

SSWH10: ANALYZE THE CAUSES AND EFFECTS OF EXPLORATION AND EXPANSION INTO THE AMERICAS, AFRICA, AND ASIA

ELEMENT A: Explain the roles of explorers and conquistadors.

ROLES OF EXPLORERS

- The European maritime exploration that followed 1450 CE upset the known world, ending Amerindian isolation and brought about greater global interaction.
 - It began with Prince Henry "The Navigator" from Portugal who encouraged his country's maritime exploration to the South, aiming to sail around Africa to gain access to the Asian spice trade.
- In 1488, Bartolomeu Dias sailed around the southern tip of Africa, followed by Vasco de Gama who sailed into the Indian Ocean, reaching India in 1498.
 - In India, de Gama established direct trade with India, bypassing the Italian and Muslim merchants who controlled the overland trade routes.
- Inspired by Portugal's maritime success, Italian explorer Christopher Columbus looked for a shorter route to India by heading West through the Atlantic instead of South around Africa.
 - Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain funded his exploration, motivated by the search for wealth for their country and the desire to spread Christianity in Asia.
 - In 1492, Columbus landed in the Caribbean, believing that he had found his way to Asia, not realizing two continents stood in his way.
- Following Columbus' expedition, Europeans continued to look for ways through and around the "New World."

ROLES OF CONQUISTADORS

- In 1513, Vasco Nunez de Balboa, of Spain, crossed modern-day Panama, reaching the Pacific Ocean and confirming that the New World was not part of Asia.
- Ferdinand Magellan, also sailing for Spain, further settled the matter when he sailed around the southern tip of South America and sailed across the Pacific Ocean to the Philippines.
- For their part, English, French, and Dutch explorers began to look for a Northwest Passage to Asia.
 - These included Jacques Cartier who explored the St. Lawrence River and Henry Hudson who explored the Hudson River.
- Spain's continued exploration and conquest of the Americas set up its "Golden Age" that lasted until the mid-1660s.
 - In 1519, Hernan Cortes sailed to Mexico and conquered the Aztecs.
 - Francisco Pizarro traveled south to conquer the Incan Empire, claiming land for Spain from Ecuador to Chile.
 - These unlikely victories were made possible with the help of local dissidents, guns, horses, and a smallpox epidemic that severely weakened the Amerindians.
 - These conquests were notable for the ways that the Spanish plundered resources and forced conversion to Christianity.
