

The Age of Exploration and Conquest

Headings	Notes
REASONS FOR EUROPEAN EXPLORATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before the 1400s, travel by sea was difficult as most ships could not navigate well and people were afraid of the unknown. Despite this, Europeans began to explore the wider world because: • The Renaissance encouraged people to learn about the world around them. • The stories of the Italian traveller Marco Polo from his travels to China described great wealth and wonders. • Merchants hoped to grow rich from new trade routes for silks and spices. • The fall of Constantinople to the Muslim Ottomans in 1453 had cut off the Great Silk Road trade route from Christian Europe meaning alternative routes were needed. • Desire for land and empires by European rulers led them to fund voyages of exploration. • The Pope encouraged Christian rulers to spread Christianity, especially as Islam grew more powerful.
TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGES NEW MAPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advances in technology made navigation easier and possible to sail across oceans to explore. • Cartographers adopted more detailed maps from Constantinople. • Portuguese explorers developed portolan charts. They were more accurate, mapping tides, currents, coastlines and harbours; xplorers were constantly updating these maps.
NEW INVENTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quadrants and astrolabes were used to determine a ship's latitude (distance from the equator) by using the position of the stars and sun. • A compass are used to identify north. • A log and line was used to measure a ship's speed in knots which were recorded in a logbook. • A line and lead weight was used to measure the depth of the water.
NEW SHIPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The caravel was a new development; large and sturdy enough to go on long voyages and through all winds. It had triangular lateen sails with a lighter caravel-built hull. A rudder was added to improve steering while a castle at the back of the deck improved the crew's quarters. • A nao was later built; larger and stronger version of the caravel.

Keywords	Summary
Renaissance	<p>The Age of Exploration came after the Renaissance and the travels of Marco Polo to India and China. European rulers wished to spread Christianity and continue the trading of silks and spices from Asian countries. New technological advances were needed to send explorers on voyages. This included cartographers developing portolan charts to more accurately record new maps. New instruments included quadrants, astrolabes, compasses, log and lines, and line and lead weights. This period also saw the development of the caravel ship which made crossing the Atlantic Ocean possible. This new ship used triangular lateen sails (to help the ship sail through all types of winds, a purpose-built Caravel hull (planks placed edge to edge), a rudder (to help steering) and castle (sleeping quarters); the naos was a bigger version of this.</p>
Compass	
Marco Polo	
Log and line	
Christianity	
Line and lead	
Silks and spices	
Caravel	
Voyages	
Lateen sails	
Cartographers	
Caravel hull	
Portolan Charts	
Rudder	
Quadrant	
Castle	
Astrolabe	
Nao	

The Age of Exploration and Conquest

Headings		Notes
LIFE ABOARD A SHIP		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The captain had a cabin while the crew slept on deck or in hammocks below deck. Sailing and maintaining the ship was very hard work; the captain and officers were usually wealthy while the sailors were poor which sometimes led to tensions on board. Sailors would sometimes rebel against their captain (mutiny) so harsh discipline was common in order to keep everyone in line: sailors were flogged, put in chains or executed. During long voyages, food was preserved by drying or salting it. A lack of fresh water led to typhoid while the lack of vitamin C led to scurvy. Starvation was common as they didn't know how long a journey would take. Shipwreck was common as they explored new locations while sailors feared "sea monsters".
THE EARLY VOYAGES OF EXPLORATION		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first voyages set off from Portugal in the 1400s as Portuguese rulers wanted new trade routes to make the wealthy and to compete against their powerful neighbours, Spain. Prince Henry the Navigator set up a school of navigation at Sagres where he brought sailors cartographers, astronomers and instrument makers together. The Portuguese wanted to find a way around Africa to Asia; they set up trading bases all along the African coastline while making discoveries such as the Canary Islands. 1487 saw explorer Bartolomeu Dias round the southern tip of Africa (Cape of Good Hope) 1497 saw explorer Vasco da Gama sail around Africa and reach Calicut, India; the trip took two years and proved that India (and China) could be reached this way.
RESULTS OF THE EARLY VOYAGES		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Portugal would benefit the most from the early voyages which meant that they: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> became wealthy from trade established a large empire in Africa and Asia. the spice trade came under Portugal's control. Imports of spices increased into Europe. Other rulers were inspired to sponsor voyages of exploration such as Spain, the Netherlands, France and Britain.
Keywords		Summary
Cabin	Portugal	<p>While a captain had a cabin, the rest of the crew usually slept on deck or in hammocks below the deck. Life as a sailor included a lot of hard work. There was a threat some sailors would mutiny against their captains so harsh disciplines such as flogging or execution were used to keep sailors in line. Sailors were always at risk of diseases such as typhoid and scurvy, starvation and shipwrecks. The first voyages would sail from Portugal as they sought to become more successful than their powerful neighbours, Spain. Prince Henry the Navigator would set up a school of navigation in Sagres which helped Portugal develop technological advances that allowed Portuguese explorers such as Bartolomeu Dias round the Cape of Good Hope in 1487 and Vasco da Gama to reach Calicut in India in 1497 which gained Portugal initial success.</p>
Mutiny	Spain	
Discipline	Prince Henry	
Flogging	Sagres	
Execution	Bartolomeu Dias	
Typhoid	Vasco da Gama	
Scurvy		
Starvation		
Shipwreck		

The Age of Exploration and Conquest

Headings	Notes
COLUMBUS AND THE DISCOVERY OF THE 'NEW WORLD'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Portugal's rival Spain had to look west to the Atlantic Ocean to conquer lands as Portugal had gained control of the routes around Africa. King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain agreed to sponsor Christopher Columbus (1451-1506), an Italian explorer, to try to discover a route to the Far East by sailing across the Atlantic. Columbus was given three ships – the Niña, the Pinta, and the Santa María – and a crew of 80 men before setting sail from Palos on 3rd August 1492. They got fresh supplies in the Canary Islands – this was the last time the crew would see land for weeks, leading to tensions rising. On 12th October, 69 days after leaving Spain, land was finally sighted. Columbus would name it San Salvador and its inhabitants Indians – because he believed they had reached India. He had not reached India but had instead found the American continent ('New World'). Columbus explored the islands in the Bahamas looking for cities and wealth as Polo described. Early 1493 saw Columbus return to Spain bringing slaves, exotic fruits, maize, parrots and gold for King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella for which he was appointed governor of their new territory as a reward. Columbus made three more voyages to the Bahamas but was removed as governor in 1499 following reports of his brutality and poor leadership.
AGE OF EXPLORATION AFTER COLUMBUS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For the next 200 years, there were numerous important explorations such as: 1497: John Cabot landed in Newfoundland, Canada and claimed it for the English king Henry VII. 1519-1522: Ferdinand Magellan led a fleet on a voyage to finally prove that the world was round by circumnavigating (sailing around) the globe. 1642: Abel Tasman was the first European to find Tasmania, south of Australia, and New Zealand.
CONQUEST AND COLONISATION: CONQUERING THE NEW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stories of the wealth of the New World led to more and more men traveling across the sea looking for wealth and adventure; and with that came the conquistadores (conquerors).
Keywords	Summary
Spain	<p>Spain had to look west for new colonies as Portugal dominated the African coastlines. King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain commissioned Christopher Columbus to set sail west. He was given the Niña, the Pinta, and the Santa María along with 80 men, setting sail in 1492. Columbus landed on San Salvador, calling its inhabitants Indians upon the belief they had found India – they had found the American Continent ('New World'). Columbus returned to Spain with slaves and exotic goods for which he was rewarded with the appointment as governor of New Spain. He was later removed for his brutal treatment of the natives. John Cabot discovered Newfoundland; Magellan's voyage circumnavigated the globe and Abel Tasman's discovered Tasmania and New Zealand. Conquistadores would go on to conquer Southern America.</p>
'New World'	
King Ferdinand	
Queen Isabella	
Christopher Columbus	
Niña	
Pinta	
Santa María	
San Salvador	
Indians	
Slaves	
Governor	
Brutality	
John Cabot	
Magellan	
Abel Tasman	
Conquistadores	

The Age of Exploration and Conquest

Headings		Notes
HERNÁN CORTÉS (1485 – 1547) AND THE AZTECS		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Aztecs were the ancient civilisation of southern modern-day Mexico. Their capital was Tenochtitlan which had a population of over 250,000 in 1519. Aztec society was ruled by a king and priests but was very different to the European feudal system. They were also polytheists – they worshipped many gods such as the sun god Huitzilopochtli to whom the Aztecs made blood sacrifices. Their weapons and tools were made of wood, stone and copper as they didn't have iron or steel. Nor did they have horses, cattle, sheep or pigs – they did have turkeys, dogs and guinea pigs. Hernán Cortés, a Spanish soldier and traveller who had explored the New World wished to attack the Aztecs for their collection of gold. February 1519, Cortés landed with 11 ships, 500 soldiers and 13 horses. Local tribes that had suffered under Aztec rule helped Cortés and his men march on Tenochtitlan where Cortés was greeted by the king, Montezuma. He was mistaken for the god Quetzalcoatl – for which he was worshipped by the Aztecs. The Spanish soldiers stole gold before taking Montezuma hostage; the Aztecs revolted and drove the Spaniards out – Montezuma was killed in the violence. Cortés and his men fled only to regroup with local allies to lay siege to Tenochtitlan for three months. When the city fell, its people were massacred. The Spanish king Charles I appointed Cortés governor of New Spain which was built on the ruins of the Aztec Empire.
FRANCISCO PIZARRO (1475 – 1541) AND THE INCAS		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Incas were a far more advanced civilisation than the Aztecs who had sophisticated artists, engineers and architects. Their territory within the Andes mountains (western coast of South America) and its capital was Cusco. Francisco Pizarro, under order of King Charles V of Spain, invaded the Incan Empire in 1532 with an army of 180 men and 27 horses. They were outnumbered but had superior weapons and Pizarro captured the Incan god-king, Atahualpa. The Incans tried to negotiate for their king's return with treasure, but Pizarro killed him anyways before defeating the remaining Incan armies who were in chaos after their king's death. Pizarro renamed the Incan territory the Spanish province of New Castile with the capital at Lima.
Keywords		Summary
Aztecs	Siege	<p>The Aztecs were the first to fall to the Spanish Conquistadores. They were polytheists who believed in Gods such as Huitzilopochtli. When Cortés landed, they believed him to be their god, Quetzalcoatl. He took the Aztec king, Montezuma hostage who was killed in the resulting violence. Cortés would lay siege to Tenochtitlan before massacring the Aztec population. New Spain would be built on the ruins of the Aztec Empire. Pizarro would similarly wipe out the Incan Empire in the Andes mountains after ruthlessly killing their god-king, Atahualpa. He would build New Castile upon the ruins of the once thriving Incan Empire, founding a new capital at Lima.</p>
Tenochtitlan	New Spain	
Polytheists	Incas	
Huitzilopochtli	Andes	
Cortés	Pizarro	
Montezuma	Atahualpa	
Quetzalcoatl	New Castile	

The Age of Exploration and Conquest

Headings	Notes
THE IMPACT OF COLONISATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colonisation is when a country takes over another territory and settles some of its own people there to control it. This process has a major impact on both the colonised and the colonisers.
IMPACT ON PEOPLES OF SOUTH AMERICA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Indigenous' means native to or belonging to a particular place. The various indigenous peoples of South America were severely impacted by the arrival of Europeans. • Indigenous populations were decimated, partly through violence but most of all by the unfamiliar diseases introduced by the Europeans such as measles, influenza and smallpox. • Indigenous cultures, languages and customs were destroyed as populations fell and the Spanish and Portuguese languages became dominant. • The Catholic Church (especially the Jesuits) converted the indigenous peoples to Christianity. • The slave trade experienced massive growth as a result of the Age of Exploitation. • Catholics could not be slaves under religious rules meaning many millions of African people were transported to the Americas as slaves to produce goods such as sugar, tobacco, coffee, silver and gold that were then shipped to Europe in the Atlantic slavery triangle.
IMPACT ON EUROPE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Age of Exploration and Conquest directly led to the Age of Imperialism as other European states (such as England, France, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands and Russia) wanted to create empires of their own. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The British Empire (1603-1997) would colonise around 25% of the world's land, setting up colonies in North-Eastern America, India, Australia, New Zealand and parts of Africa. • These new Empires scrambling for territory led to many conflicts. For example, Spain and Portugal almost went to war over South America before they signed the Treaty of Tordesillas (1494) which divided the New World between them. Such competition between these new imperial powers that would exist up to the end of World War II. • Gold and silver found in the Andes made Spain the most powerful of the European empires in the 1500s and 1600s. • The Columbian Exchange was the exchange of foods, animals and technology between Europe and the Americas – cocoa, tobacco, potatoes and coffee came to Europe while steel, horses and cattle were introduced to the Americas.

Keywords	Summary
Colonisation	<p>Colonisation was one of the biggest outcomes from the Age of Exploration of conquest, having a major impact on both the colonised and the coloniser. Many of the indigenous peoples (their cultures, languages and customs) were wiped out through violence and diseases. The Catholic Church through religious orders such as the Jesuits converted many of the indigenous peoples to Christianity. Slaves were brought from Africa to the Americas to work through the Atlantic Slave Triangle. Europe gained power through the Age of Imperialism and the Columbian Exchange.</p>
Age of Imperialism	
Diseases	<p>The Treaty of Tordesillas prevented war between Portugal and Spain over their new colonies.</p>
Treaty of Tordesillas	
Jesuits	
Christianity	
Slaves	
Atlantic Slave Triangle	

The Age of Exploration

Keywords	Definition
Astrolabe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An instrument of navigation used to determine latitude, longitude and altitude.
Atlantic Slave Trade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The trade triangle whereby ships delivered African slaves to the Americas, American goods to Europe, and European-manufactured goods back to Africa.
Aztecs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A native civilisation in the New World that controlled Mexico until it was conquered by Hernán Cortés and the Spanish Conquistadors.
Caravel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A small ship with triangular lateen sails.
Circumnavigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sail all the way around the world.
Colonisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When a country takes over another territory and settles some of its own people there to control it.
Columbian Exchange	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The exchange of goods, including animals and food types, between Europe and the New World. Also called the 'Great Exchange'.
Commemoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A ceremony in which a person or an event is <i>remembered</i>.
Compass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An instrument of navigation used to determine direction; the needle always points to magnetic North.
Conquest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where people or a country take control of another people or country by military force.
Conquistador	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Spanish soldier or conqueror in the New World.
Controversy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An issue or event which is disputed or not agreed in by different groups.
Empire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A group of countries ruled by another country.
Genocide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The deliberate killing of a large group of people, especially those of a particular nation or ethnic group.
Great Silk Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A network of land routes connecting Europe and Asia that was used by merchants.
Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The effect or influence of a movement, event or person.
Incas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A native civilisation in the New World that controlled Peru until it was conquered by Francisco Pizarro and the Spanish Conquistadors.
Inquisition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A court of the Catholic Church that investigated people accused of heresy. It was most active in Italy and Spain.
Log Line	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An instrument used by sailors to measure speed.
Plantation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A large farm on which a particular crop is grown.
Quadrat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An instrument of navigation used to determine latitude, longitude and altitude.
Scurvy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A disease caused by a lack of vitamin C. Its symptoms include tooth decay and bleeding gums.
Slavery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The practice of one person being owned by another.
Smallpox	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An infectious disease that Europeans spread to the New World, resulting in the deaths of millions of native peoples.
Treaty of Tordesillas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treaty between Spain and Portugal, created by Pope Alexander VI, where they divided newly discovered lands between them, along the line of Tordesillas.