

Explorers Study Sheet

Explorer	Date of Exploration	Sponsoring Country	Reason for Exploration	Obstacles	Major Accomplishments
Christopher Columbus	1492-1504	Spain	Hoping to find a new route to Asia to trade spices	*no maps *frightened crew *shipwreck on 1 st voyage	*Reached what is today San Salvador *thought he was in India (Indies) so he called the local people Indians *traveled to the islands of Hispaniola (now Haiti and Dominican Republic), Cuba and other smaller islands (Central and South America)
John Cabot	1497-1498	England	Searching for a Northwest Passage across North America to Asia (an all water route)	*no maps	*explored many Canadian islands and capes *expeditions were the 1 st of Britain's to claim Canada *one of his three sons, Sebastian, also went with Cabot on one of his voyages
Vasco Nunez de Balboa	1500-1513	Spain	*looking for new land for Spanish settlers to claim *searching for a quick route to the Pacific Ocean	*treated the Native Americans very badly	*sailed to present-day Panama in Central America *crossed the mountains and jungles of Panama and became the 1 st European to reach the eastern part of the Pacific Ocean

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Juan Ponce de Leon	1513-1521	Spain	Searching for the legendary fountain of youth and other riches like gold	*treated the Native Americans very badly	*first European to set foot in Florida *established the oldest European settlement in Puerto Rico *discovered the Gulf Stream (a current in the Atlantic Ocean) *sailed with Columbus on his 2 nd voyage *stayed in Dominican Republic
Jacques Cartier	1534-1541	French	looking for a route to the Pacific through North America (a Northwest Passage)	*crew caught many diseases	*paved the way for French exploration of North America *sailed over 1,000 miles along the St. Lawrence River *named Canada
Henry Hudson	1607-1611	England	England sent him to find a Northwest Passage	*mutinied in the cold climate *He was left with his sons and 7 others adrift in the Hudson Bay	*explored parts of the Arctic Ocean and Northeastern North America (New York) *The Hudson River, Hudson Strait, and Hudson Bay are named for him