

Refresh

- How did the Holy Land connect to the Crusades???
- How did the Crusades lead to exploration???
- How did the Renaissance lead to sea exploration???
- How did the rising power of monarchs lead to sea exploration???





Exploring the Americas

Early Exploration



Major Monarchs

- Spain and Portugal were the lead European powers to explore by sea.
 - They were the first groups to search for a sea route to China and India
 - They also searched for an easier route to West Africa to get gold.

Christopher Columbus

- Columbus believed he had arrived in the Indies (islands southeast of China)
 - Reality: landed on various Caribbean islands that are now the Bahamas as well as the island later called Hispaniola. He also explored the Central and South American coasts. But he didn't reach North America
- How did this mistake happen?
 - Maps at the time didn't include the Americas because no one knew they existed.
 - Maps showed 3 continents: Europe, Asia, and Africa
 - No one realized the true size of the oceans



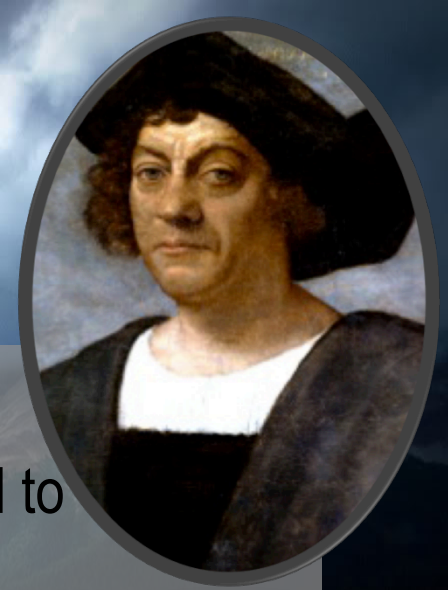


- **First Voyage, 1492-93, departed from and returned to Palos, Spain.**
- **Second Voyage, 1493-96, departed from and returned to Cadiz.**
- **Third Voyage, 1498-1500, departed from Seville and returned to Cadiz.**
- **Fourth Voyage, 1502-04, departed from Cadiz and returned to Sanlucar.**

Christopher Columbus' Voyages



Meet Columbus



- Claimed to be from Genoa, Italy
 - Some historians believe he was a Jew that converted to Christianity, probably from Spain
 - Others claim he was from Portugal
- Sailing for Spain
 - The Spanish were jealous of Portugal's success with trade
 - The Spanish also wanted riches from the Asian trade
- King Ferdinand & Queen Isabella agreed to support Columbus
 1. He promised to bring Christianity to any lands he found.
 2. Spain would become wealthy from trade with Asia.

"In 1493, Columbus stole all he could see..."

- In a sense Columbus' voyage was not the first but the last "discovery" of the Americas.
 - People from other countries had reach the Americas many times before 1492
 - The Vikings, Phoenicians, and Egyptians had sailed great distances
 - Ancient Roman coins have been found all over the Americas—causing some archaeologists to conclude that Roman seafarers visited the Americas
 - Native Americans also crossed the Atlantic (From Canada to Scandinavia or Scotland)
 - Possibly other areas of Africa and Asia also reached areas of the Americas

Myth Buster

- **Myth:** People believed that the world was flat and Columbus discovered it was round.
 - Truth: Few people on both sides of the Atlantic believed the world was flat. Most Europeans and Native Americans knew the world was round.
 - It also casts a circular shadow on the moon
- **Myth:** The Nina, Pinta, and Santa Maria endured terrible storms.
 - Truth: Journals reveal that they had lovely weather
- **Myth:** Columbus lost heart during the journey and his crew wanted to throw him overboard.
 - Truth: They were all getting on each others nerves (think about when you go on a road trip)
- **Myth:** The Crew was superstitious, cowardly, and scheming.
 - Truth: Stereotyping– the captains of the Nina and the Pinta (The Pinzon brothers) had more experience than Columbus



Negative Consequences

- The taking of land, wealth, and labor from the native people—leading to large numbers of deaths
- The slave trade
- The creation of a racial underclass



Treatment

“I was very attentive to them, and strove to learn if they had any gold. Seeing some of them with little bits of metal hanging at their noses, I gathered from them by signs that by going southward or steering round the island in that direction, there would be found a king who possessed great cups of gold... I could conquer the whole of them with 50 men and govern them as I pleased.”

-Columbus (on describing his interaction with the Arawak's)



Treatment

- First Voyage: Columbus kidnapped 10-25 Indians and took them back to Spain.
 - 7 or 8 arrived alive
- Second Voyage: Columbus and his men demanded food, gold, and spun cotton from the Haitians.
 - Punishment by example: Minor crime committed by a native— the Spanish cut off his ears or nose and sent the person back to their village
- Eventually the natives fought back and was an excuse for Columbus to go to war—
“The soldiers mowed down dozens with loose dogs to rip open limbs and bellies, chased fleeing Indians into the brush to skewer them on sword and pike, and with God’s aid soon gained a complete victory, killing many Indians and capturing others who were also killed.”— naturally the Spanish won.
- They had not yet found fields of gold that they were searching for and Columbus had to return something valuable to Spain
 - Slave raid and trade emerges
 - Rounded up 500 Arawaks to be slaves in Spain (200 died on the ship)
 - 500 to be slaves on the island for the Spaniards
 - Columbus sent more slaves across the Atlantic than any other one individual
 - Queen Isabella of Spain opposed slavery and returned some of the Indians to the Caribbean but many other nations rushed to follow in Columbus’ footsteps
 - Almost half of all major crops now grown throughout the world originally came from the Americas
 - More than 200 drugs derived from plants were discovered by American Indians

Impact on the Native Population

- Result of the suffering:
 - Natives committed suicide—some mass suicides
 - After giving birth some mothers killed their children so they wouldn't have to suffer in slavery
 - Malnutrition
 - New diseases wiped out American nations
 - led to getting slaves from Africa to supply the Americas
 - The slave trade led Europeans to increasingly see “white” as a race— and one that was superior



Columbus' own writings reflect this increasing racism...

When Columbus was selling Queen Isabella on the wonders of the Americas, the Indians were...

“well built”

“of quick intelligence”

“They have very good customs”

“The king maintains a marvelous state of a style so orderly that it is a pleasure to see it, and they have good memories and they wish to see everything and ask what it is and for what it is used.”

Later, when Columbus was justifying his wars and enslavement of the Natives, they became...

“cruel”

“stupid”

“a people warlike and numerous, whose customs and religion are very different from ours.”

Words of a Native American chief in Haiti...

He held up a small basket made from palms full of gold, and he said,

“Here is their lord, whom they serve and adore... To have this lord, they make us suffer, for him they persecute us, for him they have killed our parents, brothers, all our people...Let us not hide this lord from the Christians in any place, for even if we should hide it in our intestines, they would get it out of us; therefore let us throw it in this river, under the water, and they will not know where it is.”

(He was eventually captured and burned alive by the Spanish)

Passing Judgment

- We can't judge Columbus by the standards of our own time. In 1493, the world had not decided that slavery was wrong.
 - Some American Indian nations enslaved other Indians—Africans enslaved other Africans—Europeans enslaved other Europeans
 - To attack Columbus for doing what many others did would be unreasonable
 - However, some Europeans did oppose slavery and land-grabbing

Achievements of Columbus

- Claimed lands for Spain such as:
 - Cuba, Jamaica, Haiti, Dominican Republic
 - Started settlements for Spain— helped establish the Spanish Empire in the Americas
 - Mapped the coastline of Central America
 - “Discovered” a part of the world that was unknown to many
 - Time period before his discoveries is called “pre-Columbian”



Dividing the Americas

- Spain and Portugal were fighting over control of the Americas.
 - Pope Alexander VI helped by making an imaginary line (From North Pole to the South Pole; cutting through the middle of the Atlantic Ocean)
 - Spain would control all lands west of the line/Portugal everything east of the line
 - Eventually signed the Treaty of Tordesillas to move the line farther west