Europe Looks Outward
1000 - 1720
Terms and People

- **Christopher Columbus** – an Italian explorer who sailed for Spain and landed in the Caribbean islands when looking for a route to Asia

- **Vasco Núñez de Balboa** – a Spanish colonist who was the first European to see the Pacific Ocean

- **Ferdinand Magellan** – a Portuguese explorer who found an Atlantic-Pacific passage

- **circumnavigate** – to travel all the way around the Earth
The Crusades and the Renaissance led Europeans to look beyond their borders.

As European sailors searched for shorter routes to the riches of Asia, they came into contact with the people of the Americas.
European countries had three main goals during the age of exploration.

First, they wanted to spread Christianity beyond Europe. Each expedition to the “new world” included missionaries, or people sent to convert the native peoples to Christianity.

Second, they wanted to expand their empires.

Third, they wanted to become rich.

**Causes**

- European desire for new trade routes
- Growing power and wealth of European nations
- Competition for trade
- Missionaries’ desire to convert others to Christianity

**Effects**

- Knowledge grows about other regions
- Europeans and Native Americans clash
- Enslavement of Africans
- Rivalry in the Americas grows
Christopher Columbus

No one knows if Christopher Columbus heard the Viking stories or the stories of fishermen, but he believed he could reach Asia by sailing west across the Atlantic Ocean.

Columbus grew up in Italy and, in the 1470s, moved to Portugal, Europe’s leading seafaring nation.

There, he studied navigation and developed his idea for a voyage to Asia.
As Europeans rushed to find new routes to Asia by sailing around Africa, an Italian navigator named Christopher Columbus calculated that Asia could be reached by sailing west across the Atlantic. Although technically correct, Columbus miscalculated both the size of Asia and the distance around the globe. In fact, he thought the earth was only 2/3 as large as it actually is.
In 1483, Columbus began seeking financing for a voyage across the Atlantic. He was turned down by the King of Portugal and forced to wait nearly ten years before Spain finally agreed to fund the venture in 1492.

Columbus and his tiny fleet of three wooden ships set out on August 3, 1492. By October 10th his crew was on the verge of mutiny, but a sailor on the *Pinta* sighted land on October 12th. He landed on a small island in the Bahamas and named it San Salvador.
Columbus then sailed to present-day Cuba and Hispaniola.

He continued to believe he was in Asia.

Columbus sailed back to Spain, where the king and queen made him governor of the “West Indies.”
Christopher Columbus

Columbus called the indigenous people he met “Indians” because he thought he landed on islands off the coast of Asia called the Indies.

Columbus actually met a Native American group called the Taíno who were peaceful and friendly. From the October 12, 1492 entry in his journal he wrote of them, “They ought to make good and skilled servants, for they repeat very quickly whatever we say to them. I think they can very easily be made Christians, for they seem to have no religion. If it pleases our Lord, I will take six of them to Your Highnesses when I depart, in order that they may learn our language.”

He remarked that their lack of modern weaponry was a tactical vulnerability, writing, “I could conquer the whole of them with 50 men, and govern them as I pleased.”
Christopher Columbus

Columbus made three other voyages to the Caribbean islands. Four voyages total.
The Voyages of Columbus

| Second Voyage | • In 1493, Columbus took soldiers, settlers, and priests to the “West Indies” to colonize them and to convert the people who lived there to Christianity.  
|               | • He also landed on other islands and enslaved local Native Americans to dig for gold. |
| Third Voyage  | • In 1498, Columbus reached the northern coast of South America and decided it was the Asian mainland. |
| Fourth Voyage | • In 1502, Columbus tried to prove that he had indeed reached the Asian mainland on his third voyage. |
Why is it called America not Columbia?

In 1506, when Columbus died in Spain, he was still convinced that he had reached Asia. However, when Italian explorer Amerigo Vespucci made two trips to the new lands, he thought he was in a “new world,” not Asia.

The word “America” comes from Vespucci’s name.
Columbus’ Legacy

The geographic knowledge from Columbus’ voyages changed the European view of the World. People soon realized the lands he “discovered” were previously unknown continents and that the Western Ocean was no longer a barrier. Europeans were eager to see if the new continents could make them rich and Spain led the way colonizing much of Central and South America.
Positive & Negative Effects of Columbus’s Voyages

COLUMBUS’S VOYAGES

- Conflict with Taino
- Enslavement and death of Taino
- Failure to bring back treasures
- Europeans realized Americas were a previously unknown land
- Spanish colonization
- Further European explorations
The **Columbian Exchange** was the transfer of plants, animals, and diseases between the Western and Eastern Hemispheres. Europe got many new foods.
Vasco Núñez de Balboa

In 1510, Spanish colonist **Vasco Núñez de Balboa** explored the Caribbean coast of what is now Panama.

In 1513, Balboa reached the Pacific Ocean. He was the first European to see it. He named the new sea *Mar del Sur*, since they had traveled south to reach it.
Ferdinand Magellan

In 1519, Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan set out to find an Atlantic-Pacific passage to Asia.
For more than a year, Magellan’s small fleet sailed down the South American coast looking for a strait.

Near the southern tip of present-day Argentina, Magellan found a narrow passage.

About 38 days later, his ships exited what is today called the Strait of Magellan into the Pacific Ocean.
However, Asia was still far away. When Magellan’s fleet finally reached the Philippine Islands, he and others were killed in a battle with Filipinos. The survivors of the battle fled and reached Spain in 1522. Those men became the first to circumnavigate Earth.
In the Treaty of Tordesillas of 1494, Spain and Portugal agreed to a ruling by Pope Alexander VI that divided the lands of the Western Hemisphere. Spain could claim lands west of the line and Portugal could claim lands to the east.
Terms and People

- **conquistador** – Spanish soldier-adventurers
- **Hernando Cortés** – a conquistador who conquered the Aztecs in 1520
- **Moctezuma** – the Aztec leader who tried to turn Cortés away from Tenochtitlán
- **plantation** – a large farm worked by laborers who lived on the property
- **encomienda** – a land grant given by the Spanish government that included the right to demand labor or taxes from Native Americans
- **Bartolomé de las Casas** – a Spanish priest who worked for reform of the *encomienda* system
- **mission** – a religious settlement
By the early 1500s, the Spanish had a firm foothold in the Americas.

From Spain’s island colonies in the Caribbean, conquistadors set out to conquer new lands.
In 1519, conquistador **Hernando Cortés** sailed from Cuba and landed on the Central American coast with 508 **conquistadors**.

The Aztec emperor **Moctezuma** thought Cortés may have been sent by an Aztec god. The Aztecs offered gifts of gold and silver to the Spaniards. Later that year, Cortés marched into the Aztec capital city of Tenochtitlán, they built alliances with groups that hated living under Aztec rule. **Moctezuma** tried to convince him to leave.
Instead, Cortés took Moctezuma hostage and claimed Mexico for Spain.

At first, the Aztecs rebelled, killed Moctezuma, and drove the Spanish out.

Cortés returned with a larger force and gunboats. They laid siege to the island city for three months. An outbreak of smallpox ravaged the already starving Aztecs. Cortés destroyed Tenochtitlán, and built Mexico City, the capital of the Spanish colony of New Spain.
Conquest of Peru

In 1531, Francisco Pizarro led 180 conquistadors into Peru. Like the Aztecs, the Inca feared that the Spaniards might be gods. The Incan emperor Atahualpa ordered his army not to fight and went to meet the Spanish. Pizarro and his men seized the opportunity and quickly attacked. The Spaniards killed thousands of Incas and took Atahualpa captive. The Incan emperor gave the Spanish a treasure in gold to set him free. The Spanish killed him anyway and the Incan Empire collapsed.
Reasons for Spanish Victories

The success of such small groups of Spanish *conquistadors* over the Aztec and Inca empires can be explained by the following four reasons:

1. The spread of European *diseases* killed millions of Native Americans and weakened their resistance to conquest.

2. The Spanish were excellent soldiers and sailors. Their *horses* and *superior weapons*, such as steel swords, armor, and guns gave them an advantage over the larger Native American armies.

3. The Spanish made *alliances with Native American* groups that were enemies of the Aztecs and Inca.

4. The Spanish *conquistadors* were *brutal and ruthless*, killing thousands of Native Americans and terrorizing the people under their control.
Juan Ponce de León

Juan Ponce de León accompanied Columbus on his second voyage to America. He assisted in the conquest of Hispaniola and was made governor of that province. After finding gold in Puerto Rico in 1508, he conquered the island, became governor, and made a fortune in gold, slaves, and land.

In 1513, he sailed north from Puerto Rico and landed in present-day Florida.

He became the first Spaniard to set foot in what is now the United States.

In 1521, he sailed to Florida again with two ships, 200 men, 50 horses, domestic animals, and farm implements. Exploring the west coast, probably near Tampa Bay, his party was attacked by Native Americans, and he was severely wounded by an arrow. They immediately sailed back to Cuba, where Ponce de León soon died.
Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca

In early 1528, Cabeza de Vaca landed near what is now Tampa Bay. The leader of his expedition made the mistake of taking the chief of the Apalachee Indians hostage. Pursued by the Indians and suffering from numerous diseases, the surviving members of the expedition were reduced to huddling in a coastal swamp and living off the flesh of their horses. In late 1528, they built several crude rafts from trees and horse hides and set sail, hoping to return to Cuba.

A hurricane dumped Cabeza de Vaca and his companions on the Gulf Coast near what is now Galveston, Texas. For the next four years he and a steadily dwindling number of his comrades lived in the complex native world of what is now East Texas. Cabeza transformed himself from a conquistador into a trader and healer.

By 1532, Cabeza and only three other members of the original expedition were still alive. They headed west and south in hopes of reaching Mexico. Their exact route is not clear, but they apparently traveled across present-day Texas into New Mexico and Arizona and through Mexico's northern provinces. In July 1536, they finally encountered a group Spaniards who were on a slave-taking expedition. As Cabeza de Vaca remembered, his countrymen were “dumbfounded at the sight of me, strangely dressed and in company with Indians. They just stood staring for a long time.”
Other explorers found new lands while searching for the rumored cities of gold.

- The conquistador **Francisco Coronado** explored present-day New Mexico, Arizona, Texas, and Kansas.

- **Hernando de Soto** explored the present-day southeastern United States and the Mississippi River.
Spanish Galleon

In the late 1500s and early 1600s, Spanish galleons carried gold and silver from the West Indies to Spain. That's not all these ships carried, however. The threat of pirates prompted the Spanish galleons to carry weapons as part of their cargo. What powered the Spanish galleons?

The crow's nest served as a lookout.

1. Two or three sails on the **foremast** and **mainmast** allowed the ship to “catch the wind.”
2. Elaborate living quarters for the captain were placed within the high **sterncastle.** The rest of the crew slept on deck.
3. Strong hands were needed to climb the rigging into the **crow's nest,** or lookout platform.
4. Stones and bricks provided **ballast** to keep the ship from tipping over. These stones would be replaced with cargo in the Americas. Many colonial streets and sidewalks were paved with ballast stones.

Spanish galleons were about 140 feet (43 meters) long.

Food and water were stored in the **hold.**
At first, Spain let the conquistadors govern the lands they had conquered, but that did not work well.

Spain then created a formal system of government to rule its colonies.

Government officials granted settlers huge tracts of land to start mines, ranches, and plantations.
Life in Spanish America

In order to make their colonies productive Spain gave its colonists encomiendas or grants of Native American labor (slaves). Spanish rulers created large estates called haciendas to provide food for the colonies. Native Americans worked to grow food and cash crops, such as coffee, cotton, and sugar.

The four classes of Spanish colonial society were:

1. **Peninsulares** – Spanish-born Colonists.
2. **Creoles** – Spanish descent, born in colonies.
3. **Mestizos** – People of mixed ancestry.
4. Enslaved **Native Americans** and **Africans**.

Sugar plantations required so many workers that eventually Spanish colonists needed to import slaves from Africa to make up for the many thousands of Native Americans who died from overwork and mistreatment.
Life in Spanish America

The rigid social system, based on birthplace and blood, helped Spain keep control of its empire in the Americas for more than 300 years.

SOURCE: Spain and Portugal in the New World, Lyle N. McAlister
Bartoleme de las Casas, was a Spanish colonist, priest, scholar, historian, and a 16th century human rights advocate.

Las Casas came to the Indies with Columbus in 1502 and was the editor of the Admiral's journal. He knew conditions in the Americas first hand and was present during Spanish attacks on the native population of Cuba.

“With my own eyes I saw Spaniards cut off the nose and ears of Indians, male and female, without provocation, merely because it pleased them to do it. ...Likewise, I saw how they summoned the caciques and the chief rulers to come, assuring them safety, and when they peacefully came, they were taken captive and burned alive.”

Las Casas travelled back and forth across the Atlantic to argue for better treatment of Native Americans. He was in part responsible for the repeal of the laws which allowed the Indians to be used in what amounted to slave labor gangs.
The Catholic Church built missions or settlements that included a church, a town, and farmlands throughout New Spain. The goal of the missions was to convert Native Americans to Christianity. The missions also increased Spanish control of the land. Spanish military settlements were called presidios.
The Spanish and Portuguese began enslaving Africans for four basic reasons.

1. Africans were **immune to European diseases**.
2. Africans had **no friends or family to help them** in the Americas.
3. Enslaved Africans provided a **permanent source of cheap labor**.
4. Many Africans **worked on farms** in their native lands.

### African Slave Trade 1450–1870

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Destination</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>British America/United States</td>
<td>427,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mexico and Central America</td>
<td>224,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>West Indies</td>
<td>4,040,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spanish South America</td>
<td>522,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guianas</td>
<td>531,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>3,647,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>175,000</td>
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</table>
The Atlantic Slave Trade

1. Location  From what region were most African slaves taken?
2. Movement  Which colony received the most slaves?
The removal of people from Africa became known as the **African Diaspora**. By the late 1800s, more than 12 million Africans were enslaved and shipped to the Western Hemisphere.

Approximately two million people died on the voyage from Africa to America. This horrific voyage is known as **Middle Passage** because it was the middle leg of the triangular trade.
The role of Christopher Columbus in history is greatly debated.

Is the legacy of Columbus positive, negative, or both? Explain.
• **mercantilism** – a system that held that colonies existed to make the home country wealthy and powerful

• **John Cabot** – an Italian explorer who disappeared while on his second voyage to find a northern route to Asia

• **northwest passage** – a hypothetical sea route from the Atlantic to the Pacific that passed through or around North America

• **Henry Hudson** – an English explorer who attempted to find a northwest passage
**Mercantilism** is an economic system in which nations increase their wealth & power by obtaining gold, silver, and raw materials and establishing a favorable balance of trade.

A country has a favorable balance of trade if it has more exports than imports.
European countries were searching for a **Northwest Passage**, an all water route through North America to Asia. Explorers like John Cabot, Giovanni da Verrazzano, Jacques Cartier, and Henry Hudson made important discoveries that led to increased competition for North American colonies. However, they all failed to find the frozen and elusive Northwest Passage.
John Cabot suggested that a voyage across the Atlantic could be quickened by sailing at a more northerly latitude than Columbus’s route.

Verrazano explored the Atlantic coast from present-day Cape Fear, North Carolina, to perhaps as far north as Newfoundland.

**Into the Unknown, 1492**
- September 6: Columbus’s three ships set sail from the Canary Islands.
- September 20–24: Variable winds force Columbus to change course.
- October 10: Columbus promises to turn back if they do not sight land soon.
- October 12: Land is sighted. Columbus names the land San Salvador.

**Spanish**
- Christopher Columbus (1492–1504)
- Amerigo Vespucci (1499–1500)

**Portuguese**
- Pedro Cabral (1500)

**English**
- John Cabot (1497–98)
- Martin Frobisher (1576–78)

**French**
- Giovanni da Verrazano (1524)
- Jacques Cartier (1535)

**Dutch**
- Henry Hudson (1609)
Giovanni Caboto (known in English as John Cabot) was an Italian navigator and explorer whose 1497 discovery of North America is commonly held to be the second European voyage to the continent since Christopher Columbus a few years earlier. The official position of the Canadian and United Kingdom governments is that he landed on the island of Newfoundland.
Giovanni da Verrazzano was an Italian explorer in the service of the French crown. He is renowned as the first European since the Norse colonization of the Americas around AD 1000 to explore the Atlantic coast of North America between South and North Carolina and Newfoundland, including New York Harbor and Narragansett Bay in 1524.
Jacques Cartier was a French explorer who claimed what is now Canada for France. In 1534, he was the first European to describe and map the Gulf and the shores of the Saint Lawrence River, which he named "The Country of Canadas", after the Iroquois names for the two big settlements he saw at Stadacona (Quebec City) and at Hochelaga (Montreal Island).
The Spanish Armada

Religious differences and the quest for national power led to conflict between Spain and England. When Elizabeth I, a Protestant, became England’s Queen, Spain, a Catholic country plotted to remove her. England’s navy was not as powerful as Spain’s bulky fleet but England had many speedy and maneuverable ships with skillful sailors.

English Privateers called Sea Dogs raided Spanish treasure fleets and stole great amounts of treasure from them. In 1588, King Phillip II of Spain sent a large fleet of 133 ships to conquer England. The smaller and faster English ships darted around the Spanish warships confusing and crippling the armada. The retreating Spanish fleet was then hit by a severe storm and lost nearly half of its ships.
Effects of the English Victory over Spain

1. Although England was less powerful than Spain, it proved it could defend itself. England remained independent and Protestant.

2. Spain’s control of the seas was weakened, so England and France were able to found colonies in the Americas.
Henry Hudson

In 1607, Henry Hudson was hired by the English Muscovy Company to find the Northeast Passage to Asia. He failed, and a second attempt in 1608 was also fruitless.

In 1609, Hudson was hired for the same purpose by the Dutch East India Company, he sailed in the Half Moon to Spitsbergen, where extreme ice and cold brought his crew near mutiny. Hudson, disregarded his instructions and sailed westward hoping to find the Northwest Passage. He entered Chesapeake Bay, Delaware Bay, and later New York Bay. He was the first European to sail up the Hudson River (named for him), nearly to present-day Albany. His voyage gave the Dutch their claim to the region.

His fourth expedition in 1610, was financed by English adventurers. Again he sailed westward, hoping to find the Northwest Passage. Between Greenland and Labrador he entered Hudson Strait and by it reached Hudson Bay. After weeks of exploration, he was forced by ice to winter there. His starved and diseased crew mutinied and set Hudson, with his son and seven men, adrift in a small boat, without food or water. He was never seen again. His discoveries, however, gave England its claim to the Hudson Bay region.
Terms and People

- **Samuel de Champlain** – a French explorer who established the settlement of Quebec

- **coureurs de bois** – independent traders who lived among the Indians (French term for “runners of the woods”)

- **Jacques Marquette** – a French missionary who explored the Mississippi River

- **alliance** – an agreement between parties that benefits them both
The French and Dutch Seek Trade

When the search for a Northwest Passage failed, France and the Netherlands began to focus on North America itself. **Samuel de Champlain** explored the St. Lawrence River and in 1608 he founded a fur-trading post at Quebec. This post began to thrive and became the first permanent settlement in the colony of **New France**.
On July 30, 1609, Champlain and a war party of two Frenchmen and 60 Hurons and Algonquians came upon 200 Mohawks on the western shore of the lake that would be named for him. The Algonquians ran toward their enemy and then suddenly their ranks parted in the center and Champlain came forward with his arquebus. He fired and killed two Mohawk chiefs and wounded a third at the first shot. The terrific noise, fire and smoke of Champlain’s weapon and the sight of their three fallen chiefs caused the Mohawks to flee, a number of them were killed in the rout which followed.
Champlain gave the French an influence in the region that lasted 150 years, and other explorers followed his lead.

By 1670, French missionary Jacques Marquette had founded two missions along the Great Lakes, in present-day Michigan.

In 1673, Father Marquette and French Canadian trader Louis Joliet explored Lake Michigan and the Mississippi River.
The colony of New France developed quite differently than did New Spain.

The Spanish, who wanted gold and silver, forced Native Americans into harsh labor.

The French, who wanted fish and furs, traded with Native Americans for the animal skins they sold in Europe.
The French could not build an empire of gold like the Spanish Conquistadors so they brought items to trade with the Native Americans. In return, the French took home beaver skins. These furs sold for high prices in Europe. French people that lived and worked in the woods became known as, couriers de bois. Catholic missionaries often traveled with fur traders.
In the late 1600s, French colonists began to farm in large numbers because:

- Indian wars disrupted the fur trade.
- The market for furs in Europe was in decline.
- The king sent 3,000 French settlers to New France.
- The new settlers included young single women.

New France had 5,000 colonists by 1672.
Dutch land claims in North America were based on Henry Hudson’s explorations of the Hudson River.

In 1610, Dutch traders began trading with Native Americans in the Hudson River valley.

The trade was so profitable that the Dutch West India Company established a colony in what the Dutch called “New Netherland.”
In 1614, the Dutch built Fort Nassau near the site of the modern city of Albany. In 1626, the Dutch bought Manhattan Island from Native Americans. The Dutch founded the town of New Amsterdam on the site where New York City is currently located.
“New Netherlands” was only a small part of a worldwide Dutch empire. During the 16th and 17th centuries, the Dutch were in a Golden Age of creativity, trade, and power. Although there were only two million Dutch citizens, the Dutch empire controlled shipping and banking throughout the world (including a growing slave trade).
Several “American” traditions originated in New Amsterdam. The Sinter Klaas celebration of gift giving would have died a cruel death at Puritan hands if not for the Dutch.

Americans eat cookies today in rather then English biscuits because the Dutch baked their great tasting mini-cakes called koekje.

Cole slaw might not be served at most American picnics if the Dutch had not preserved and propagated it as koolsla.

Americans also have the Dutch to blame when we complain about our boss, whose endearing title came from the Dutch word for overseer or baas.

And don’t forget Bowling, Ice Skating, Waffles, and Easter Eggs.
Native Americans traded fur pelts to the French and Dutch in exchange for goods such as cloth, iron pots and tools, and guns.

Ultimately, however, the fur trade had grave effects on Native Americans.

disease
war
lost food and land
The European fur trade dramatically changed the Native American way of life. Men spent more time and energy trapping furs for trade and less time hunting for food. Competition for furs led to increased conflict and warfare between Native American groups. Eventually, Native Americans grew to rely on Europeans.
European missionaries worked to convert Native American people to Christianity. The missionaries unknowingly brought European diseases, such as smallpox and influenza, which devastated native populations. French missionaries met with mixed success; some were brutally tortured and/or killed. Some tribes adopted Christianity but most held on to their traditional beliefs.
European nations competed for control of the Americas and made alliances with Native American groups. The French and British took advantage of native rivalries. **Native American warriors were eventually drawn into European wars.**
New France was located along the St. Lawrence River in what is today Canada.

New Netherland was located in the Hudson River Valley in what is today New York.
## European Nations Compete for Power

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Achievements</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>England</td>
<td>Sent Cabot to search for Northwest Passage (1497). Defeated Spanish Armada (1588).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>Established Fort Caroline (1564) and Quebec (1608).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>Explored along the Hudson River. Established New Netherland and New Amsterdam.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>Took over Florida. Built an empire in Central and South America.</td>
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