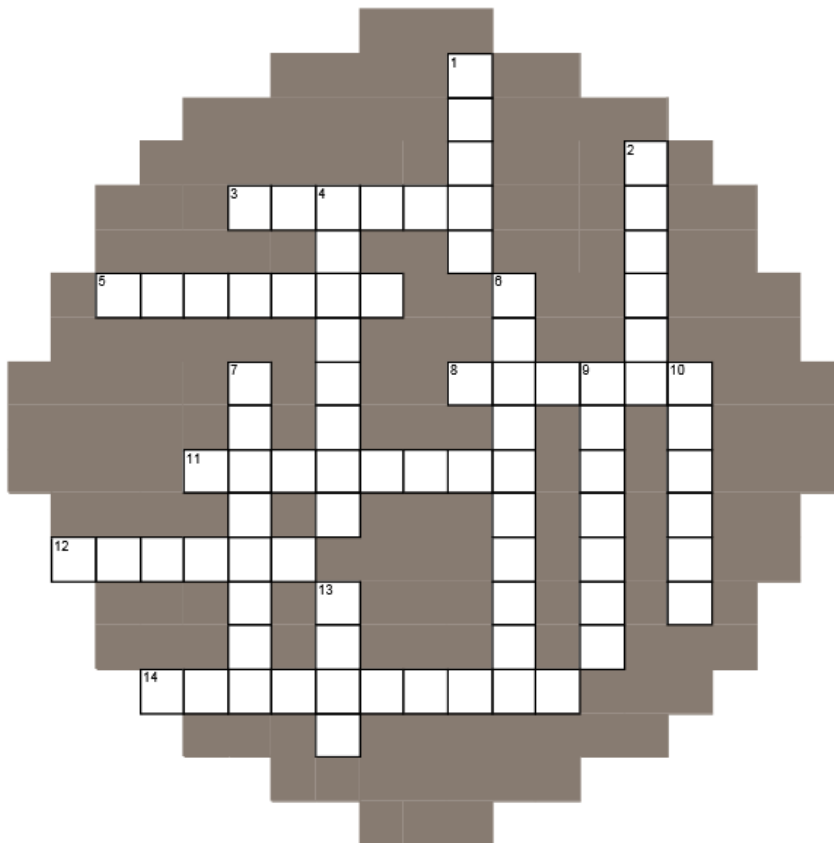
BCLOUMSU \_\_\_\_\_  
 NLLGAMEA \_\_\_\_\_  
 CPUICVSE \_\_\_\_\_  
 ROSCTE \_\_\_\_\_  
 CRRETIA \_\_\_\_\_  
 MAADAG \_\_\_\_\_





# Age of Exploration

## Crossword

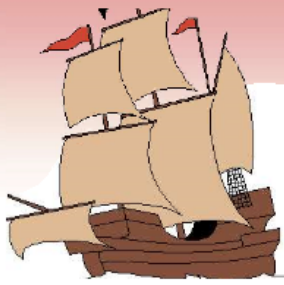


### Across

3. to think very highly about a person
5. to travel around a place and find out something about it
8. powder or seeds that are used to make food taste better (plural)
11. the main area of land that forms a country ; not the islands
12. a group of countries ruled by a king or queen
14. a new town that is built in a place where nobody has ever lived before

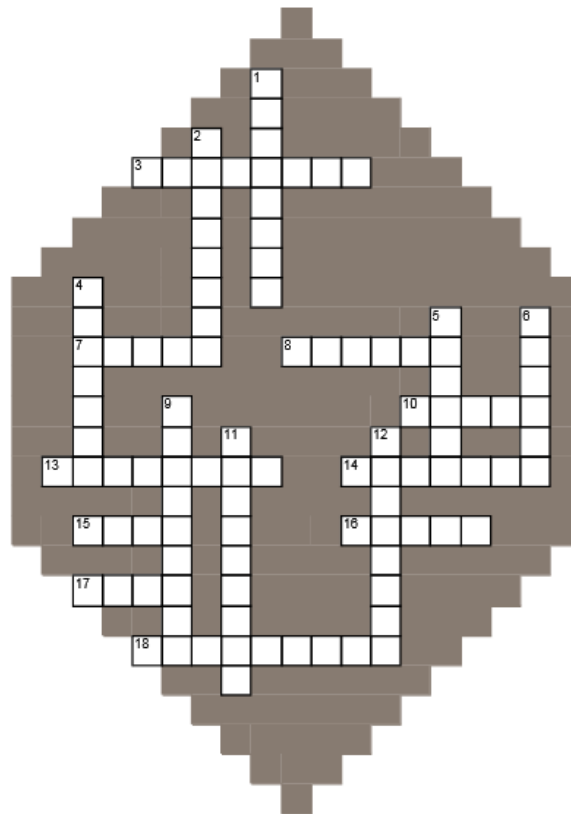
### Down

1. a very valuable stone
2. a sea journey
4. a person who buys and sells goods
6. a trip to a dangerous, mostly unknown place
7. an instruments that sailor use to find out where they are
9. to get control of a country by fighting
10. a narrow waterway between two areas of land
13. a smooth cloth that is very thin



# Age of Exploration

## Crossword - People, Names and Places



### Across

3. explorer after whom America was named
7. many explorers wanted to find a sea route to this country
8. small country in Central America
10. English explorer who sailed around the northern part of America
13. country that set up trading posts in Africa
14. group of islands on which Columbus landed
15. explorer who sailed around the southern part of Africa
16. town where Columbus was born
17. empire in South America that was conquered by the Spanish
18. name of the first settlement in North America

### Down

1. He discovered the New World in 1492
2. queen of Spain in the 15th century
4. river in South America
5. explorer who found a sea route to India around Africa
6. Spanish conquistador of the 16th century
9. part of America that was named after a French king
11. ship that brought English settlers to America
12. explorer who sailed around the world