

WORLD: The Race to Asia

Columbus Starts Century of Exploring

America, 1600s

100 years ago, **Christopher Columbus** began a race to explore the **New World** called America. Today Spain leads that race. Next come the countries of

France, England, Portugal, and Holland.

Columbus, who found America in 1492, thought he had reached Asia. Other **explorers** [people who find new places] fol-

lowed. They were looking for an easy way to bring back riches from Asia. But the explorers did not find the rich foods, cloth, and perfumes of Asia. Instead, they found Indians, gold, and silver in a new land.

The gold and silver from America has made Spain the richest and strongest country in Europe.

Here are the leading explorers and their countries:

SPAIN has sent the most explorers. The most important are:

- **Cortes**, who conquered the Aztec Indians in Mexico.

- **Pizarro**, who conquered the Inca Indians in Peru.

- **Magellan**, whose men were first to sail around the world by finding a way around the southern end of South America.

FRANCE sent explorer **Cartier** to Canada in 1534. Cartier began the fur trade for France, buying the furs from the Indians.

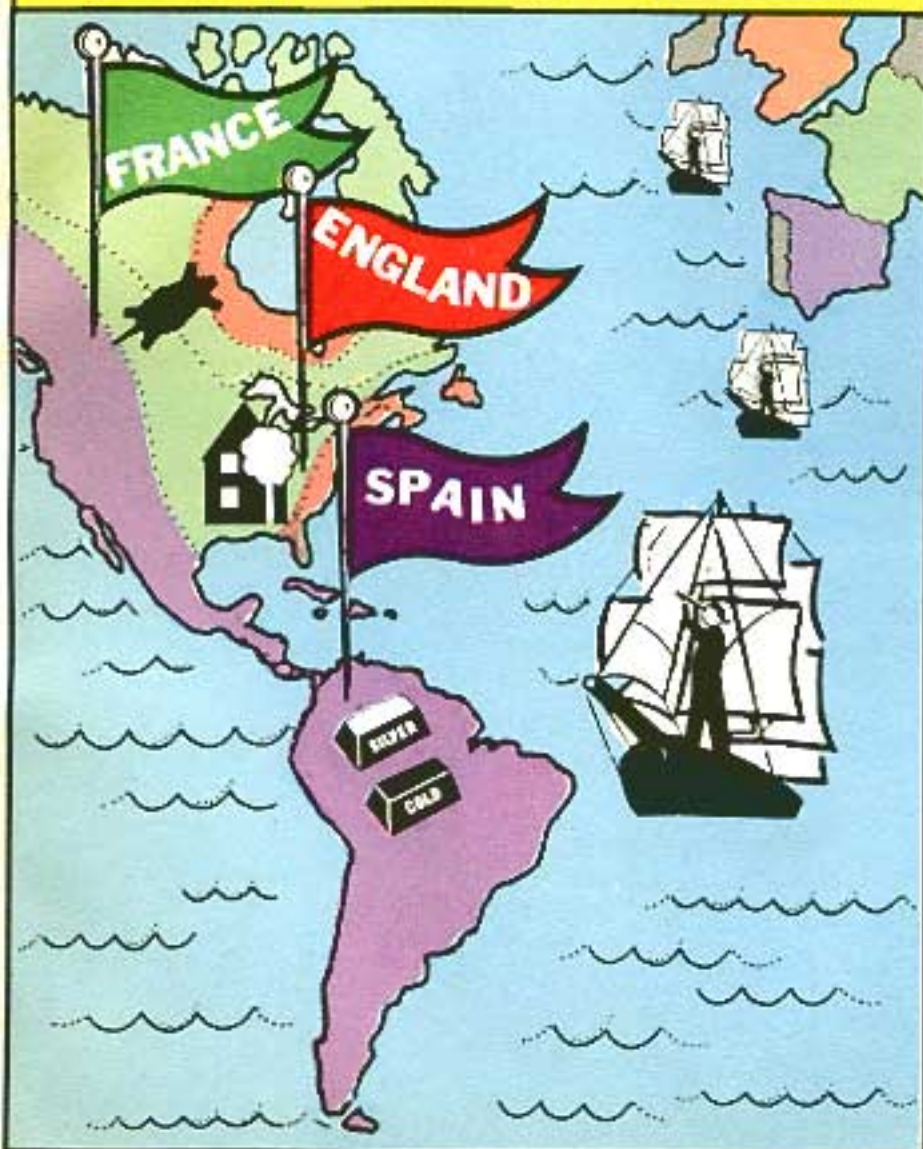
ENGLAND first sent explorer **Cabot** in 1497. Cabot was looking for a Northwest Passage [way] to Asia. Few English explorers followed until **Henry Hudson** in 1609, who also was working for Holland.

PORTUGAL has looked the other way. Its explorers go around the southern end of Africa to get to Asia.

VIKING **Leif Ericsson** is reported to have explored America in the year 1000, 400 years before Columbus. However, no records or colonies remain to prove this.

Exploring the New World

Spain, England, France, —look for a quick water route to Asia and riches, find new world by accident.



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PEOPLE: Explorers and Where They Went

How the New World was Explored

A look at who and where.

Who they explored for:

- █ England
- █ Spain
- █ France
- █ Vikings

1000
Ericsson: may have been the first to sail to North America.

1540
Coronado: explored southwestern North America looking for the Seven Cities of Gold. Found the Grand Canyon.

1519
Cortes: conquered the Aztec Indians of Mexico and set up Spanish rule there.

1541
De Soto: found the Mississippi River.

Pacific Ocean: a large ocean found to the west of the New World. Magellan gave the ocean the name of Pacific. The word Pacific means "peaceful."



1522
Magellan: led a group of explorers and sailed all the way around the world. He sailed west from Spain and went around the tip of South America to the East Indies. He proved that the earth is round by sailing around it.

1609
Hudson: explored and named Hudson Bay and River.

1534
Cartier: explored southeastern part of Canada. Found the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

1497
Cabot: explored Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, and New England. He was the first English explorer to get to the New World.

1513
Ponce de Leon: explored Florida looking for the Fountain of Youth.

1492
Columbus: found West Indies in the New World. He was sent by Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand of Spain to find a round-the-world water route to Asia. He sailed in a fleet of three ships: Nina, Pinta, Santa Maria. He felt he had failed because he did not get to Asia.

1499
Amerigo Vespucci: explored coast of South America and said he had found a new continent [large piece of land]. The lands are named the Americas after him.

1532
Pizarro: conquered the Inca Indians of Peru. He sent men to explore the rest of South America.

Atlantic Ocean: found between Europe (Old World) and the Americas [New World].

FOCUS: Native Americans

Explorers Weren't First—Indians Already There

Inside America, 1600s

Explorers were not the first people in America. When Columbus landed in 1492, he found **Indians** [Native Americans already living in the Americas]. Columbus named these people "Indians" because he thought he had landed in the country of India.

Other explorers soon found other tribes of Indians. Each **tribe** is a group of people living

together like a separate country. The tribes:

- Live together.
- Talk the same language.
- Eat the same foods.
- Wear the same kinds of clothes.
- Have their own government.
- Have their own gods.

The explorers are bringing back many things from the Indians. Europe is seeing:

- Indian inventions like the

canoe, the snow shoe, and the hammock.

- Indian foods like corn, sweet potatoes, and chocolate.
- Indian gum for chewing and tobacco for smoking.
- Indian ideas for houses, clothes, and art. (see below.)

The New World: Where the Indians Lived

American Indians live in many places in North and South America. Each tribe is like a country. Each tribe lived differently because of where they live. For example:

- Indians living in the frozen Arctic make houses of ice and snow. They fish and hunt for food.
- Indians living in cool, wet places make houses of wood or animal skins to keep warm and dry. They hunt animals for food.
- Indians living in hot, dry lands make houses of clay and stone. They plant corn to eat.

When the first explorers got to America, they found hundreds of Indian tribes already living there. Here is a look at 13 parts of America and the Indian tribes who lived there.

- 1 Arctic: Eskimo
- 2 Subarctic: Cree
- 3 Northwest Coast: Tlingit, Chinook
- 4 Plateau: Cayuse
- 5 Plains: Comanche, Sioux, Cheyenne
- 6 Great Basin: Shoshone
- 7 California: Paiute
- 8 Southwest: Apache, Navajo, Pueblo
- 9 Eastern Woodland: Iroquois, Mohawk
- 10 Southeast: Cherokee, Seminole
- 11 Northern Mexico: Aztecs
- 12 Central America: Mayas
- 13 Caribbean: Mosquito

HOUSING

- Igloos: dome-shaped houses made of stone, mud, wood, or ice and snow
- Tepees: cone-shaped houses made of sticks, wood, animal skins
- Pueblos: flat-roofed houses built together in groups; sometimes built one on top of another



CLOTHING

- Seal skins
- Animal skins
- Cloth blankets and clothes



FOOD SUPPLY

- Fishing
- Hunting
- Farming: Squash, sweet potatoes, corn
- Picking: nuts and berries



ART

- Jewelry made from wood, bones, shells, pearls, stones
- Baskets and Bead work
- Pottery—dishes made of clay



PEOPLE: Profiles of Winners**A Look at the Top Explorers of the Century****SPAIN****WHY SPAIN EXPLORED:**

- **Glory:** For power.
- **God:** To change the religion of the people in the New World to Christianity.
- **Gold:** To become rich.

Columbus, 1492

■ Found the West Indies in the New World when looking for a water route to Asia in the Far East.

**Amerigo Vespucci, 1499**

■ Explored coast of South America. Lands are named America after him.

**Ponce de Leon, 1513**

■ Explored Florida and southern North America looking for the Fountain of Youth.

**Cortes, 1519**

■ Conquered the Aztec Indians of Mexico, winning gold and glory.

**Magellan, 1522**

■ The first to lead a crew of explorers around the world. The 50,000 mile trip took three years. Magellan died before they got home.

Pizarro, 1532

■ Conquered the great Inca Indians of Peru. Took from the Incas a large treasure of gold and silver for Spain.

Coronado, 1540

■ Explored southwestern North America looking for the Seven Cities of Gold. Found the Grand Canyon of the Colorado River.

De Soto, 1541

■ Found the Mississippi River.

FRANCE**WHY FRANCE EXPLORED:**

- Get furs from the Indians to sell in France.

Cartier, 1534

■ Explored southeastern part of Canada. Found the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

**ENGLAND****WHY ENGLAND EXPLORED:**

- Find a Northwest Passage [a water route to Asia through North America].
- Find place to start colonies.

Cabot, 1497

■ Explored Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New England. First English explorer to get to the New World.

**PORTUGAL****WHY PORTUGAL EXPLORED:**

- Looking east for a water route to Asia.
- Did not care about going west to the New World.

Vasco Da Gama, 1498

■ First European to find a water route to Asia. Sailed around southern tip of Africa to get to riches in Asia.

England Defeats Spanish Armada, Becomes World Power**English Channel, 1588**

The Spanish and English navies have been fighting for complete control of the seas for several years. Now the English navy has defeated the "un-

beatable" 130-ship **Spanish Armada** [navy]. This win gives England control of the seas. Now England can start in colonizing [starting settlements] the New World.