

VASCO NUNEZ BALBOA

Reason for Sailing



Vasco Balboa was a Spanish explorer who admired Christopher Columbus. Like Christopher Columbus he wanted to sail to the “New World”. However, unlike Christopher Columbus who wanted to find a water route to Asia Vasco Balboa wanted to find gold so he could become wealthy.

Route Taken and Obstacles Faced



When he arrived in Santo Domingo, which is in South America, Balboa tried to make a living as a farmer, but was not successful. While in his new home Native Americans told Balboa about a "great sea". Balboa believed the land where the sea was located would contain large amounts of gold. Balboa became determined to find this sea.

Balboa began his journey to the sea by crossing the Isthmus of Panama. It took him three weeks to cross through the thick jungles of Panama. After hacking his way through the jungle Balboa was still not able to see the Pacific Ocean until he climbed a mountain peak.

Major Accomplishment(s)



When Balboa finished his journey he found he had reached the Pacific Ocean. Balboa became the **first European to see the Pacific Ocean**. Once there he claimed the ocean and all the land that it touched for Spain.

While at the Pacific Ocean Balboa found the treasures he hoped would be there. He spent months collecting pearls and gold to send back to Spain.

Unfortunately for Balboa he was accused of treason by an enemy and was beheaded.

Notes from Clip

JOHN CABOT

Sailed for England



Reasons for Sailing

John Cabot was an English explorer who was sent to explore the "New World" by King Henry VII. England was anxious to explore the lands explored by Christopher Columbus. England was also interested in finding lands that the English could claim as colonies.

Route Taken and Obstacles Faced



John Cabot believed that he could find a water route to Asia by sailing northwest across the Atlantic Ocean. While on his journey Cabot experienced bad weather, food shortages, and conflicts with his crew and was forced to return to England.

Accomplishments



The next year Cabot tried to find the Asia route again. This time he reached North America. He **reached and explored Newfoundland, Canada** in 1497. His landing allowed England to claim what is now Canada.

Cabot was still determined to find a northwest route to Asia and tried again by sailing south along the Canadian coast. During this voyage Cabot and his men were lost at sea and never seen again.

Notes from Clip

JACQUES CARTIER *French Explorer*

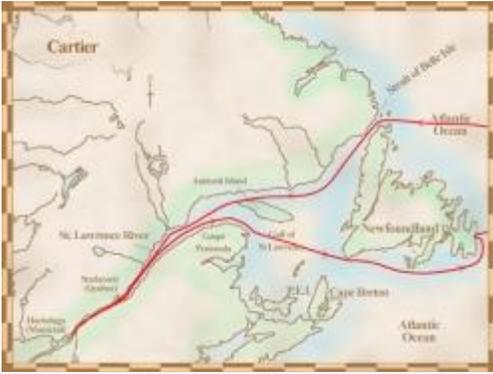


Reason for Sailing



Jacques Cartier was a French explorer. In 1531 Jacques Cartier set out on an expedition to find the Northwest Passage. This was the same passage John Cabot looked for when he was trying to find a route through North America that led to the Pacific Ocean.

Route Taken and Obstacles Faced



In 1534, Jacques Cartier sailed along the Atlantic Ocean, looking for a path through North America to East Asia. In 1535, he began his second voyage when he heard of a large river further west of Newfoundland. He thought that this river would lead him to Asia, but it didn't.

Accomplishments

In fact Jacques Cartier happened upon the **St. Lawrence River** and the Gaspé Peninsula. Five years later he made a third trip. On the third voyage, Cartier's men built a settlement near what is now Quebec City in Canada.

Cartier explorations led to other French explorations of North America.

Notes from Clip

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

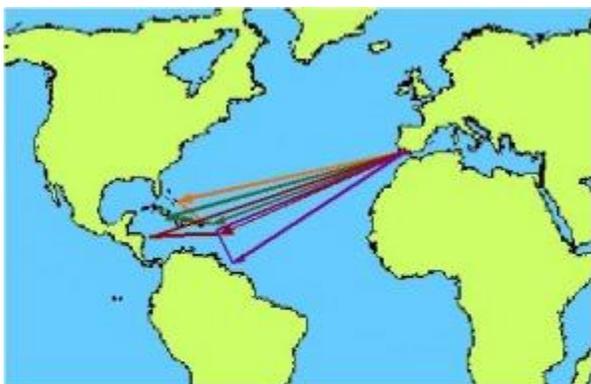
Sailed for Spain



Reasons for Sailing

Christopher Columbus was an Italian explorer. When he was younger he sailed on trading ships. Christopher Columbus wanted to apply his sailing skills and use them to find a water route to Asia. During his time silks and spices from India/Asia traveled over land or by a long water route that traveled around the tip of Africa. Columbus believed that instead of sailing east as other sailors had done that he could sail west and find a shorter water route to Asia.

Route Taken and Obstacles Faced



Voyages of Columbus

First Voyage (1492) Third Voyage (1498) —
Second Voyage (1493) Fourth Voyage (1502) —

At first Columbus went to the king of Portugal for money for his voyage, but the king refused. Finally, King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain gave Columbus the money he needed for his voyage.

In 1492 Columbus left for his journey with three ships; the *Pinta*, the *Nina*, and the *Santa Maria*. The first place they landed was an island Columbus named San Salvador. Since Columbus thought he had made it to the Indies he named the natives on the island Indians.

Accomplishments

While on the island Columbus and his men looked for gold. They also explored other islands he named Hispaniola and Cuba. Soon after arriving the Santa Maria was damaged and Columbus was forced to end his exploration and return home to Spain.

Columbus returned three more times to explore the Caribbean islands and Central and South America. Even though Christopher Columbus never found his water route to Asia he did find a "**New World**" that Europeans did not know existed.

Notes from Clip

JUAN PONCE DE LEON *Spanish Explorer*



Reasons for Sailing

Juan Ponce de Leon was a Spanish explorer. Ponce de Leon sailed with Christopher on his second expedition to the Americas in 1493. Later in 1506, Ponce de León led his own expedition. Like most Spanish explorers he wanted to find gold, and he found it while exploring the "New World".

Route Taken and Obstacles Faced



In 1511 Ponce de Leon set out on another voyage. This time he landed in Cuba. While in Cuba the natives told him of gold and a magical fountain on an island called Bimini that was just north of Cuba. Juan Ponce de Leon left Cuba to find the fountain that he was told could cure of all illnesses and keep a person young.

Accomplishments



Instead of finding Bimini he landed on the east coast of Florida in St. Augustine and claimed the land for Spain. Ponce de Leon did not find the fountain of youth or any gold and left disappointed. After returning home he set out on another expedition to find Bimini. When he **landed in Florida** again his crew was met by Native Americans who shot arrows and wounded Ponce de Leon and his men. Ponce de Leon left and died from his injuries in Cuba.

Notes from Clip

HENRY HUDSON *English Explorer*



Reason for Sailing



Henry Hudson was an English explorer. In 1607 Henry Hudson was hired by the English Muscovy Company to lead the ship *Hopewell* on an expedition north of the European continent. The company hoped to discover a northeastern sea passage that led to the spice islands of the South Pacific.

Route Taken and Obstacles Faced



On his first voyage Henry Hudson reached Greenland but his path was blocked by ice. On his second voyage, a year later, he made it as far as the Arctic Ocean. The merchants of the Dutch East India Company were still convinced that there might

be a separate passage to the northeast, and hired Henry Hudson in 1609 to lead an expedition on the ship Half Moon. Hudson had other ideas, however, and sailed in the other direction, across the Atlantic to North America.

Accomplishments



While on his third journey Henry Hudson found three waterways that were named after him; the **Hudson River, Hudson Bay, and Hudson Strait**. He also **sailed farther north than any explorer before him**.

Henry Hudson returned to North America for a fourth expedition in 1611. While exploring North America, Hudson's crew turned against him. They put him, his son, and seven crewmen on a small boat and left. He was never heard from again.

Notes from Clip