



# UNIT 2

## EXPLORERS

### 1200 TO 1600

#### PEOPLE YOU WILL MEET

Marco Polo  
Prince Henry the Navigator  
Christopher Columbus  
Hernán Cortés  
Francisco Pizarro  
Ponce de Leon  
Hernández de Soto  
Francisco Vasquez de Coronado  
John Cabot  
Henry Hudson  
Jacques Cartier  
Samuel de Champlain

#### IMPORTANT EVENTS

Marco Polo writes of his adventures in China  
Discovery of the “New World”  
Conquest of the Aztec and Inca Empires

#### VOCABULARY

New World	Caravel
Northwest Passage	Carrack
Conquistador	Scurvy
Cavalry	Franciscans
Fountain of Youth	Jesuits



## LESSON 1

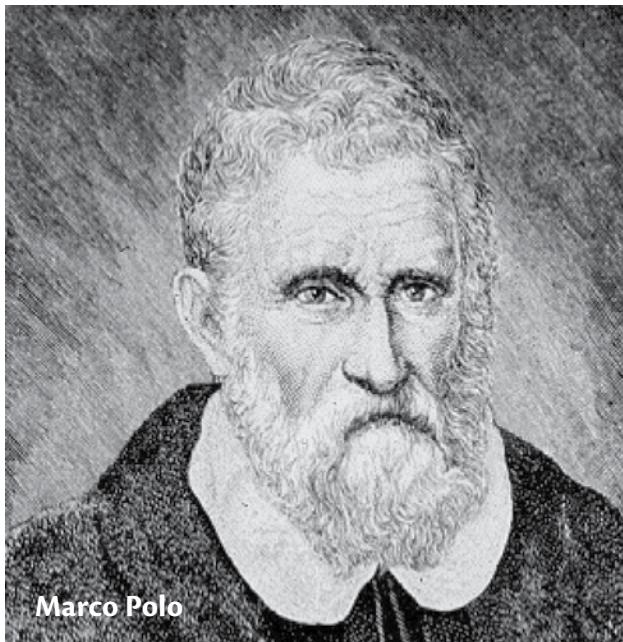
In the last unit you learned that the first people to live in what is today the United States were the American Indians. Although the American Indians were living in North America for thousands of years, we know very little of their history because they did not have a written language. Most of what we know about the Indians comes from the accounts of Europeans who came to North and South America either as explorers, settlers, soldiers, or missionaries.

The first Europeans believed to have visited North America were the Vikings, led by Leif Ericson. These Vikings lived in Iceland and later Greenland and traveled to North America around 1000 AD. Ericson's expedition is believed to have built a small settlement in what is today Newfoundland, Canada. However, the Vikings did not stay, and the settlement fell into ruin. We can be thankful that the Vikings did not move to North America. The Viking people were not Christians, and would have brought their false religion to the **New World**.

Instead, we can be thankful that Christians from Europe would come and settle on this continent. People in Europe did not even know that North and South America existed, but an interesting series of events eventually led some very brave men to discover this new land. This part of the story actually starts with a man named Marco Polo who wrote a book that was responsible for encouraging the people of Europe to explore new places.

### MARCO POLO

**Marco Polo** was born in Italy in 1254. As a young man, he went with his father and uncle to China. He spent 24 years in China working and learning about the people and their culture. When he returned to Italy, he brought many Asian items such as silk and spices with him, and he wrote a book about everything he had seen. You can read his book today. It is called *The Travels of Marco Polo*.



**Marco Polo**

Marco Polo's stories sparked the imaginations of the European people who wanted to have many of the new things that he described. Because the leaders of the European countries wanted a way to buy the spices, silks, and other items from Asia, they began to establish trade routes between Europe and Asia. Many people traveled to Asia by land, but eventually Muslims in the Middle East and Africa controlled most of the land routes and prevented the European Christians from traveling through their lands. The Europeans still wanted to trade with the people in China and India, so they decided to try to find a way to travel to Asia by water.

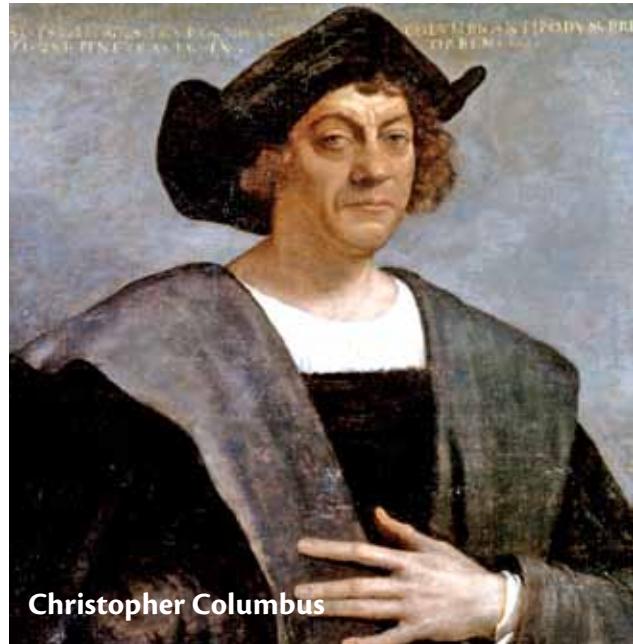
### PRINCE HENRY THE NAVIGATOR

**Prince Henry** of Portugal was one of the first people to try to find a sea route to Asia. He decided the best way to get to Asia would be to sail around Africa. He sent many Portuguese sailors on voyages to discover the best sea route around Africa. In 1488, Bartolomeu Dias reached the southernmost tip of Africa, and in 1498, Vasco da Gama became the first European to travel to Asia by sailing around Africa.





Prince Henry



Christopher Columbus

### CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

While the Portuguese were exploring the coast of Africa, sailors from other countries were trying to find their own sea routes to Asia. **Christopher Columbus** had a very different idea from most of the other sailors. He thought that since the earth was round, he could sail west across the Atlantic Ocean rather than east around Africa, and arrive on the other side of Asia. After years of trying, he finally convinced King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella, the rulers of Spain, to pay for his expedition to sail west to Asia. They did this in the hope that Columbus would bring back great riches to help them pay for their recent war against the Moors in southern Spain.

Columbus was given three ships: the *Niña*, the *Pinta*, and his flagship, the *Santa María*. He and his men sailed west in 1492, and after more than two months at sea, they spotted land. You might think that Columbus discovered what is today the United States, but he actually discovered the Bahamas, a group of islands in the Caribbean Sea, south of Florida. Columbus never reached Asia, and he never actually set foot on the continents

of North or South America, but he had discovered the “New World.”

Columbus led several more expeditions to the New World and was even briefly made governor of one of the Spanish settlements on Hispaniola, one of the islands he discovered. Columbus did not become rich as he had hoped, although Spain did eventually gain great riches from the people of Mexico and South America. More importantly, Columbus opened up the exploration of North and



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South America and will always be remembered as the man who discovered the New World.

The people who followed in Columbus's footsteps came to the New World for different reasons. Many people were looking for gold. Some wanted to bring the Christian gospel to the American Indians. Others were looking for the "**Northwest Passage**," a supposed sea path through the North American continent that would allow people to sail to Asia without having to travel around South America. Some explorers were interested in the resources that could be sent back to Europe, and some people wanted to settle in the new land and make the New World their home.



### WRAP UP QUESTIONS

1. What did Marco Polo do that encouraged Europeans to try to reach Asia?
2. Who was the ruler who sent sailors in search of a sea route around Africa?
3. Who was the first European to sail around Africa to Asia?
4. What was Christopher Columbus's unusual idea for reaching Asia?
5. Who financed Columbus's voyage?
6. What did Columbus actually discover?



## LESSON 2

Once the leaders of Europe realized that Columbus had discovered a whole new land, many countries began to send people to explore the New World. Most of these explorers came from Spain, France, and England. The Spanish became the dominant power in Central and South America. The French became the dominant power in Canada

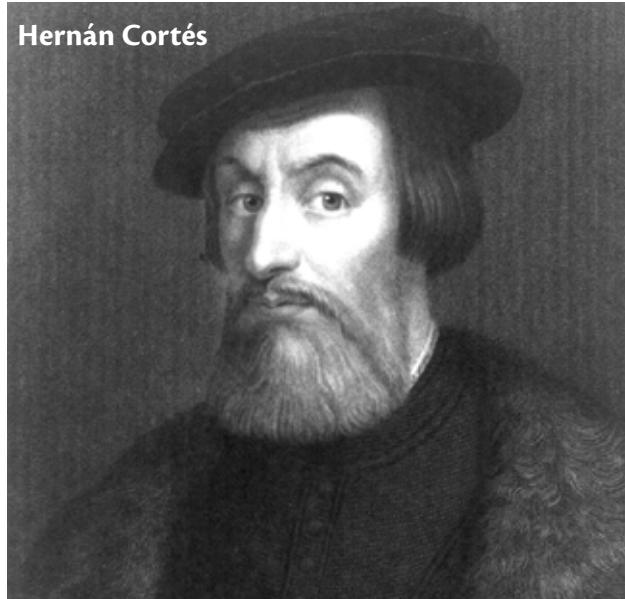
and established friendly relations with many of the American Indian tribes there. And in what is now the United States, while the Spanish and French tried to control much of the land, they were no match for the determined English settlers. Today we will learn about several of these daring men who were willing to leave their homes in hopes of wealth, fame, adventure, and new land.

### HERNÁN CORTÉS

One of the most famous Spanish explorers was **Hernán Cortés** (sometimes called Hernández Cortés), who led an expedition into Mexico in 1519. He went to explore the land and to claim it for Spain. There he discovered the Aztec Empire. The Aztecs were a fierce and cruel people who ruled the tribes around them and practiced human sacrifice. They were also very rich and their leaders had a large amount of gold. In addition to claiming the land, Cortés wanted to capture the Aztec gold for Spain.

In 1521, Cortés and his men defeated the mighty Aztec Empire and killed their emperor, Montezuma. The Spanish were able to defeat thousands of Aztec warriors with only a small group of soldiers. They later came to be called **conquistadors**, which means conquerors.

Hernán Cortés



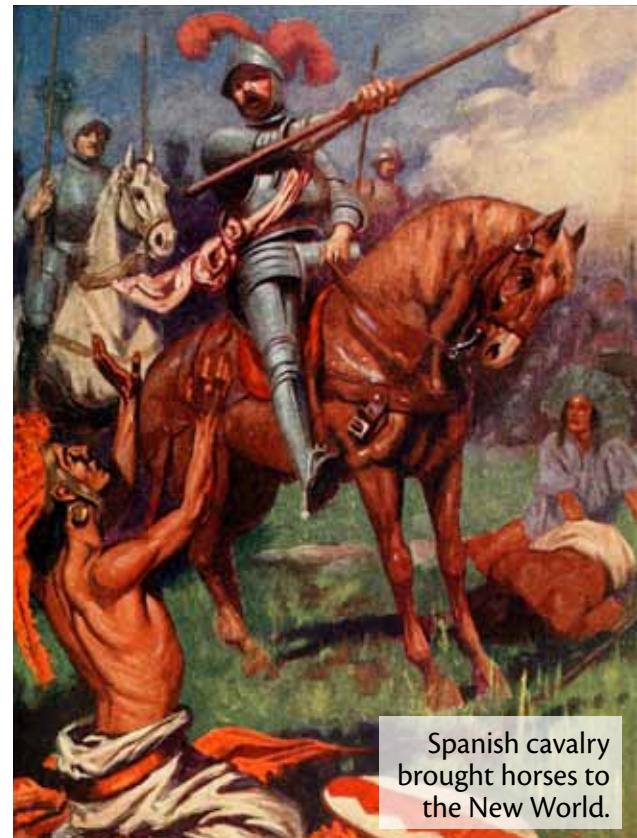
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There were several reasons that the Spanish were able to defeat the Aztecs. First, the Spanish soldiers were much more disciplined and fought together as a group. The Aztecs fought as individual warriors, but not as a group. Working together as a group, or a unit, made the Spanish soldiers more effective.

Also, many of the neighboring tribes that had been ruled by the Aztecs were willing to fight with the Spanish soldiers against the Aztecs. The Aztecs were very cruel to their conquered enemies. They even offered their enemies as sacrifices to their gods. So the neighboring tribes welcomed the Spanish invaders and did all they could to help them defeat the Aztecs.

In addition, the Spanish had horses, and men trained to fight on them. Soldiers on horseback are called **cavalry**. The Spanish cavalry was well trained, superbly equipped, and very effective in battle. One reason the cavalry was so effective was that the Aztecs had never seen horses before. The people were terrified of the cavalry. Initially, some even thought that the man and horse were actually one single creature! The Aztecs, though brave fighters and experienced at fighting other warriors, had no idea how to fight men on horses. Small numbers of Spanish cavalry were able to kill large numbers of Aztecs while suffering very few deaths of their own.

The Spanish were also able to fight effectively because of their armor. Spanish soldiers initially wore armor covering most of their bodies, just like they would on a battlefield in Europe. But before long, all of the Spanish soldiers started wearing less armor to make it easier for them to move quickly and so that they did not overheat in the very hot, humid weather in Mexico. A Spanish soldier wore armor covering his chest and back, and a strong helmet for his head. This provided enough protection since the Aztecs mainly relied on large powerful club-like weapons and did not have weapons that could pierce armor. The Aztecs also used archers, but their arrows could not penetrate the Spanish armor and did not have the distance of the Spanish crossbows.



Spanish cavalry brought horses to the New World.

Once Cortés defeated the Aztecs, he sent large amounts of the Aztec gold back to Spain. This encouraged many other soldiers and explorers to come to the New World in search of great riches as well.

### FRANCISCO PIZARRO

After Cortés's success in Mexico, another Spanish explorer, **Francisco Pizarro**, led an expedition in 1532 to what is now Peru. There the Spanish discovered the mighty Inca Empire. Pizarro hoped to gain great riches for himself and for Spain, so he looked for a way to conquer the Incas.

The Incan emperor Atahuallpa invited the Spanish to a celebration in honor of a recent victory in a civil war. Although the Spanish soldiers with Pizarro were well armed, Atahuallpa did not consider them to be a threat because there were fewer than 200 Spanish soldiers and the Inca ruler had thousands of Incan soldiers. However, the Spanish

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**Francisco Pizarro**



**Ponce de Leon**

attacked the Incans. They killed thousands of Incan soldiers, and took Atahuallpa prisoner.

The Incans offered a large ransom for the release of their emperor. Pizarro took the money, but killed Atahuallpa anyway. He then destroyed the Incan capital city of Cusco and stole all of their valuables. This ended the power of the Incas and further enriched Spain.

### OTHER SPANISH EXPLORERS

As Spain conquered South America, many other explorers came to North America. Most were looking for gold or the **Fountain of Youth**, a water source that was supposed to keep a person from ever growing old. Obviously this was only a story, and could never exist, but foolish men spent years looking for it anyway. **Ponce de Leon** was one such man. Ponce de Leon, like many of the explorers, had been a soldier in Spain before coming to the New World. He first came to the New World in 1493 as part of Columbus's second voyage. However, when Columbus returned to Spain, de Leon stayed behind.

In 1508, Ponce de Leon was named the governor of Puerto Rico. Later, he put together an expedition to search for a land that was believed to contain the

Fountain of Youth. He and his expedition landed in Florida in 1513. While they found many hostile American Indians, they did not find the Fountain of Youth. In 1521, de Leon led a second expedition to Florida. There he and his men met with strong opposition from the natives. De Leon was hit by an arrow and later died from his wounds.

In 1539, **Hernando de Soto** continued where de Leon had left off. He pushed farther into Florida, and then he headed west, where he discovered the Mississippi River. He explored much of what is now the southeast United States. During his explorations, he and his men fought and killed many American Indians who were distrustful of these strange men. De Soto and over half of his men died from tropical fevers during the expedition. Although they were not able to find the Fountain of Youth, their expedition provided Spain with valuable information about North America.

**Francisco Vasquez de Coronado** led an expedition north from Mexico into the American Southwest. Legend said that there were beautiful cities of gold there, so Coronado and his men set out to find them. They did not find cities of gold; all they found were many American Indians living in adobe, or mud, houses that sparkled in the sun.



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**Francisco Vásquez de Coronado**

The Southwestern Indians did not have riches like the Aztecs or Incas. During part of their expedition, Coronado and his men followed the Colorado River, which led them to Grand Canyon. They are believed to be the first Europeans to see this amazing wonder.

### ENGLISH AND FRENCH EXPLORERS

Unlike the Spanish, the French and English explorers were not mainly looking for gold; instead, many of them were looking for the "Northwest Passage." They hoped to find a water route through North America that would give them easier access to Asia. In 1497, **John Cabot** explored the coast of Canada and claimed North America for England while looking for the Northwest Passage. His claim on North America opened the way for many English settlers in later years. He and his crew are believed to be the first Europeans to set foot in North America since Leif Ericson's brief visit nearly 500 years earlier.

Cabot did not find the desired waterway, but other Englishmen continued searching. Over the next hundred years several trips were made to explore North America. **Henry Hudson** went into Canada through what is now called the Hudson

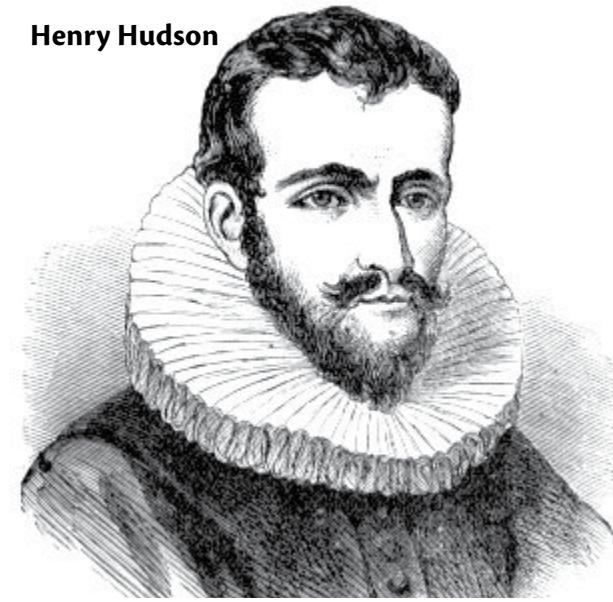


**John Cabot**

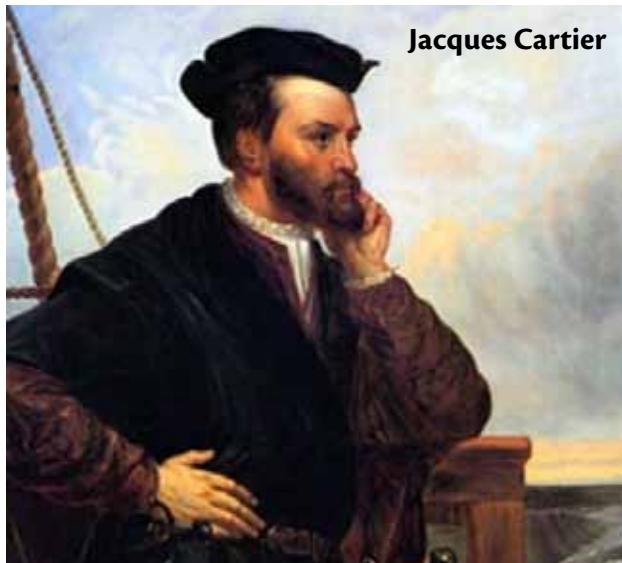
Strait, into the Hudson Bay. He also explored much of the area that is now New York. Unfortunately for him, his crew rebelled against him, and he was killed in 1611.

France was also interested in finding the Northwest Passage and sent explorers to North America. Most of the French expeditions were along rivers and other waterways so they were able to go farther inland than some of the other explorers who traveled over land. However, they did not claim much area beyond the waterways. Several years after Cabot's voyage to America, **Jacques Cartier**, an explorer from France, went farther into Canada. He claimed North America for France in 1534. This allowed France to send many settlers to what

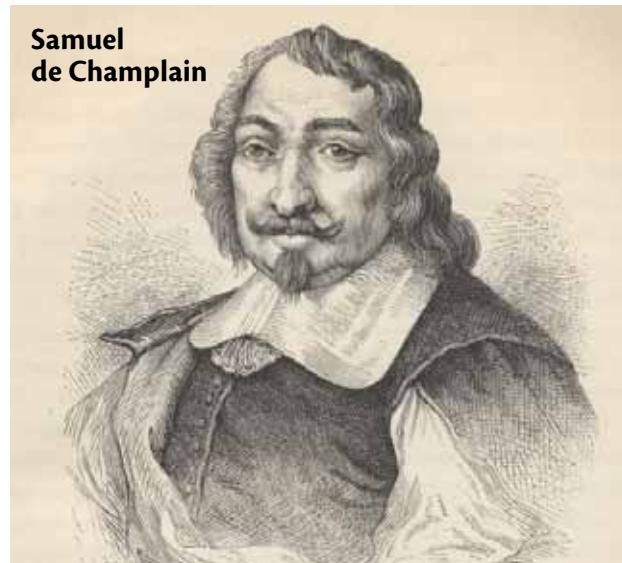
**Henry Hudson**



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Jacques Cartier



Samuel  
de Champlain

is today Canada. Cartier discovered and explored much of the St. Lawrence River, which flows from the Great Lakes through eastern Canada. He also attempted to settle Quebec in 1541, but he and his men were unsuccessful.

Another French explorer, **Samuel de Champlain**, continued where Cartier left off. In 1603, he explored farther up the St. Lawrence River and he was able to start a settlement in Quebec in 1608. Later, in 1613, de Champlain discovered a lake between what is today New York and Vermont. That lake bears his name—Lake Champlain. De Champlain befriended the Huron Indians and for many years the French helped the Hurons in their continuing wars against the Iroquois.

These French and English explorers all claimed land for their countries, but none of these men were able to find the desired water passage. As we now know, North America has several large mountain ranges down the middle of the continent so there are no connecting waterways from one side of the continent to the other.

All of these explorers learned about the land and the people of North and South America and sent information back to Europe. Their reports encouraged many others to follow. Some of the

people who followed were missionaries who came to teach the gospel to the American Indians. God used these brave men, and many hearts were changed as people turned to Christ. Other people came to find a new life in a new land. We will learn about the first settlements in the United States in the next unit.



### WRAP UP QUESTIONS

1. What empire did Hernán Cortés conquer?
2. Give three reasons why a small number of Spanish soldiers were able to defeat thousands of Aztec warriors.
3. How did the Aztecs treat their neighboring tribes?
4. Who was the leader responsible for defeating the Inca Empire?
5. What were the two main things Spanish explorers were looking for?
6. What was the main thing that English and French explorers were looking for?
7. Which part(s) of the New World were primarily controlled by the Spanish?



8. Which part(s) of the New World were primarily controlled by the French?
9. Which part(s) of the New World were primarily controlled by the English?
10. Who were the Spanish, English, and French explorers mentioned in this lesson and what were their main accomplishments?



## MAP WORK

On a copy of the world map mark the following items:

- Aztec Empire in Mexico
- Inca Empire in South America
- Trade Routes to India and China around Africa
- Columbus's voyage across the Atlantic Ocean
- Any of the major explorers' voyages you choose
  - » Dias – trip to South Africa
  - » Da Gama – trip to Asia
  - » Magellan – trip around the world

Label this map "Age of Explorers." Add this map to your U.S. history notebook.



## LESSON 3

Do you think it would be fun to be an explorer? Would you like to have been a sailor or a soldier in the 1500s? Let's find out what life was like for these men.

### THE LIFE OF A SAILOR

When Christopher Columbus set sail on his first voyage across the Atlantic Ocean, he took 86 men with him on three ships. Life was not easy on ships like the *Niña*, the *Pinta*, and the *Santa María*. Sailors had many responsibilities and very little time to relax. The officers constantly had to pay attention to the wind and the sea so they could tell the sailors how to adjust the sails. The sailors had to raise and lower the sails and adjust them so that the ships would go in the right direction. Sailors had to know how to tie many different kinds of knots so that

the sails stayed in the right positions and could be adjusted quickly.

Sailors had other jobs, too. They had to scrub the deck, mend sails and ropes, and pump out water that collected inside the ship. One sailor usually stood watch in the "crow's nest," which was a platform high up on one of the masts. Sailors also had to handle large hooks, called grapples, which were used to connect one ship to another ship. Grapples were used to hold friendly ships together when they were exchanging products or mail. Grapples were also used to help capture enemy ships.

If sailors were injured, they would receive very poor medical treatment. Few ships had doctors, so the cook was usually expected to treat those who were sick or injured. The cook had various sharp knives and other utensils for cooking, and these often were also used for crude surgery.

Once gunpowder weapons such as cannons were introduced, the most common type of injury

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Two cannons of 16<sup>th</sup> century style. In front is a bronze cast culverin and behind is a wrought iron cannon.

received on warships was from large wooden splinters. When an enemy cannonball hit the ship, the wood splintered into hundreds of pieces. If a sailor was nearby, he might be hit by the flying pieces of wood. These injuries were often much more serious than you may think. The cook/doctor would use his instruments to remove the pieces of wood, but many sailors developed infections, and many of them died. Even though their injuries would not be considered severe by today's standards, even a small injury could be fatal when no real doctors and no real medicines were available.

The sailors' food was not very appetizing. Their food was usually pretty good for the first two weeks. After that, the sailors ate whatever did not spoil, or more accurately, what did not seem to spoil too much. They often ate very hard bread, calledhardtack, meat with weevils and sometimes worms in it, and whatever fish they could catch.

The sailors drank water that was stored in large barrels, and often drank some form of liquor. British ships were known for always having a rum ration. Sailors could earn an extra ration of rum by doing especially well on assignments.

You may think that the sailors had living quarters or bedrooms in the hold, the area below the deck, but this was not the case. Because the hold of the ship was usually filled with food, water, extra sails, and firewood, there was no room for the

sailors to live inside the ship. Most of the time they slept on the open deck, even in bad weather.

Sailors did not receive much pay. However, if they were part of an expedition that found gold or other riches, the crew received a portion of the treasure. Sailors' lives were hard. They worked long hours, ate poor food, and slept in the open air. But many men felt these hardships were worth the chance to explore new lands.

### THE LIFE OF A CONQUISTADOR

Many of the people who first came to the New World were sailors and explorers, while many others were soldiers called conquistadors. Although the life of a conquistador may seem exciting, it was filled with great danger and hardship. Many of the soldiers that went to the New World with Cortés and Pizarro never returned.

The soldiers had to put up with the same hardships aboard the ships as the sailors did. Then they had many more difficulties to face after they landed. The Spanish soldiers in the New World lived similar lives to soldiers all over the world at that time.

Their days were often spent looking for food and fuel for fires. This is called foraging. During most of history, armies rarely took much, if any, food with them, but relied on living off the land. Since the Spanish soldiers had to eat what was available in the New World, they were introduced to many new foods. Some of the foods that were discovered by conquistadors and taken back to Europe included potatoes, tomatoes, chili peppers, peanuts, chocolate, vanilla, sweet potatoes, and corn. Before the explorers came to America, the eastern world, including Europe, Asia, and Africa, did not know about these very important foods.

Each day, groups of between 10 and 50 men went foraging together to look for whatever the army needed. In unknown, or enemy territory, the foraging parties took more men just in case they ran into trouble. If they encountered enemy



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This reenactment of a 17<sup>th</sup> century battle shows musketeers and pikemen in battle formation.

warriors, they would hopefully be able to fight their way back to the rest of the army. Soldiers who did not go out with the foraging party guarded the camp and watched for enemies.

When the army went into battle, the soldiers had to be ready for anything. Most of the soldiers were armed with a sword and some type of shield. Some Spanish soldiers carried a small, but very strong shield, called a buckler, while others carried larger shields. Some of the Spanish soldiers had guns, pikes, or crossbows.

During battle, soldiers worked together in formations. If one man was killed, the man behind him moved up to take his place so the line was not broken. In a battle, the soldiers with guns lined up in front of the other soldiers. They fired their guns and then dropped back behind the other soldiers to reload. Once they were ready to fire, they moved back to the front of the line and fired again. After these soldiers ran out of ammunition, or if the enemy soldiers got too close to shoot at, the gunmen used their swords, just like all the other soldiers.

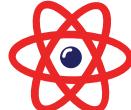
Most soldiers were foot soldiers, but a few of the soldiers were cavalry and fought on horseback. The job of the Spanish cavalry was to flank, or move to the side of, and crash into, the enemy warriors with their lances and their horses. After charging the enemy, they either fought with their swords, or rode away, to reform and charge again.

Sometimes the soldiers received a small amount of the gold that was taken in a battle, but most of the time the soldiers received very little pay. They fought for their country, and were respected, but they lived a very difficult life.



### WRAP UP QUESTIONS

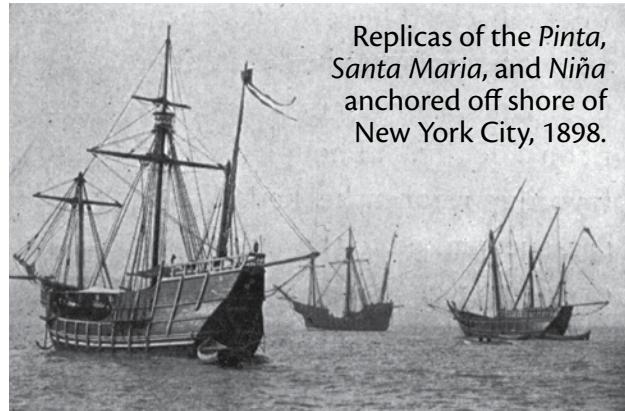
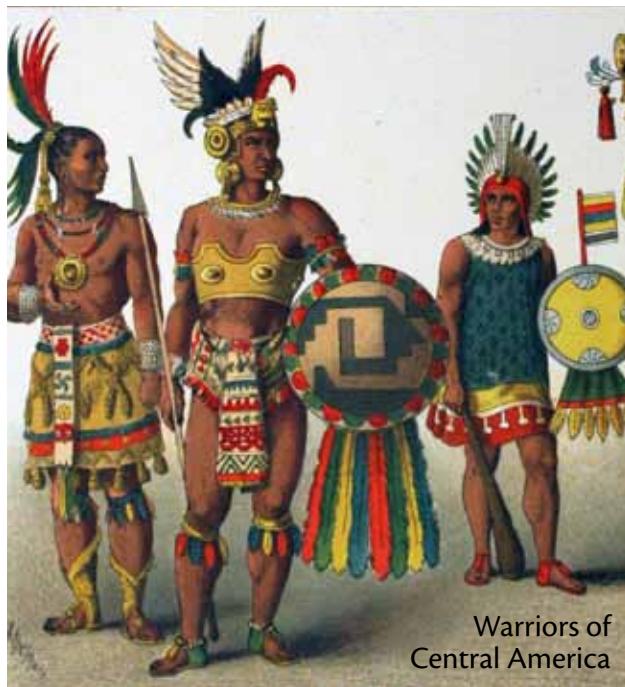
1. What were some jobs a sailor had to do?
2. What did the sailors eat and drink?
3. Besides fighting, what were some jobs the soldiers had to do?
4. How did soldiers get food and water?
5. What would you like about being a sailor and soldier? What would you dislike?



## TECHNOLOGY METER

Although the Aztec and Incan warriors greatly outnumbered the Spanish soldiers, the Spanish were able to defeat them because of their vastly superior weapons and armor. The Spanish swords were made of Toledo steel, which is very strong, whereas the Aztec and Incan weapons were made of stone. The Spanish had muskets and cannons, which were totally unheard of in the New World, and were terrifying to the otherwise brave Aztecs and Incans. The use of horses also made the Spanish conquistadors very effective against the Aztec and Incan warriors. Below, you can see the differences in the weapons.

The explorers were able to make the journey across the Atlantic Ocean because of the design of their ships. The *Niña* and the *Pinta* were caravels. **Caravels** were light and maneuverable. Most caravels had two or three masts. The masts had sails that were usually triangular and allowed the ship

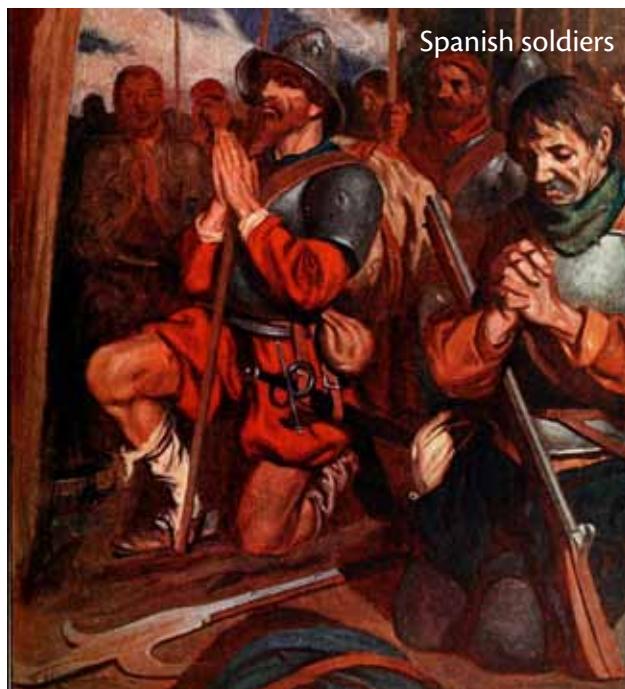


to move forward even if the wind was blowing a different direction. Some later caravels, including the *Niña* and the *Pinta*, were modified with a square mainsail.

Caravels could travel across very rough seas, and they could be used to explore shallow bays and the mouths of rivers. The caravel was a common type of ship used by the explorers.

### CARRACK

The *Santa María*, Columbus's flagship, was a larger type of ship called a **carrack** or nau. Because



carracks could carry more provisions, they were often used for longer journeys. A carrack usually had three or four masts. Most of the sails were square, but sometimes the mizzenmast at the back of the

ship had a triangular sail. Although these ships could carry more cargo, they were not as useful for exploring bays and rivers. This is why Columbus chose to take both types of ship with him.



## ACTIVITY

One problem that sailors often had on long voyages was a disease called **scurvy**. Scurvy causes spots on the skin, bleeding gums, loss of teeth, and eventually death. Today we know that scurvy is caused by a lack of Vitamin C, but most explorers in the 1500s did not know what caused this disease or how to treat it.

Jacques Cartier was a French explorer who investigated much of Canada. On one trip in 1536, while exploring the St. Lawrence River, many of Cartier's men developed scurvy, but the local natives saved the men. They taught them to boil the needles of the eastern white cedar tree and then drink the tea. This kind of tea contains Vitamin C and it saved the men's lives. They didn't know why the tea helped, but they were thankful that it did. Because sailors and explorers didn't understand the cause of the disease, scurvy continued to be a problem for them.

It wasn't until 1753 that a Scottish surgeon named James Lind proved that scurvy could be

treated with citrus fruits such as oranges, lemons, and limes. Citrus fruits are high in Vitamin C and therefore effective in treating and preventing scurvy. Sailors soon learned to keep citrus fruits on board to keep from getting scurvy.

You can make a drink to keep you and your fellow "sailors" from getting scurvy by making some homemade lemonade. One recipe is below. If you prefer your lemonade to be more tart, add more lemon juice. If you prefer it sweeter, add a little more sugar.

### LEMONADE

- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup lemon juice (squeeze a fresh lemon or use juice from concentrate)
- 3 Tablespoons sugar
- 8 ounces cold water
- Makes 1 cup



## LESSON 4

During the 1500s there were many people exploring North and South America. However, many other things were going on in the rest of the world, too. While European explorers were conquering the Aztecs and Incas and sailing to various parts of the world, the Renaissance was taking place in Europe. The Renaissance was a time of renewed

learning and appreciation of the arts. Leonardo da Vinci painted the *Mona Lisa*, and Michelangelo carved his famous statue of David and painted the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel during this time.

Interesting things were happening in science, too. Around 1440, shortly before the explorers started sailing around Africa, the printing press was invented. The printing press affected nearly every area of life. Printed books allowed information to be passed easily from one area to another. The first

## UNIT 2 | LESSON 4



This replica of Gutenberg's press appears in the Creation Museum.

As you learn more about history, you will see that the developments in industry and science eventually led to the Industrial Revolution, which greatly changed the way people live.

Empires were building during this time in many places around the world. Ivan IV, often called Ivan the Terrible, became the first Czar of Russia in 1547. He expanded trade, opened new ports for Russia, and is credited with changing Russia from a nation-state into an empire. During this same time period, Suleiman the Magnificent expanded the Ottoman Empire into Hungary as well as most of the Middle East and North Africa. Also, Akbar, considered the greatest Mughal leader, took over most of India and helped to unite the Hindu and Muslim people in that country.

But most important of all, God was working throughout the world to spread the gospel. In 1516, a man named Erasmus translated the New Testament from Latin into Greek. Several people later

and most important book to be printed was the Bible. The printing press made it possible for the Word of God to be taken all over the world.

Another advancement in science came in 1514 when a scientist named Nicolaus Copernicus introduced the idea that the planets moved around the sun. This was a big change from the belief that all of the planets and the sun moved around the earth. This was the beginning of many important advancements in science.

In 1530, a treadle, which allowed the spinner to rotate her spindle with one foot and have both hands free to spin, was added to the spinning wheel, making it much easier to spin yarn. This was one of the very first industrial advances.



## UNIT 2 | LESSON 4

used this version of the New Testament to translate the Bible into many other languages. This allowed people to read God's Word for themselves; they no longer relied on priests or other people to tell them what the Bible said.

In 1517, Martin Luther is credited with starting the Protestant Reformation. Luther nailed 95 theses, or arguments, to the Castle Church door in Wittenburg, Germany. These arguments challenged many of the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, which were not biblical. Luther then worked to translate the Bible into German. He encouraged Christians to study the Word of God for themselves. Many people in Germany left the Catholic Church and started Protestant churches.

Ulrich Zwingli and John Calvin led the Reformation in Switzerland, and William Tyndale led the Reformation in England. These men encouraged Christians to read the Bible for themselves and to make sure that what they believed lined up with the Scriptures. Many different denominations such as Lutheran, Presbyterian, Reformed, and Anglican churches were started as a result of the Reformation. The Protestant Reformation completely changed the Christian church.

Also during this time, Christian missionaries were starting to work in many areas of the world.

Some missionaries moved to the New World to help teach the Native Americans about Jesus. Other missionaries, like Francis Xavier, went to Asia and other parts of the world to preach the gospel to the people there. While Europeans were exploring America, God was changing hearts throughout the world.



### WRAP UP QUESTIONS

1. List two artists from the Renaissance.
2. What are two scientific inventions/discoveries that occurred during the time of the explorers?
3. What empires were rising in the Old World during this time?
4. What did Erasmus do that greatly affected Christians?
5. What important contribution did Martin Luther make?
6. Name two leaders of the Protestant Reformation.
7. Where were Christian missionaries going during this time period?



### TIME LINE WORK

Add the following people and events to your time line:

- 1270 – Marco Polo goes to China
- 1440 – Printing press invented
- 1492 – Christopher Columbus discovers the “New World”
- 1497 – John Cabot claims North America for England
- 1498 – Da Gama sails around Africa to Asia
- 1500s – Renaissance
- 1517 – Martin Luther begins the Protestant Reformation
- 1521 – Cortés defeats the Aztecs
- 1532 – Pizarro defeats the Incas



## LESSON 5

Today you will take what you have learned and do one or more of the following activities:

### CREATE A JOURNAL

Pretend that you are a sailor on the *Santa Maria*. Write several journal entries describing your trip with Christopher Columbus. Or, pretend that you are a soldier in Cortés's army. Write several journal entries describing what you see in the Aztec Empire.

If you want to make your journal look old, before you write on the paper, put some tea in a sink. Slightly wrinkle your paper then soak it in the tea for about an hour. Remove the paper and let it dry completely before you write on it. Add your journal entries to your history notebook.

### CARAVEL COLORING PAGE

The *Niña* and the *Pinta*, two of Christopher Columbus's ships, were caravels. A caravel was a light and maneuverable ship that had two or three masts with triangular sails. The *Santa Maria* was a larger ship called a carrack. A carrack had three or four masts. The front sails were usually square sails and the rear sails were usually triangular. These were the first types of ships the Europeans had that were large enough to safely cross the ocean. Color the caravel coloring page to show what the ships were like that allowed Columbus to reach the New World. Add your ship picture to your U.S. history notebook.

### BE A MISSIONARY

Many missionaries came to the New World to preach to the Native Americans and to help establish colonies and settlements for their countries. Many of these missionaries were also explorers who explored new areas as they preached to the Indians.

Most of the missionaries that Spain sent to the New World were Catholic priests called **Franciscans**.

These men forced the Indians to learn Spanish. They taught them to read and write and taught them about Christ. They required the converts to join the Catholic Church and to become Spanish subjects.

The missionaries that France sent were Catholic priests called **Jesuits**. The Jesuits took a different approach to their work. They lived among the people and learned their languages. They adapted to the Indian culture and used what the Indians already knew to help teach them about Jesus. The Jesuits were more successful in truly converting Indians to Christianity.

One of the first Jesuits to come to North America was a man named Father Marquette. Marquette moved from France to Quebec in 1666 where he began learning Indian languages. He then began preaching to the Indians and teaching them about Jesus. He spent many years ministering to the Huron Indians as well as to other Indian tribes.

In 1673, Father Marquette joined a French explorer named Louis Joliet on an expedition to explore the Mississippi River for France. They followed the river from its headwaters to within 440 miles of the Gulf of Mexico, demonstrating that there was a good waterway from Canada all the way south to the Gulf. Father Marquette was a successful explorer as well as a successful missionary.

Pretend that you are a missionary to the Native American people. Write a sermon or lesson that you would use to share the gospel with these non-Christian people. What would you take with you to demonstrate God's love for them? Include your sermon or lesson in your history notebook.



### WRAP UP QUESTIONS

- What types of ships did Christopher Columbus sail across the Atlantic Ocean?
- What type of missionaries did Spain send to the New World?



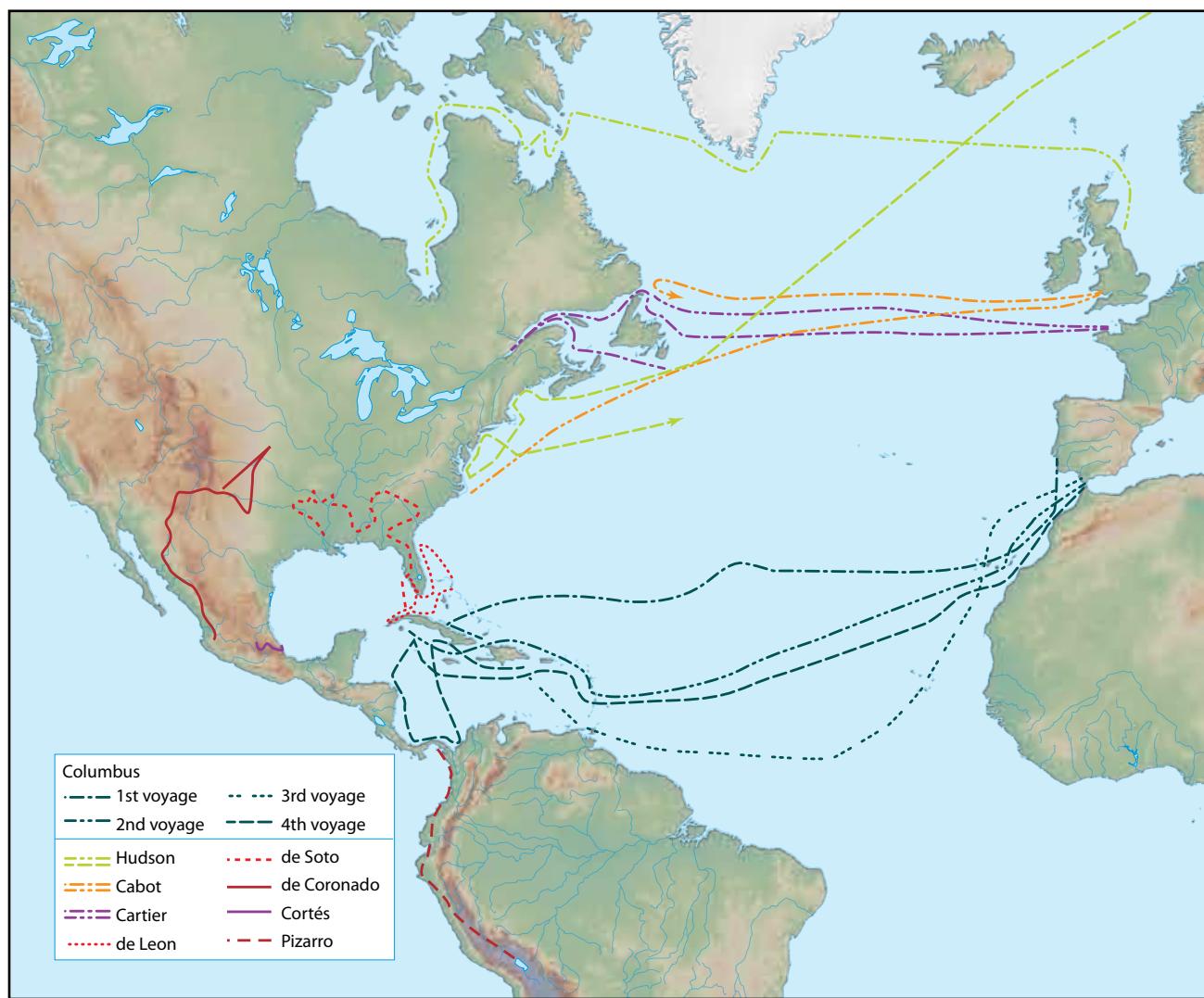
3. What type of missionaries did France send to the New World?
4. Which type of missionary was more successful in converting Indians to Christianity?
5. Who was the explorer-priest who explored the Mississippi River for France?



## LESSON 6

For hundreds of years, the people of North and South America lived relatively isolated from the

people on the other side of the world. But once Marco Polo told the people of Europe about the riches of Asia, the “Age of Exploration” began. First, land routes were established between Europe and Asia. Later, the Portuguese sent ships around Africa to reach the Indies, China, and other parts of Asia. Only one man, Christopher Columbus, believed he could reach Asia by sailing west instead of east. He convinced the king and queen of Spain to finance his voyage. Columbus did not realize how big the earth really is, and he did not know that there were whole continents between Europe and Asia. Because of this he never reached his destination.



## UNIT 2 | FINAL ACTIVITY

However, his historic voyage in 1492 opened up a whole new world for exploration.

The Spanish came to the New World looking for riches. Hernán Cortés conquered the mighty Aztec Empire of Mexico. The Aztecs had been a cruel people, and their neighbors were happy to help the Spanish defeat them. Once Aztec gold reached Spain, many other men wanted to become conquistadors. Most did not find rich empires to conquer, but Francisco Pizarro located and conquered the Inca Empire in Peru.

The English and French explorers came mostly looking for the Northwest Passage. They were hoping to reach Asia by sailing west from Europe without having to sail around South America. All of these explorers claimed the land for their

countries. Columbus claimed the New World for Spain in 1492. John Cabot claimed North America for England in 1497. Jacques Cartier claimed North America for France in 1534. Soon all of these countries realized that they needed colonies in order to adequately explore and gather whatever resources and riches they could find. Missionaries also came to preach the gospel to the Native Americans.

The men you have learned about in this unit were just the first to come. Many more would follow. Before long, large numbers of Europeans would be coming across the Atlantic Ocean and forming settlements, small towns, and farms. The New World was a land of opportunity for those brave enough to come here. God's plan continued as more people moved to this new land.



### FINAL ACTIVITY

#### BE A MERCHANT

Today you get to be a merchant! Pretend that one part of your house is your home country. Pretend that a different part of your house is China. Set up a store in "China." Then figure out two different routes from your home to the store. One route must be a land route; the other route must be a sea route.

Go to your "home" and pack your bags. Be sure to include things that you will need for the journey. Make a list of items to pack. Some items will be different depending on if you are making a land trip or a sea voyage. Don't forget to pack items to trade once you get to "China."

Travel along the land route and try to imagine what it would be like. The trip would take several months. What might you see? Whom would you meet? What would the weather be like? Where would you sleep? What would you eat? Once you get to China, trade the items you brought for items in the store. Then take the sea route back home. Be sure to think about what the trip would be like for each of the routes that you have set up.

This activity is more fun if you have other people to travel with and other people to trade with. So invite your friends and family to participate with you and show them what you have learned about being an explorer.

