European exploration

- Factors that encouraged exploration
- Portuguese
- Spanish
- French
- Dutch
- English
In the Middle Ages European countries expanded beyond their borders

After the Crusades introduced Europe to the spices and riches of Africa and Asia, several countries sought a more direct route.

The Ottoman empire controlled the land trade routes and prices.

Spain, Portugal, England, France, and the Netherlands began searching for new routes via the ocean.
Reasons for European expansion

- Explore the world
- Expand Trade
- More Wealth
- Spread Christianity
- More Territory
## Factors that encouraged exploration

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<th>Factor</th>
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<td>Increase in trade and desire for new trade routes</td>
<td>(Marco Polo’s writings)</td>
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<td>Nationalism in Europe</td>
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<td>Populations rebounded after the Middle Ages and Black Plague</td>
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<td>An increase in knowledge and scientific curiosity</td>
<td>during the Renaissance</td>
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New technologies that enabled exploration

- Compass
- Globe
- Rudder
- Improved ship building techniques and design
- Quadrant (improved ability to determine latitude based on altitude of stars)
- Maps from foreign countries
- Marco polo’s writings
- Gunpowder weapons
Map of routes taken by European explorers
Prince Henry of Portugal financed and sent several expeditions along the west coast of Africa.

Bartolomeu Dias sailed around the southern tip of Africa in 1488.

da Gama sailed to India by circumnavigating Africa in 1498.

Portuguese sailing costs decreased and profits increased after the route to India was established.

Prince Henry had a “state of the art” training facility with mapmakers, navigators, and instrument makers that trained sailors.
Spanish exploration

Christopher Columbus, an Italian navigator, convinced the King and Queen of Spain to fund an expedition to find a western route to the riches of Asia.

The Portuguese had sailed the route around Africa and therefore dominated the eastern route.

At the time maps of the world did not include the Americas.
Columbus’ voyage
Columbus and his crew arrived in the “New World”, probably in the Bahamas. It was called the “New World” because at the time no modern European nation was aware of the continent’s existence. Vikings had explored parts of North America in the 1000s but they did not stay.
Spain led the exploration and colonization of the Americas

- Hernan Cortes conquered the Aztecs of Mexico
- Francisco Pizarro conquered the Incas of Peru
- The quest for riches drove the Spanish to enslave the native population to mine for gold and silver, while a desire to convert natives to Catholicism led to the building of missions throughout North, Central, and South America as well as several Caribbean islands
- Guns, horses and steel were major contributors to Spain's success because they made the Spanish unstoppable
Spanish Place Names

• The Spanish were among the first Europeans to explore what is now the United States, and the first to found a permanent settlement here (St. Augustine, Florida, in 1565). From Alaska's Madre de Dios Island to Mexico, Maine, the United States is dotted with Spanish place names. Here are a few.
Alamo
: "poplar." This tall softwood tree gave its name to a number of U.S. places, including the memorable chapel-fort in Texas. The town site of Los Alamos in New Mexico is home to the national laboratory, where atomic bombs were produced.

Alcatraz Island
(California): from *alcatraces*, pelican bird in Spanish. A sizable pelican population who once dominated and lived on the rocky island in the San Francisco Bay.

Colorado
: "reddish." The state is named for the reddish color of mud found in the Colorado River.

El Paso
(Texas): "passage." The border city of El Paso lies at a small gap between the Rockies and the Juarez Mountains of Mexico. This narrow passage has made the city a hub for both north-south and east-west travel.

Florida
: "flowery." Some say that Spanish explorer Ponce de Leon named the land for the Spanish term for Easter, Pascua de Florida (Flowery Feast), because he first saw the land during the Easter season. Others believe he named it for the area's lush flowers.

Fresno
(California): "ash tree." The central Californian city and county are named for their abundant ash trees; ash that is used as food plant.

La Brea
(California): "tar." The tar pits in this famous part of Los Angeles have yielded amazing fossils for more than 100 years.
Las Cruces
(New Mexico): "crosses." The city is named for the burial ground of some 40 travelers who were killed by Apaches in 1830. Also, the alternative meaning of the cross-roads.

Las Vegas
(Nevada): "meadows." Before casinos and neon lights defined Las Vegas, the area was noteworthy as a desert oasis with artesian springs.

Nevada
: "snow-covered." The mountains in this western state are often capped with snow.

Los Angeles
(California): "angels." In 1781 Spanish settlers founded El Pueblo de Nuestra Senora la Reina de Los Angeles de Porciuncula (The Town of Our Lady the Queen of the Angels of Porciuncula). It became known as La Ciudad de los Angeles (City of Angels), and then just as Los Angeles.

Los Gatos
(California): "cats." At the time this western California city was founded, many wildcats roamed the area.

Montana
: from montana, mountain. Representative James M. Ashley of Ohio suggested using the Spanish word in honor of the territory's mountainous western part.

La Paz County
(Arizona) the peace

Nogales
(Arizona) walnut

Casa Grande
(Arizona) Big House

Sierra Vista
(Arizona) Mountain View

Table Mesa & Picacho Peak
(Arizona) There are names that might be categorized in the Department of Redundancy-Redundancy. The Spanish attached descriptive names to the landscape such as Mesa (Table) and Picacho (Peak). English speaking people came along and thought the words to be pretty and interesting but not quite descriptive enough. So Mesa became “Table Mesa,” and Picacho became “Picacho Peak.”
Spain controlled most of South and Central America, much of the Caribbean, and parts of North America. However, territory that large was difficult to control and therefore was open to attack. Other European countries had seen the riches brought back by Spain and were eager to stake a claim.
In 1524 Giovanni da Verrazano explored the Atlantic coast between Florida and Newfoundland and established relationships with Native American fur-trapping tribes.

In 1534 Jacques Cartier sailed the Lawrence river, solidified those relationships and created new ones with other Native American tribes.

Although the French tried to settle in Florida they were stopped by the Spanish.

Initially the French fished in the Atlantic for cod and salmon but fur trading yielded bigger profits.

The fur trade necessitated few settlers at first but by the mid 1600s the French controlled the interior of North America.
New France and Louisiana far exceeded the size of the British colonies in area, but the area was extremely under-populated. By 1760, only 80,000 lived in New France, compared to over a million in the English colonies.
Samuel de Champlain was the founder of Quebec City, the first permanent French settlement in North America.

Other French explorers

LaSalle explored the lower Mississippi River, claiming the entire valley for France, naming it “Louisiana” in honor of Louis XIV.

French priest Jacques Marquette and fur trader Louis Joliet explored the Great Lakes and upper Mississippi River Valley.
In 1609, Henry Hudson, an Englishman hired by the Dutch, arrived in North America and explored the river today known as the Hudson River. He established fur trade relations as well as other posts in modern day New York.

In 1624 the Dutch purchased what today is the island of Manhattan in New York from local Indians for the equivalent of $24. The Dutch named the area “New Amsterdam”.

The Dutch West India Company established the colony of New Netherland when 30 families settled along the Delaware and Hudson rivers and Governor’s Island.

The Dutch controlled this area until 1664 when the governor surrendered the territory to the British.
Hudson's Voyages of Discovery

- 1609 Voyage on the Half Moon
- 1610 Voyage on Discovery

NORTH AMERICA
- Labrador
- Newfoundland
- Baffin Island
- Hudson Bay
- Albany
- Sable Is.

EASTERN NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN
- Greenland (Denmark)
- Labrador Sea
- North Sea
- Norwegian Sea
- Denmark Strait
- North Cape

EUROPE
- North Sea
- Norwegian Sea
- Denmark Strait

AFRICA
- Spain
- Portugal
- France
- Italy

UNITED KINGDOM
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- Amsterdam
- Netherlands

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