


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



ELEMENT C: Explain the role of improved technology in exploration.

IMPROVED TECHNOLOGIES

□ Europeans' efforts to explore oceans and new lands were aided by the development of four key technologies.

1. Cartographers developed the skills to create more accurate maps.
2. Europeans also learned how to use the astrolabe, a technology adopted from the Greeks and Arabs, which allowed them to determine latitude at sea.
3. Thirdly, they built better ships, called caravels, which were nimbler and sturdier for ocean travel. This ship design combined the square sails of European ships with the triangular sails of Arab dhows, and moved the rudder from the side to the rear of the ship, making it easier to sail into the wind.
4. Finally, use of the magnetic compass in open ocean navigation was perfected by European navigators in this period.

