



Prince Henry the Navigator

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## 1394–1460

Prince Henry the Navigator was the prince of Portugal. He was born in Portugal in 1394. Prince Henry took the lead in opening the African route to Asia by establishing a school of navigation and financing voyages.

This school attracted experts in cartography (map making), astronomy, and navigation from many nations. These experts provided Henry's captains with useful information for their voyages. One of Henry's captains brought back to Europe the first known slaves from Africa.

Henry sent out more than 50 expeditions but went on none of these himself. He was not actually a navigator (one who plots a ship's direction). None of the voyages that Henry financed reached Asia. One of his captains did, however, reach Sierra Leone.

### R E S O U R C E S

*Kingfisher Hist. Enc.*, pgs. 174, 175  
*Pages of History*, vol. 2, pgs. 19–34  
*Streams of Civ.*, vol. 1, p. 425  
*Streams of Civ.*, vol. 2, p. 39





Columbus Takes Possession of the Island

A.S. Forrest

# Columbus Sails to the New World

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## 1492

Christopher Columbus was an Italian navigator. He learned much about navigation at Prince Henry the Navigator's observatory. He was funded by Queen Isabella of Spain.

Columbus sailed in 1492 with 88 men. The *Nina*, *Pinta*, and *Santa Maria* were used for the voyage. He landed off the coast of Florida, in the Bahamas. Columbus intended to sail to the Indies (present day Japan). He returned home with natives, calling them "Indians."

A total of four voyages were made by Columbus to what he called the "West Indies." Columbus died, thinking he had reached the Indies. He had underestimated the size of the earth. He believed that he was called by God to take the gospel across the ocean and convert the people in the Indies.

### R E S O U R C E S

*Child's Story of America*, pgs. 1–8

*First Voyage to America*

*History of US: The First Americans*, pgs. 75–86

*History Pockets: Explorers of N. A.*, pgs. 10–19

*Pages of History*, vol. 2, pgs. 19–34

*Streams of Civ.*, vol. 1, p. 426

*Streams of Civ.*, vol. 2, pgs. 40, 41

*US History*, pgs. 4, 5





Magellan

# Magellan Circumnavigates the Earth

# Magellan Circumnavigates the Earth 1519–1522

Ferdinand Magellan was a Portuguese sea captain. He commanded the first expedition that sailed around the world. Magellan's famous voyage was financed by Charles I of Spain. He commanded a fleet of five ships, the *Concepcion*, *San Antonio*, *Santiago*, *Trinidad*, and *Victoria*.

On the voyage, mutiny broke out. The mutinous leader was executed and two of his followers were marooned when the fleet sailed again.

Magellan discovered a passage to the Pacific, henceforth named the "Strait of Magellan." Magellan was killed in the Philippines before the voyage was complete. Only one ship returned to Spain in 1522, with 18 survivors, nearly three years after the voyage began.

## R E S O U R C E S

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*Streams of Civ.*, vol. 1, p. 427  
*Streams of Civ.*, vol. 2, p. 42  
*US History*, pgs. 6, 7





Ferdinand de Soto

Herbert Moore

# Cortés, de Soto, de Leon and Coronado: the Spanish Explorers

# Cortés, de Soto, de Leon and Coronado: the Spanish Explorers 1513–1538

Within one hundred years of Columbus's first voyage, Spain had completely taken over both Central and South America. This time-period, during the 1500's, is often known as the Spanish Conquest.

One Spanish explorer who conquered the great Aztec Empire was Hernando Cortés. This is when the greatly feared king Montezuma was killed and the Aztec Empire destroyed. Cortés also went on to explore Honduras and Baja, California.

Another Spanish explorer, Hernando de Soto, discovered the Mississippi River in North America.

The first explorer to see the Grand Canyon was Francisco Vasquez de Coronado. He explored the southwest region of what is now the United States in search of gold.

Ponce de Leon sailed a galleon to Florida in 1513. He was in search of the Fountain of Youth, an imaginary spring.

## R E S O U R C E S

*Child's Story of America*, pgs. 9–14

*Courage and Conviction*, p. 173

*History of US: The First Americans*, pgs. 101–112

*History Pockets: Explorers of N. A.*, pgs. 28–36

*Pages of History*, vol. 2, pgs. 19–34

*Streams of Civ.*, vol. 1, pgs. 426–431

*US History*, pgs. 15–18

