

European Explorers Study Guide

Who	Where From	Where Explored	When	Why	Other Info
Christopher Columbus	Spain	Bahamas, Cuba, Hispaniola (Dominican Republic and Haiti)	1492	Find an over-water western route to the Indies (Asia). He told the Queen and King that the world was smaller than it really was.	<i>"In 14 hundred and 92, Columbus sailed the ocean blue."</i> Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand paid for Columbus's trips. Columbus never knew he didn't find the Indies. His ships were the Niña, Pinta, and Santa María.
Vasco Núñez de Balboa	Spain	Panama to the Pacific Ocean	1513	Search for gold.	He crossed the mountains and jungles of Panama to reach the Pacific Ocean.
Juan Ponce de León	Spain	Florida	1513	Search for gold and the Fountain of Youth.	Florida was named after the Spanish word for "flowers."
John Cabot	England	Canada	1497	Sail west and reach Asia (Northwest Passage).	Found rich fishing area in Canada.
Henry Hudson	England	Hudson River in New York. Hudson Bay in Canada.	1609	Sail west and reach Asia (Northwest Passage).	Ice trapped Hudson's ship in the Hudson Bay for an entire winter. His crew abandoned him in a small boat. He was never seen again.
Jacques Cartier	France	St. Lawrence River, Canada	1534	Sail west and reach Asia (Northwest Passage).	The area he explored was later called "Quebec."

- * Many times these explorers were from another country than the one that they sailed for. The country that is listed is who they sailed for. The explorers would "claim" the area they found for the country they sailed for.
- * Spain claimed the most land at the beginning of the age of exploration.
- * Most explorers wanted to find gold and silver or the way to sail to Asia where there were silk and spices.
- * A waterway that would lead to the Pacific Ocean was called the "**Northwest Passage.**"
- * The Spanish brought horses, weapons, and an army to America.
- * Many Native Americans were killed by diseases or battles, or were made into slaves.