

Section

2

Early Exploration

Essential Question

Why did Spain and Portugal want to find a sea route to Asia?

Reading Guide

Content Vocabulary

saga (p. 38)

strait (p. 41)

line of demarcation (p. 41)

circumnavigate (p. 41)

Academic Vocabulary

devote (p. 39)

alter (p. 40)

Key People and Events

Henry the Navigator (p. 35)

Bartholomeu Dias (p. 36)

Vasco da Gama (p. 37)

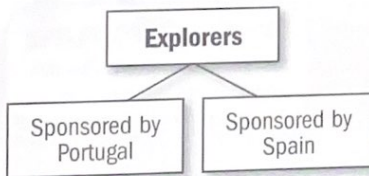
Christopher Columbus (p. 38)

Amerigo Vespucci (p. 41)

Ferdinand Magellan (p. 41)

Reading Strategy

Taking Notes As you read, use a diagram like the one below to identify the explorers discussed in this section who were sponsored by Portugal and Spain.



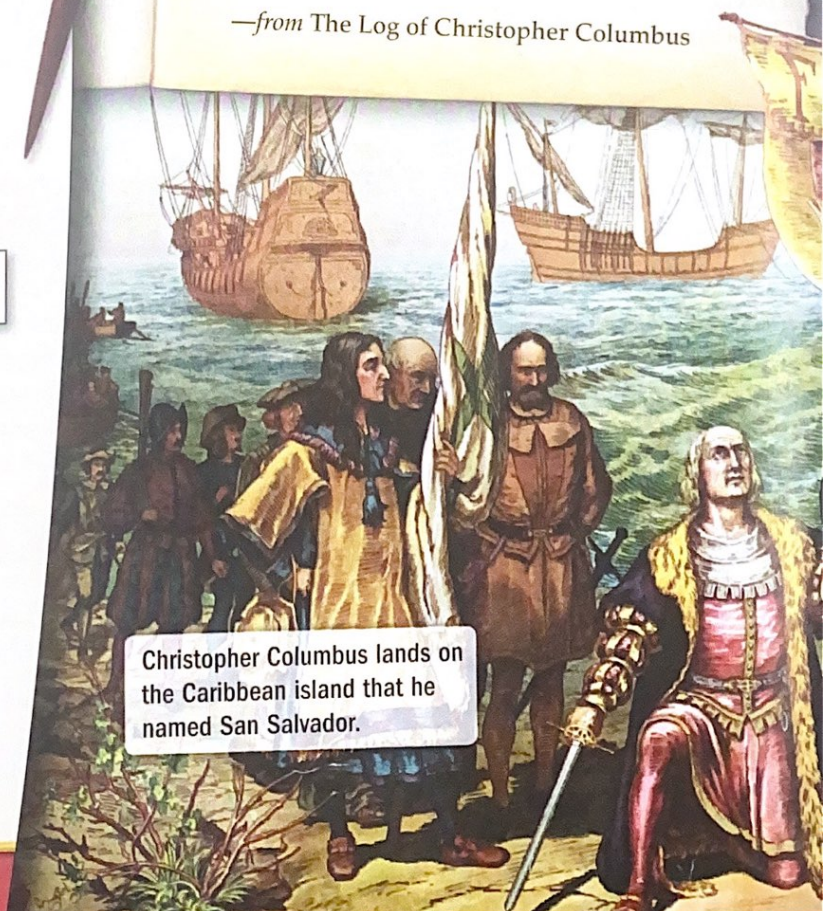
American Diary

In 1492 Christopher Columbus led 90 sailors on a voyage into the unknown. As the voyage dragged on, the sailors grew quarrelsome. Columbus wrote:

"I am told . . . that if I persist in going onward, the best course of action will be to throw me into the sea some night."

Then, on the morning of October 12, a cannon fired from the ship Pinta, indicating that land had been sighted. At dawn, Columbus left his ship, the Santa María, and went ashore.

—from The Log of Christopher Columbus



Christopher Columbus lands on the Caribbean island that he named San Salvador.

Seeking New Trade Routes

Main Idea Portugal took the lead in finding a sea route to India.

History and You What do you consider a long trip? A few hours on an airplane or a few days in a car? Read to learn about the long sea voyages that Portuguese ships made to find a sea route to India.

Columbus believed he had arrived in the Indies—lands located southeast of China. Unfortunately, Columbus was wrong. The maps that Columbus and the first European explorers used did not include the Americas. They showed three continents—Europe, Asia, and Africa—merged in a gigantic landmass bordered by oceans. Some explorers thought that the Western (Atlantic) and Eastern (Pacific) Oceans ran together to form what they called the Ocean Sea. No one realized that another huge landmass was missing from the maps. They also did not realize that the oceans were as large as they are.

Columbus sailed for Spain, but Portugal was the first European power to explore the boundaries of the known world. Because Portugal lacked a Mediterranean port, it could

not share in the trade between Asia and Europe. The country's rulers wanted to find a new route to China and India.

The Portuguese also hoped to find a more direct way to get West African gold. The gold traveled by caravan across the desert to North Africa and then by ship across the Mediterranean. Portuguese traders needed a better route.

Early Portuguese Voyages

Prince Henry of Portugal helped lay the groundwork for the era of exploration that was beginning. In about 1420, he set up a center for exploration at Sargassos, on the southwestern tip of Portugal, "where endeth land and where beginneth sea."

Known as **Henry the Navigator**, the prince never intended to become an explorer himself. Instead, he planned the voyages and then analyzed the reports that his crews brought home. At Sargassos, Prince Henry began his "school of navigation." There, astronomers, geographers, and mathematicians shared their knowledge with Portuguese sailors and shipbuilders. When each new voyage brought back new information, Henry's expert mapmakers updated the charts.

If You Were There Ship's Boy on the Santa María

Life Aboard Ship Your day begins with prayers on deck. A single hot meal for the day is prepared over an open fire in the deck's sandbox. Your meal usually consists of salted meat or fresh fish, with dried peas and cheese. As a ship's boy, your major job is letting the crew know when

it is time to do their chores. You do so by turning the sandglass every half-hour and calling out, "One glass is gone, and now the second flows!" After eight turns of the glass, or four hours, a new boy comes on deck to call the time. When you are off duty, you sleep anywhere on the deck that you can find shelter.



▲ A replica of Columbus's flagship, the *Santa María*

Critical Thinking

Drawing Conclusions What qualities would you need to be a crew member on the *Santa María*?

Early Portuguese Exploration



Causes and Effects of European Exploration

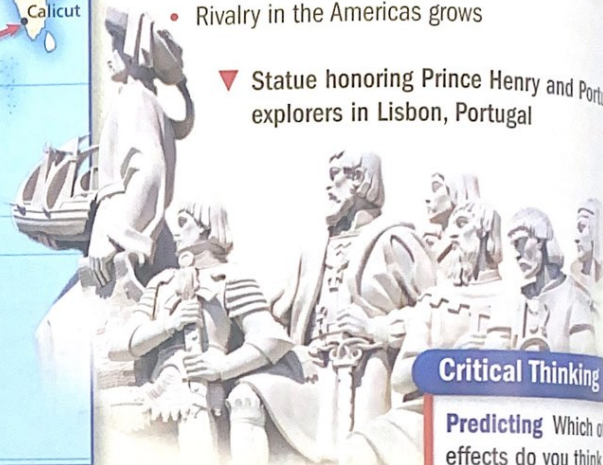
Causes

- European desire for new trade routes
- Growing power and wealth of European nations
- Competition for trade
- Missionaries' desire to convert people to Christianity

Effects

- Knowledge grows about other regions
- Europeans and Native Americans clash
- Enslavement of Africans
- Rivalry in the Americas grows

▼ Statue honoring Prince Henry and Portuguese explorers in Lisbon, Portugal



Critical Thinking

Predicting Which of the effects do you think lead to future conflict?

As Portuguese ships moved south along the coast of West Africa, they traded for gold and ivory and established a number of trading posts in the region. Because of its abundance of gold, the area came to be known as the Gold Coast. In the mid-1400s Portuguese traders began buying enslaved people there as well.

King John II of Portugal launched new efforts to realize the Portuguese dream of a trading empire in Asia. If the Portuguese could find a sea route around Africa, they could trade directly with India and China. In the 1480s the king urged Portuguese sea captains to explore farther south along the African coast.

Bartholomeu Dias

In 1487 King John sent **Bartholomeu Dias** to explore the southernmost part of Africa and from there to sail northeast into the Indian Ocean. Dias set out from Lisbon with

two small caravels and a slower supply ship. The expedition was also assigned some of Portugal's best pilots. They sailed for days.

After passing the mouth of the Orange River in South Africa, Dias ran into a fierce storm that lasted nearly two weeks. The strong winds carried him southward, off course, and out of sight of land. When the winds finally died down, Dias steered east and then north until he found land again. Dias realized that he had sailed past the southernmost point of Africa, called a cape because it projects into the sea.

Dias charted a course back home. On the return journey, Dias passed the cape again. He wrote that he had been around the "Cape of Storms." On learning of Dias's discovery, King John renamed this southern tip of land

History ONLINE

Student Web Activity Visit glencoe.com and complete the Chapter 2 Web Activity about Prince Henry the Navigator.

He called it the Cape of Good Hope. The king hoped that the passage around Africa might lead to a new route to India.

Vasco da Gama

The first Portuguese voyages to India were made years later. In July 1497, after much preparation, **Vasco da Gama** set out from Portugal with four ships. Da Gama did little coast hugging of Africa. Instead, his ships made a huge semicircular sweep through the Atlantic Ocean. At one point during the voyage, da Gama was closer to what is today Brazil than he was to Africa. It is said that da Gama made this unusual maneuver to reach currents that would help him round the Cape of Good Hope safely. During that huge sweep of the Atlantic, da Gama was out of sight of land for 96 days.

After rounding the Cape on November 22, da Gama visited cities along the coast of East Africa. Along the way, he met an Arab pilot who knew the Indian Ocean well. With the pilot's help, da Gama sailed on to India. He reached the port of Calicut in May 1498, completing the long-awaited eastern sea route to Asia.

The Portuguese Trading Empire

Events moved quickly after that. Less than six months after da Gama's return home, a fleet of 13 ships left Lisbon bound for the East. In command of this fleet was Pedro Álvares Cabral. With him were several captains, including Bartholomeu Dias. Cabral followed da Gama's route. His course, however, swung so wide around Africa that he reached Brazil, where he explored some of the coastline. Cabral claimed the land for his king and sent one of his ships back to Portugal with the good news while he continued on to India. Cabral gave Portugal a stake in the Americas.

Cabral returned home from India with cargoes of spices, porcelain, and other goods. Other Portuguese fleets repeated Cabral's success, and Portugal established its first permanent forts in India. Portuguese fleets began to make annual voyages to India. Their cargoes made the Portuguese capital of Lisbon the marketplace of Europe.

 **Reading Check** **Analyzing** What was the significance of the voyages of Dias and da Gama?

The Caravel

A Ship for Explorers Caravels ranged in length from 75 to 90 feet (23 to 27 m) and were suited for sailing along shallow coastlines. They were not, however, well suited for very long voyages, as they could not carry enough crew and supplies. Caravels were usually rigged with three or four masts, employing both square and triangular sails.

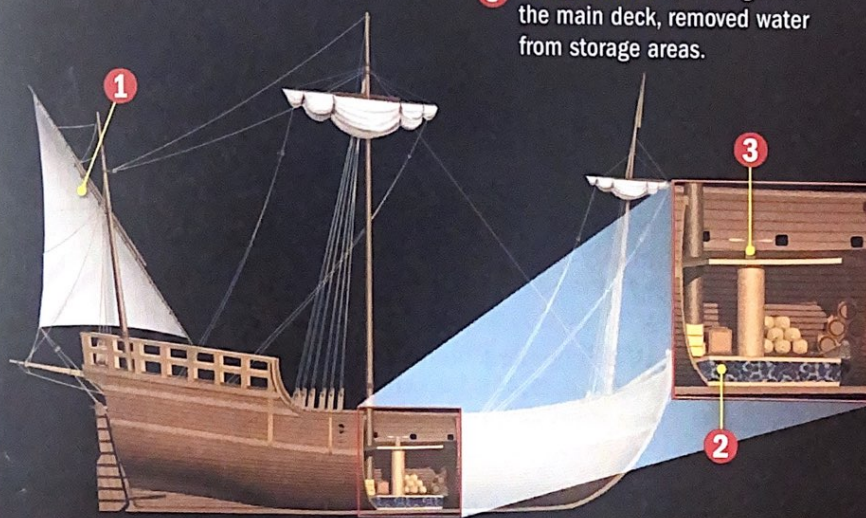
Critical Thinking

Explaining How did the caravel's lateen sails help sailors?

1 The triangular **lateen sail** caught wind that blew perpendicular to the ship, providing more maneuverability.

2 **Ballast stones** were placed in the hull of the ship to provide better balance.

3 A **bilge pump**, operating from the main deck, removed water from storage areas.



Primary Source The Vikings

The Vikings in America The Vikings established a settlement that is now called L'Anse aux Meadows in Newfoundland. When Leif Eriksson and his crew arrived in North America, they were persuaded to stay by the lush meadows, thick forests, and streams filled with fish. A wandering crew member also discovered groves of wild grapes. When they departed for home, the Viking ships were full of timber, a rare item in Greenland, and grapes stored as wine or raisins.

▼ Viking ship



Viking coins ►



"It is said, that their after-boat was filled with grapes. A cargo sufficient for the ship was cut, and when the spring came, they made their ship ready, and sailed away; and from its products Leif [Eriksson] gave the land a name, and called it Vineland [Vinland]. They sailed out to sea, and had fair winds until they sighted Greenland."

—from *Original Narratives of Early American History*

Viking bracelet ►



Critical Thinking

Speculating Why do you think Leif Eriksson gave the land he found the name "Vinland"?

Columbus Crosses the Atlantic

Main Idea After Christopher Columbus reached the Americas, Spain and Portugal divided the world's unexplored regions.

History and You Do you like traveling to new places? Read to learn about the European exploration of the Americas.

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Christopher Columbus had a different plan for reaching Asia. He planned to get there by sailing west. Born in Genoa, Italy, in 1451, Columbus became a sailor for Portugal. He had traveled as far north as the Arctic Circle and as far south as the Gold Coast.

In the 1400s most educated people believed the world was round. A more difficult matter was determining its size. Columbus was among those who based their estimates of the Earth's size on the work of Ptolemy, an ancient Greek astronomer. Columbus believed Asia was about 2,760 miles (4,441 km) from

Europe—a voyage of about two months by ship. Ptolemy, however, underestimated the size of the world.

The Viking Voyages

Several centuries before Columbus, northern Europeans called Vikings had sailed to North America. In the A.D. 800s and 900s, Viking ships visited Iceland and Greenland and established settlements. According to Norse **sagas**, or traditional stories, a Viking sailor named Leif Eriksson explored a land west of Greenland about the year A.D. 1000. It was known as Vinland. Other Norse sagas describe failed attempts by the Vikings to settle in Vinland, which historians believe was North America. Archaeologists have found the remains of a Viking settlement in Newfoundland. No one is sure what other parts of North America the Vikings explored.

The Viking voyages to other lands were not well-known. Europeans did not "discover" the Americas until Columbus made his great voyage.

Spain Backs Columbus

For most of the 1400s, Spanish monarchs **devoted**, or committed, their energy to driving the Muslims out of Spain. The last Muslim kingdom in Spain fell in 1492. King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain could then focus on other goals. The Spanish were watching the seafaring and trading successes of neighboring Portugal with envy. They, too, wanted the riches of Asian trade.

Columbus needed a sponsor to finance his project of a westward voyage to Asia. He visited many European courts looking for support. After years of frustration, he finally found a sponsor in Spain.

Queen Isabella, a devout Catholic, was finally persuaded by her husband's minister of finance to support the expedition for two reasons. First, Columbus promised to bring Christianity to any lands he found. Second, if he found a way to Asia, Spain would become

wealthy through the trade that would open up. The queen promised Columbus a share of any riches gained from lands he discovered on his way to Asia.

Columbus's First Voyage

On August 3, 1492, Columbus set out from Palos, Spain. He had two small ships, the *Niña* and the *Pinta*, and a larger one, the *Santa María*. Columbus served as captain of the *Santa María*, his flagship. The three ships carried about 90 sailors and a six-month supply of provisions. The small fleet stopped at the Canary Islands off the coast of West Africa for repairs and to stock up on supplies. Columbus then set out on the difficult voyage westward across unknown and mysterious stretches of the Atlantic Ocean.

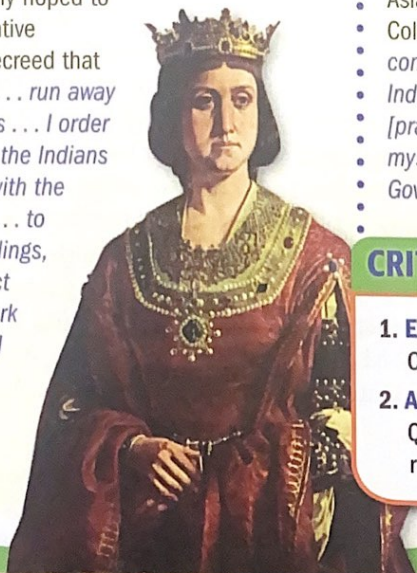
The ships had good winds, but after a month at sea the sailors began to worry. Columbus, however, was determined.

People IN HISTORY

Isabella

Queen of Spain

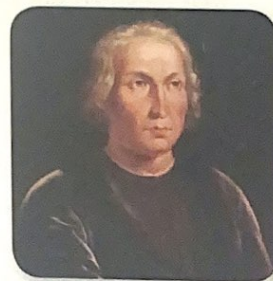
Queen Isabella was a devout Catholic, and her beliefs were reflected in many aspects of her rule. She insisted that Columbus treat the Native Americans fairly and ordered Columbus to release several Native Americans that he brought back as slaves. Isabella truly hoped to Christianize the Native Americans. She decreed that because "Indians . . . run away from the Christians . . . I order you . . . to compel the Indians to have dealings with the Christian settlers . . . to work on their buildings, to mine and collect gold . . . and to work on their farms and crop fields."



Christopher Columbus

Italian Explorer

On his voyages, Columbus proved himself to be a great navigator and sailor. He believed he would discover great riches and new lands while exploring the Atlantic on the way to Asia. Before his first voyage, Columbus wrote: "Your Highnesses commanded me . . . [to] go to . . . India, and for this accorded me great rewards and ennobled [praised] me so that from that time henceforth I might style myself 'Don' and be high admiral of the Ocean Sea and . . . Governor of the islands and continent which I should discover."



CRITICAL Thinking

- Explaining** Based on the quotation, what were Columbus's goals for himself and his voyage?
- Analyzing** Which do you think was more important to Queen Isabella: converting the Native Americans to her religion or getting them to work? Explain your answer.

European Voyages of Exploration



John Cabot suggested that a voyage across the Atlantic could be quickened by sailing at a more northerly latitude than Columbus's route.

Verrazano explored the Atlantic coast from present-day Cape Fear, North Carolina, to perhaps as far north as Newfoundland.



- Spanish**
- Christopher Columbus (1492–1493)
 - Amerigo Vespucci (1499–1500)
- Portuguese**
- Pedro Cabral (1500)
- English**
- John Cabot (1497–1498)
 - Martin Frobisher (1576–1578)
- French**
- Giovanni da Verrazano (1524)
 - Jacques Cartier (1535)
- Dutch**
- Henry Hudson (1609)

Map Skills

Movement Which explorer traveled along the coast of Brazil? For which country did he sail?

Maps in Motion See StudentWorks Plus or glencoe.com.

He told the men, "I made this voyage to go to the Indies, and [I] shall continue until I find them, with God's help." To convince the crew that they had not traveled too far from home, Columbus **altered**, or changed, the distances in his ship's log.

"Tierra! Tierra!"

On October 12, 1492, at two o'clock in the morning, a lookout shouted, "Tierra! Tierra!"—"Land! Land!" He had spotted a small island, part of the group of islands now called the Bahamas. Columbus went ashore, claimed the island for Spain, and named it San Salvador. Although he did not know it, Columbus had reached the Americas.

Columbus explored the area for several months, convinced he had reached the East Indies, the islands off the coast of Asia. Today the Caribbean Islands are often referred to as the West Indies. Columbus called the local people Indians. He noted that they regarded

the Europeans with wonder and often touched them to find out "if they were flesh and bones like themselves."

Columbus returned to Spain in triumph. Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand received him with great honor and agreed to finance his future voyages to the lands in the west. Columbus earned the title of Admiral of the Ocean Sea.

Columbus's Later Voyages

Columbus made three more voyages from Spain, in 1493, 1498, and 1502. He explored the Caribbean islands of Hispaniola (present-day Haiti and the Dominican Republic), Cuba, and Jamaica. He also sailed along the coasts of Central America and northern South America. He claimed the new lands for Spain and established settlements. Columbus also mapped the coastline of Central America.

Later explorations made it clear that Columbus had not reached Asia at all.

He had found a part of the globe that was unknown to Europeans, Asians, and Africans. In the following years, the Spanish explored most of the Caribbean region. In time their voyages led to the establishment of the Spanish Empire in the Americas.

Dividing the World

Both Spain and Portugal wanted to protect their claims, and they turned to Pope Alexander VI for help. In 1493 the pope drew a **line of demarcation**, an imaginary line running down the middle of the Atlantic from the North Pole to the South Pole. Spain was to control all lands to the west of the line; Portugal controlled all lands to the east of the line. Portugal, however, protested that the division favored Spain. As a result, in 1494 the two countries signed the Treaty of Tordesillas (TOHR•day•SEE•yuhs), an agreement to move the line farther west. The treaty divided the entire unexplored world between Spain and Portugal.

Exploring America

After Columbus, other voyagers explored the Americas. In 1502 **Amerigo Vespucci** sailed along South America's coast. Vespucci concluded that South America was a conti-

nent, not part of Asia. European geographers soon began calling the continent America, in honor of Amerigo Vespucci.

Another Spaniard, Vasco Núñez de Balboa (bal•BOH•uh), heard stories of the "great waters" beyond the mountains of Panama, in Central America. He hiked through steamy rain forests until he reached the opposite coast. There, in 1513, Balboa found a vast body of water, claiming it and the adjoining lands for Spain. Balboa was the first European to see the Pacific Ocean from the Americas.

Sailing Around the World

In 1520 **Ferdinand Magellan**, a Portuguese seaman sailing for Spain, reached the southernmost tip of South America. He sailed through the stormy waters of a **strait**, or narrow sea passage, into the ocean Balboa had seen. The waters were so peaceful—*pacífico* in Spanish—that Magellan named the ocean the Pacific. Although Magellan later died in the Philippine Islands, his crew continued west, arriving in Spain in 1522. They became the first known people to **circumnavigate**, or sail around, the world.

 **Reading Check** **Describing** Why did Spain finance Columbus's voyage?

Section 2 Review

History ONLINE
Study Central™ To review this section, go to glencoe.com.

Vocabulary

- Using complete sentences, define the following terms:
saga, devote, alter, line of demarcation, strait, circumnavigate.

Main Ideas

- Identifying** What route did the Portuguese explorers follow to get to Asia? Which explorer arrived first?

- Describing** How did Spain and Portugal divide up the entire unexplored world?

Critical Thinking

- Analyzing** How did Henry the Navigator further exploration?
- Persuasive Writing** Write a paragraph explaining why Americans might celebrate Eriksson Day rather than Columbus Day.

- Sequencing** Use a time line like the one below to show when the following explorers carried out their journeys: Columbus, Eriksson, Magellan, Balboa.



Answer the Essential Question

- Why did Spain and Portugal want to find a sea route to Asia?