

Explorers!

- Europeans had been obsessed with exploration since Marco Polo's journeys in the 1200s
 - walked all the way to China and back
 - brought back silk, spices, pasta, and knowledge
 - people realized that there was LOTS of money in exploration
 - new things you found to market, trade, and sell
 - king/queens would pay LOTS to have you claim new lands for your country
- with new science/math and higher literacy rates, explorers could make maps and navigate accurately
- the Portuguese were some of the best sea farers
 - travelled around Africa (1490)
 - Vasco de Gama rounded Africa on route to India
 - made maps as he went, some of which were used for a couple hundred years
- many explorers went on to find wealth and fame

Why So Few People Traveled

- exploration was dangerous
- people believed that the world was flat
 - if you sailed too far, you would literally fall off the edge and into nothingness
- lots of unknown dangers

- ocean travel was dangerous, different civilizations were dangerous, and there were NO maps or translators
- they must have had enormous courage to brave the unknown and leave everything behind

Some Famous Explorers

a) Christopher Columbus

- found North America (quite by accident) in 1492
- thought he found India
- called people in Haiti (where he landed) “Indians”
- for nearly 500 years, First Nations People were called Indians quite incorrectly
- blame Christopher Columbus!

b) Ferdinand Magellan

- first person to **circumnavigate** the world in 1521
- proved that the world was round, and that you wouldn't fall off the edge of the world

c) Jacques Cartier

- found modern-day Canada
- was from France, hence why Canada is a bilingual nation

d) Sir Francis Drake

- was nothing more than a pirate
- robbed every Spanish ship he could and gave his profits to Queen Elizabeth