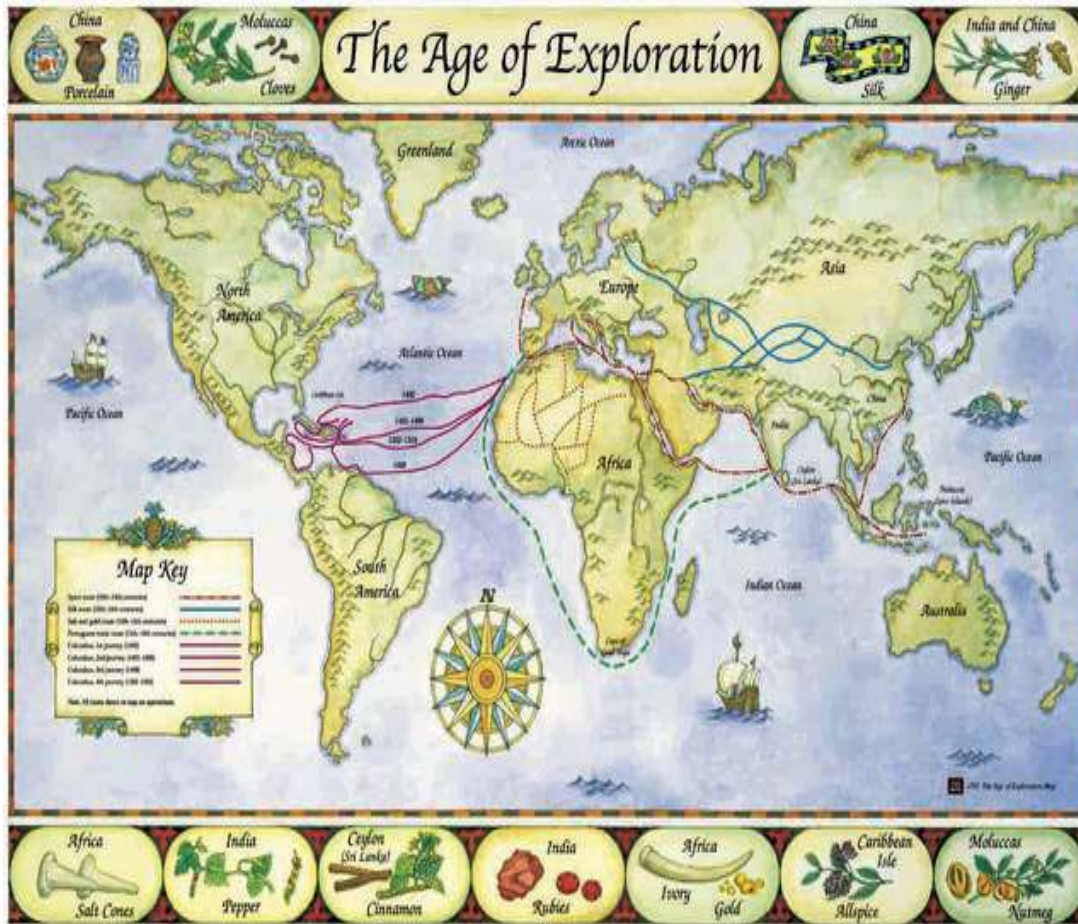


Age of Exploration



"Create Timelines, Share Them on the Web | Timetoast Timelines." Create Timelines, Share Them on the Web | Timetoast Timelines. N.p., n.d. Web. 23 June 2014.

The Age of Exploration refers to the time in history when major European nations took a great interest in exploring the rest of the world. Before the 1400s, Europe was split into many different kingdoms ruled by nobles. The kingdoms had no strong central governments to unite them and keep order and peace. Because of this, they were constantly fighting with each other and had little time to worry about exploration. However, during the 1400s strong central governments ruled the various nations of Europe and these countries wanted to become more powerful than the nations around them.

Question: Looking at the map above, what continents do you think were affected by the Age of Exploration?

Motivations for Exploration

Most European nations were ruled by strong monarchs (kings or queens) who were mostly interested in getting richer, more powerful, and getting more land than the countries around them. They were already trading for valuable goods (such as silk and spices) from mysterious lands in the Far East, such as China and India.

Spices in marketplace in India



Coad, Jenny. "Tamil Nadu, India's Beautiful South, Where Every Day Is an Assault on the Senses." *Mail Online*. Associated Newspapers, n.d. Web. 19 June 2014.

However, getting to the Far East and getting the goods back home took a long time because they had to travel by land using the **Silk Road** (trade route stretching from Asia to Europe). In addition, the Silk Road was becoming more dangerous than ever before because of crime. Also, traders were being taxed heavily by Muslim "**middle men**" (one who would purchase then resell goods at a higher price).

The kings and queens of these European countries figured if they could find more **efficient** (faster and cheaper) trade routes by sea they could make enormous **profits** (money). These countries spent a lot of time and money competing with each other to find new parts of the world and faster ways to get there before anyone else.

But why were they so interested in doing this? There are three main reasons. The best and most basic way to remember these reasons is to remember the phrase, "**God, Gold, and Glory**", or the "**3 Gs**".

There is so much more to it than that, however.



N.p., n.d. Web. 19 June 2014

Question: What do you think God, Gold and Glory represent?



"The Age of Exploration." Pixton. N.p., n.d. Web. 19 June 2014.

Gold (Wealth)

As exploration took place, lands that Europeans had no idea existed were discovered. In these new lands, they also discovered the people that lived there (or the natives). Many countries saw in the natives another opportunity to gain more riches. The Portuguese, who had built colonies along the coast of Africa, began to capture and sell the Africans they found there into slavery. This made Portugal the first country to develop and exploit the **African slave trade** (capturing slaves in Africa and transporting on ships to New World).



Captured African slaves

BBC News. BBC, 24 May 2002. Web. 23 June 2014.

Spain was mostly motivated to discover a new trade route to Asia. Instead they discovered the New World (the Americas). Although the Spanish never established a profitable trade with North and South America, they were still able to **seize** (take) a great amount of wealth from the area. This came mostly in the form of **gold**.



"Herando-Cortez." Primrose6 -. N.p., n.d. Web. 19 June 2014.

France and England were mostly interested in finding **all-water routes** (routes that they could sail through on ships) across northern North America to get Asia. Eventually, both countries wanted to start **settlements** (a place where people establish a community) there.



"Age of Explorations." *Welcome to Watertown Public Schools*. N.p., n.d. Web. 19 June 2014.

The French made profits from the **fur trade** in the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River Valley regions.

The English created more permanent settlements than any other European nation. These settlements were along the Atlantic coast and developed over time into stable, long-term trade relationships.

God (Spread of Christianity)

Another motivation for European nations to explore was the opportunity to **convert** (cause to change) the **natives** (person born in a specific place) of newly discovered lands to Christianity. The Spanish, Portuguese and the French were most interested in doing this. After the Reformation and Counter-Reformation, these countries saw it as their duty to convert the natives to Christianity.



"Age of Explorations." *Welcome to Watertown Public Schools*. N.p., n.d. Web. 19 June 2014.

England was not as interested in converting natives, but they did often focus on developing colonies that were committed to Christian (more specifically, Protestant) practices.

Question: Why do you think England was more interested in developing colonies?

Glory (Expanding Empire)

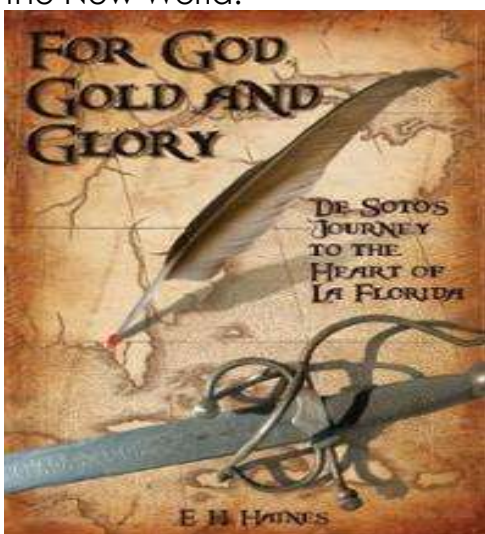
Another reason that Europeans were so interested in exploration was for the **glory** (honor or greatness) of it. **Nationalism**, or a sense of loyalty to your own country, was running high during this time. Since European nations were competing against each other to find new lands, new trade routes, and make a profit off of them, people wanted their own country to be the best...to be number one!



John Cabot landing in Canada and raising the flag of England

"The Canada Site Exploratory Map." *The Canada Site Exploratory Map*. N.p., n.d. Web. 19 June 2014.

While the French and Portuguese were mostly interested in trade, other countries like England and Spain were interested in expanding their empires and establishing colonies in the New World.



Finally, there was a sense of adventure during the Age of Exploration. Some people just wanted to go exploring to become **famous** or make their own **fortunes** (a very large amount of money). Others just wanted to see all of the new places they were hearing stories about.

"For God, Gold and Glory: De Soto's Journey to the Heart of La Florida (Hardcover)." Tower.com. N.p., n.d. Web. 19 June 2014.

Inventions That Made Exploration Possible

Before the Renaissance, boats, maps and other **navigation** (planning and following a route) tools were not that great. During and after the Renaissance new inventions and improvements to existing **technologies** were made, making it possible for the Age of Exploration to happen.

Better Ships

Before the Age of Exploration, Europeans did not have the technology to sail all over the world. For one, they had square-sailed ships that could only sail with the wind. Even then, they were slow. Sailors also knew that using these ships was dangerous because they could only return home if the wind was blowing in the right direction.

During the Renaissance, a lot of improvements were made to ships. These new ships were faster and made traveling safer. This was because of the invention of the **lateen sail**. The lateen sail made it possible for ships to sail against the wind. They could now travel in either direction no matter which way the wind was blowing.



Faster ships were invented. The new ships had a new type of sail called a **lateen sail**. The lateen sail allowed ships to sail **into the wind**. The sail had a **triangular shape**. Until the invention of the lateen sail, ships used square sails. It was much more difficult for square sailed ships to sail into the wind.

"Changes in Europe." *Changes in Europe*. N.p., n.d. Web. 19 June 2014.

The **caravel** was a ship created by the **Portuguese** (people from Portugal) that used lateen sails. This ship was fast and **agile** (it could move around easily). The Portuguese used it to explore the coasts of West Africa and began sailing into the Atlantic Ocean.

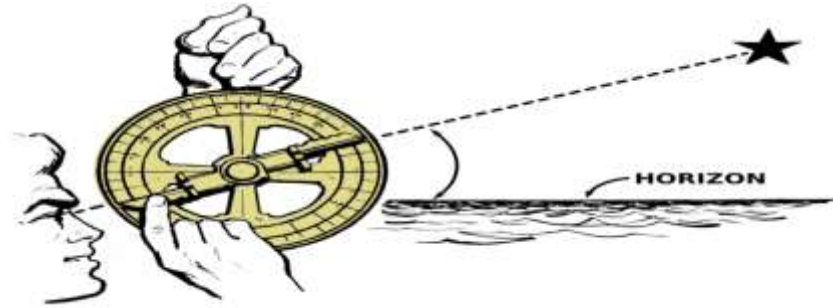


Caravel

"Home." *PedroRpoCatherineVelasquez* -. N.p., n.d. Web. 19 June 2014.

Astrolabe

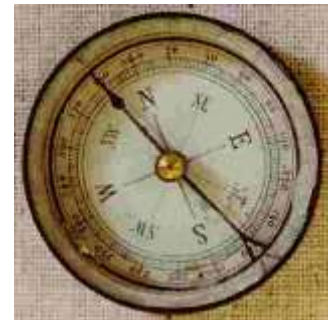
The **astrolabe** was another invention of the Renaissance. This made it possible for sailors to find the position of the North Star and the sun when they could not see it.



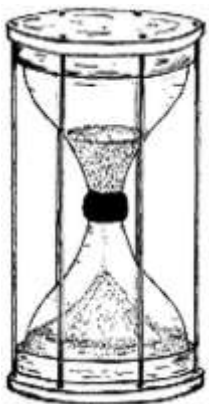
"Astrolabe." Wikimedia Commons. N.p., n.d. Web. 18 June 2014.

Compass

By the 1400s, sailors were using a magnetic needle for the **compass**. This device was used to locate which direction was north. The compass is an extremely valuable tool for exploration.



"How Does a Compass Work." Universe Today RSS. N.p., n.d. Web. 19 June 2014.



The distance a ship traveled was determined by multiplying the **speed of the ship** by the amount of **time the ship had traveled**. Clocks were not accurate. Ships used **hour glasses** that required a sailor to turn the clock over, every half hour, when it ran out of sand.

Sandglass

The **sandglass**, or hourglass, was the basic tool for telling time during this period. Although not completely accurate, it was good enough to measure the difference in four-hour watches on a ship.

"Europeans and Exploration." *Europeans and Exploration*. N.p., n.d. Web. 19 June 2014.

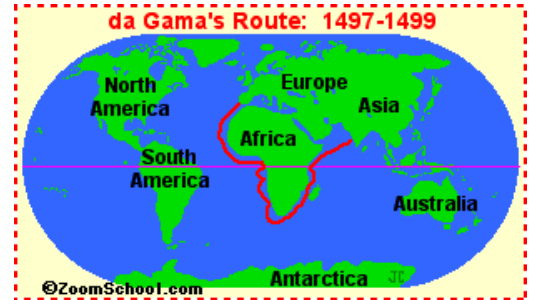
Question: Summarize how new inventions and technologies made the Age of Exploration possible.

Explorers

Five major countries and their rulers wanted to explore. Portugal led the development of trade routes traveling the west coast of Africa, around the southern tip and across to India. Others from Spain, England, and France wanted the "God, Glory and Gold".



Vasco de Gama sailed east from Portugal around the southern tip of Africa and headed across the Indian Ocean headed to the Far East. At the time, many people thought that da Gama's trip would be impossible because it was assumed that the Indian Ocean was not connected to any other seas. He docked his caravel in modern-day India.



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http://4.bp.blogspot.com/_oAuwjCpnyF8/Th8u2k5dawl/AAAAAAAAAGpM/refa-MtWHiM/s1600/vasco.jpg



Prince Henry the Navigator, a royal prince of Portugal established a school of navigation for sailors. The school was for oceanic navigating, map making, and astronomical observation. Henry did not sail to others but encourages others to make voyages through patronage.



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Christopher Columbus was an Italian explorer who sailed across the Atlantic Ocean, hoping to find a route to India (in order to trade for spices). He made a total of four trips to the Caribbean and South America sailing for King Ferdinand II and Queen Isabella of Spain. On his first trip, Columbus led an expedition with three ships, the Niña, the Pinta, and the Santa Maria.



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Hernán Cortés (also spelled Cortez) was a Spanish adventurer and conquistador who overthrew the Aztec empire and claimed Mexico for Spain. Cortes sailed from Cuba to the Yucatan Peninsula. Hearing rumors of great riches, Cortés traveled inland to the capital of the Aztec empire. He then brutally killed the Aztec emperor Montezuma and conquered his Aztec Empire of Mexico, claiming all of Mexico for Spain.

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Francisco Pizarro was a Spanish conquistador who traveled through much of the Pacific coast of America along Peru. He "discovered" the Incan empire and conquered it brutally and quickly, stealing immense hoards of gold, silver, and other treasures.

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Ferdinand Magellan was a Portuguese explorer who led the first expedition that sailed around the Earth. Magellan also named the Pacific Ocean (the name means that it is a calm, peaceful ocean). To navigate around the world means to circumnavigate it.

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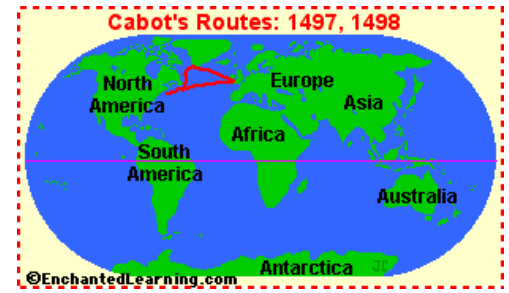


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John Cabot was an Italian-born English explorer and navigator. He discovered Newfoundland and parts of North America.

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Henry Hudson was an English explorer and navigator who explored parts of the Arctic Ocean and North America. Hudson Strait, Hudson Bay, Hudson River were all named for him. After an unsuccessful trip his crew turned on him and left him stranded in Hudson Bay.

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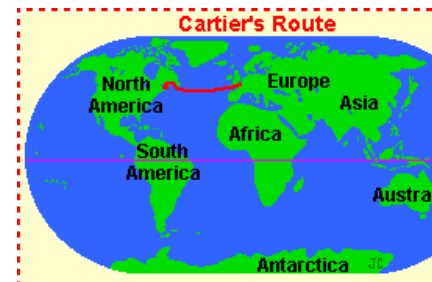


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Jacques Cartier was a French explorer who led three expeditions to Canada. He was looking for a route to the Pacific through North America (a Northwest Passage) but did not find one. Cartier paved the way for French exploration of North America.

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Question: What countries began to explore in the New World?

Question: Which country led the race to the New World by sending the first explorers?