Mr. Telles - Week 4 5/11-5/15

***Monday 5/11 Age of Exploration Overview***

Read Overview of Exploration  
List and explain the reason for the Age of Exploration to begin?

AGE OF EXPLORATION OVERVIEW

The [Age of Exploration](https://www.historycrunch.com/age-of-exploration.html), or Age of Discovery, is one of the most important events in the history of the western world.  It began in the early 15th century and continued until the end of the 17th century, and involved European explorers using their navigational skills to travel the world.  In general, the Age of Exploration occurred for several different reasons, particularly in the countries of Portugal, Spain, France and England.

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​First, European countries were seeking new trade routes to distant trading partners in the Far East, including: China, India and Japan.  European countries had traditionally traded with these countries through the [Silk Road](https://www.historycrunch.com/silk-road.html).  The Silk Road was mostly over land and took merchants a great deal of time to ship goods.  European countries were interested in speeding up trade by finding a quicker sea route.  
  
A second reason for the beginning of the Age of Exploration was the rise of [absolute monarchies](https://www.historycrunch.com/absolute-monarchy.html) in Europe.  The powerful monarchs of Europe had centralized the authority and wealth of each country and used their vast wealth to fund the expeditions of many explorers.  For example, [Christopher Columbus](https://www.historycrunch.com/christopher-columbus.html) was funded by King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain.  
  
Third, Europeans had made some dramatic improvements in their navigational skill and technology that allowed early explorers to travel further and more accurately at sea.  For example, ship building had drastically improved in the years immediately before the Age of Exploration began.  New ships, such as the carrack and the caravel, allowed explorers to hold more cargo and the venture further than ever before.  
  
The final reason for why the Age of Exploration began is because Europeans of the time were interested in foreign cultures and goods.  In general, the Renaissance in Europe caused an expansion of new ideas and new understandings of the world.  Europeans were interested in learning about these new ideas and expanding on their worldviews.

The Age of Exploration is considered to have occurred mostly with four European nations, which included: Portugal, Spain, France and England.  Each of these countries experienced the same forces that pushed them to explore the world, but they also shared one important characteristic.  They were all countries that bordered on the Atlantic Ocean and had easy access to the sea with many sea ports and experienced sailors.  This allowed these four nations to have the ability to begin exploring while other European nations did not.

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Early Portuguese explorers travelled south along the western coast of Africa in search of a new route to India and China in the early 1400s.  These early explorers were so successful that Lisbon, the capital of Portugal, became the main trade center of Europe at the time.

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Despite financing the voyage of [John Cabot](https://www.historycrunch.com/john-cabot.html) to Newfoundland in 1497, England did not show major interest in exploration until the late 1500s.  By this time, both Spain and Portugal had become incredibly wealthy from their own expeditions and England wanted to gain land and wealth for itself.  Many of the earliest English explorers voyaged to the New World and established colonies that England controlled as part of its vast empire.  Most of these colonies were established along the eastern seaboard of modern-day Canada and the United States.  
  
Similar to England, France was inspired to begin exploring in the 1500s during the Age of Exploration after seeing the wealth of both Spain and Portugal increase.  Most of France’s expeditions focused on the areas of the St. Lawrence River in Canada.  For example, [Jacques Cartier](https://www.historycrunch.com/jacques-cartier.html) famously explored the region for France and established an early colony for the French empire.  
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The Age of Exploration ended in the early 17th century after technological advancements and increased knowledge of the world allowed Europeans to travel easily across the globe by sea.  In addition, the creation of settlements along the coasts of the newly found areas created a network of communication and trade, therefore ending the need to search for trade routes.

***Tuesday 5/12 Christopher Columbus***

Read about Christopher Columbus  
Write a summary (2-3 paragraphs) about Columbus' Life

The explorer Christopher Columbus made four trips across the Atlantic Ocean from Spain: in 1492, 1493, 1498 and 1502. He was determined to find a direct water route west from Europe to Asia, but he never did. Instead, he stumbled upon the Americas. Though he did not really “discover” the New World—millions of people already lived there—his journeys marked the beginning of centuries of exploration and colonization of North and South America.

## The Age of Discovery

During the 15th and 16th centuries, leaders of several European nations sponsored expeditions abroad in the hope that explorers would find great wealth and vast undiscovered lands. The Portuguese were the earliest participants in this “[Age of Discovery](https://www.history.com/topics/exploration),” also known as “[Age of Exploration](https://www.history.com/shows/mankind-the-story-of-all-of-us/infographics/age-of-exploration).”

Starting in about 1420, small Portuguese ships known as [caravels](https://www.history.com/topics/exploration/columbus-ships-are-marvels-of-engineering-video) zipped along the African coast, carrying spices, gold, slaves and other goods from Asia and Africa to Europe.

Other European nations, particularly Spain, were eager to share in the seemingly limitless riches of the “Far East.” By the end of the 15th century, Spain’s “Reconquista”—the expulsion of Jews and Muslims out of the kingdom after centuries of war—was complete, and the nation turned its attention to exploration and conquest in other areas of the world.

## Christopher Columbus: Early Life

Christopher Columbus, the son of a wool merchant, is believed to have been born in Genoa, Italy, in 1451. When he was still a teenager, he got a job on a merchant ship. He remained at sea until 1476, when pirates attacked his ship as it sailed north along the Portuguese coast.

The boat sank, but the young Columbus floated to shore on a scrap of wood and made his way to Lisbon, where he eventually studied mathematics, astronomy, cartography and navigation. He also began to hatch the plan that would change the world forever.

## The First Voyage

At the end of the 15th century, it was nearly impossible to reach Asia from Europe by land. The route was long and arduous, and encounters with hostile armies were difficult to avoid. Portuguese explorers solved this problem by taking to the sea: They sailed south along the West African coast and around the Cape of Good Hope.

But Columbus had a different idea: Why not sail west across the Atlantic instead of around the massive African continent? The young navigator’s logic was sound, but his math was faulty. He argued (incorrectly) that the circumference of the Earth was much smaller than his contemporaries believed it was; accordingly, he believed that the journey by boat from Europe to Asia should be not only possible, but comparatively easy via an as-yet undiscovered [Northwest Passage](https://www.history.com/topics/exploration/northwest-passage).

He presented his plan to officials in Portugal and England, but it was not until 1492 that he found a sympathetic audience: the Spanish monarchs [Ferdinand of Aragon and Isabella of Castile](http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/ferdinand-and-isabella-marry).

Columbus wanted fame and fortune. Ferdinand and Isabella wanted the same, along with the opportunity to export Catholicism to lands across the globe. (Columbus, a devout Catholic, was equally enthusiastic about this possibility.)

Columbus’ contract with the Spanish rulers promised that he could keep 10 percent of whatever riches he found, along with a noble title and the governorship of any lands he should encounter.

## Niña, Pinta and Santa Maria

On August 3, 1492, Columbus and his crew set sail from Spain in three ships: the Niña, the Pinta and the Santa Maria. On October 12, the ships made landfall—not in the East Indies, as Columbus assumed, but on one of the Bahamian islands, likely San Salvador.

For months, Columbus sailed from island to island in what we now know as the Caribbean, looking for the “pearls, precious stones, gold, silver, spices, and other objects and merchandise whatsoever” that he had promised to his Spanish patrons, but he did not find much. In January 1493, leaving several dozen men behind in a makeshift settlement on Hispaniola (present-day Haiti and the Dominican Republic), he left for Spain.

He kept a detailed diary during his first voyage. Christopher Columbus’s journal was written between August 3, 1492, and November 6, 1492 and mentions everything from the wildlife he encountered, like dolphins and birds, to the weather to the moods of his crew. More troublingly, it also recorded his initial impressions of the local people and his argument for why they should be enslaved.

“They … brought us parrots and balls of cotton and spears and many other things, which they exchanged for the glass beads and hawks’ bells," he wrote. "They willingly traded everything they owned … They were well-built, with good bodies and handsome features …They do not bear arms, and do not know them, for I showed them a sword, they took it by the edge and cut themselves out of ignorance. They have no iron …They would make fine servants … With fifty men we could subjugate them all and make them do whatever we want.”

Columbus gifted the journal to Isabella upon his return.

## Later Voyages

About six months later, in September 1493, Columbus returned to the Americas. He found the Hispaniola settlement destroyed and left his brothers Bartolomeo and Diego Columbus behind to rebuild, along with part of his ships’ crew and hundreds of enslaved indigenous people.

Then he headed west to continue his mostly fruitless [search for gold](https://www.history.com/topics/exploration/columbus-quest-for-gold-video) and other goods. His group now included a large number of indigenous people the Europeans had enslaved. In lieu of the material riches he had promised the Spanish monarchs, he sent some 500 slaves to Queen Isabella. The queen was horrified—she believed that any people Columbus “discovered” were Spanish subjects who could not be enslaved—and she promptly and sternly returned the explorer’s gift.

In May 1498, Columbus sailed west across the Atlantic for the third time. He visited Trinidad and the South American mainland before returning to the ill-fated Hispaniola settlement, where the colonists had staged a bloody revolt against the Columbus brothers’ mismanagement and brutality. Conditions were so bad that Spanish authorities had to send a new governor to take over. Meanwhile, the native Taino population, forced to search for gold and to work on plantations, was decimated (within 60 years after Columbus landed, only a few hundred of what may have been 250,000 Taino were left on their island). Christopher Columbus was arrested and returned to Spain in chains.

In 1502, cleared of the most serious charges but stripped of his noble titles, the aging Columbus persuaded the Spanish crown to pay for one last trip across the Atlantic. This time, Columbus made it all the way to Panama—just miles from the Pacific Ocean—where he had to abandon two of his four ships after damage from storms and hostile natives. Empty-handed, the explorer returned to Spain, where he died in 1506.

## Legacy of Christopher Columbus

Christopher Columbus did not “discover” the Americas, nor was he even the first European to visit the “New World.” (Viking explorer [Leif Eriksson](https://www.history.com/news/the-viking-explorer-who-beat-columbus-to-america) had sailed to Greenland and Newfoundland in the 11th century.)

However, his journey kicked off centuries of exploration and exploitation on the American continents. The Columbian Exchange transferred people, animals, food and disease across cultures. Old World wheat became an American food staple. African coffee and Asian sugar cane became cash crops for Latin America, while American foods like corn, tomatoes and potatoes were introduced into European diets.

Today, [Columbus has a controversial legacy](http://www.history.com/topics/exploration/columbus-controversy)—he is remembered as a daring and path-breaking explorer who transformed the New World, yet his actions also unleashed changes that would eventually devastate the native populations he and his fellow explorers encountered.

***Wednesday 5/13 Christopher Columbus***

After reading this article should we continue celebrating Columbus Day? Provide your answer and reasoning in the document below

Over 500 year after he "discovered" the New World—kicking off centuries of exploration and colonization of the Americas—[Christopher Columbus](https://tempest.saymedia.com/topics/exploration/christopher-columbus) is still honored with a [federal holiday](https://www.history.com/topics/exploration/columbus-day) on the second Monday of every October. As historians have continued to dig into the life of Christopher Columbus, controversy has arisen over continuing to honor the Italian explorer as a hero.

Columbus Saw Indigenous Americans as Obstacles

Spaniards enslaving the Native Americans.

Universal History Archive/UIG/Getty Images

Like many European explorers, Christopher Columbus encountered indigenous people throughout his voyages. There are three main sources of controversy involving his interactions with the indigenous people he labeled “Indians”: the use of violence and slavery, the forced conversion of native peoples to Christianity and the introduction of a host of new diseases that would have dramatic long-term effects on native people in the Americas.

In an era in which the [international slave trade](https://www.history.com/news/american-slavery-before-jamestown-1619) was starting to grow, Columbus and his men enslaved many native inhabitants of the West Indies and subjected them to extreme violence and brutality. On his famous [first voyage in 1492](https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/columbus-sets-sail), Columbus landed on an unknown Caribbean island after an arduous three-month journey.

On his first day in the New World, he ordered six of the natives to be seized, writing in his journal that he believed they would be good servants. Throughout his years in the New World, Columbus enacted policies of forced labor in which natives were put to work for the sake of profits. Later, Columbus sent thousands of peaceful Taino “Indians” from the island of Hispaniola to Spain to be sold. Many died en route.

Those left behind were forced to search for gold in mines and work on plantations. Within 60 years after Columbus landed, only a few hundred of what may have been 250,000 Taino were left on their island.

As governor and viceroy of the Indies, Columbus imposed iron discipline on what is now the Caribbean country of Dominican Republic, according to documents discovered by Spanish historians in 2005. In response to native unrest and revolt, Columbus ordered a brutal crackdown in which many natives were killed; in an attempt to deter further rebellion, Columbus ordered their dismembered bodies to be paraded through the streets.

**READ MORE:**[**Did Colonists Give Infected Blankets to Native Americans as Biological Warfare?**](https://www.history.com/news/colonists-native-americans-smallpox-blankets)

Disease and the Age of Exploration

In addition to the controversy over enslavement and violent rule, the “[Age of Exploration](http://www.history.com/topics/exploration)” that Columbus helped lead had the additional consequence of bringing new diseases to the New World which would, over time, devastate the native populations of many New World islands and communities.

In the broader sense, historians have used the phrase “Columbian exchange” to describe the exchange of plants, animals and goods between the East and West that his voyages sparked. Though the effects were widespread and cannot all be dismissed as negative, critics of Columbus have asserted that the worst aspects of this exchange added up to biological warfare.

Eventually, his methods and actions caught up with Columbus. A number of settlers lobbied against him at the Spanish court, accusing Columbus of mismanagement. In 1500, the king and queen sent in a royal administrator, who detained Columbus and his brothers and had them shipped home. Although Columbus regained his freedom and made a fourth and final voyage to the New World, he had lost his governorship and much of his prestige.

This historical record has cast Columbus' legacy under a cloud of controversy. Protests at Columbus Day parades, efforts to eliminate him from classroom curricula and calls for changing the federal holiday have all followed. Beginning in 1991, dozens of cities and a few states have adopted [Indigenous Peoples’ Day](https://www.history.com/news/goodbye-columbus-hello-indigenous-peoples-day), a holiday that celebrates the history and contributions of Native Americans—rather than Columbus.

***Thursday 5/14 Vasco da Gama***

Read the article  
Answer the quiz questions

The Portuguese nobleman Vasco da Gama (1460-1524) sailed from Lisbon in 1497 on a mission to reach India and open a sea route from Europe to the East. After sailing down the western coast of Africa and rounding the Cape of Good Hope, his expedition made numerous stops in Africa before reaching the trading post of Calicut, India, in May 1498. Da Gama received a hero’s welcome back in Portugal, and was sent on a second expedition to India in 1502, during which he brutally clashed with Muslim traders in the region. Two decades later, da Gama again returned to India, this time as Portuguese viceroy; he died there of an illness in late 1524.

## Vasco da Gama’s Early Life and First Voyage to India

Born circa 1460, Vasco da Gama was the son of a minor nobleman who commanded the fortress at Sines, located on the coast of the Alentejo province in southwestern Portugal. Little else is known about his early life, but in 1492 King John II sent da Gama to the port city of Setubal (south of Lisbon) and to the Algarve region to seize French ships in retaliation for French attacks on Portuguese shipping interests.

In 1497, John’s successor, King Manuel I (crowned in 1495), chose da Gama to lead a Portuguese fleet to India in search of a maritime route from Western Europe to the East. At the time, the Muslims held a monopoly of trade with India and other Eastern nations, thanks to their geographical position. Da Gama sailed from Lisbon that July with four vessels, traveling south along the coast of Africa before veering far off into the southern Atlantic in order to avoid unfavorable currents. The fleet was finally able to round the Cape of Good Hope at Africa’s southern tip in late November, and headed north along Africa’s eastern coast, making stops at what is now Mozambique, Mombasa and Malindi (both now in Kenya). With the help of a local navigator, da Gama was able to cross the Indian Ocean and reach the coast of India at Calicut (now Kozhikode) in May 1498.

## Relations with Local Population & Rival Traders

Though the local Hindu population of Calicut initially welcomed the arrival of the Portuguese sailors (who mistook them for Christians), tensions quickly flared after da Gama offered their ruler a collection of relatively cheap goods as an arrival gift. This conflict, along with hostility from Muslim traders, led Da Gama to leave without concluding a treaty and return to Portugal. A much larger fleet, commanded by Pedro Alvares Cabral, was dispatched to capitalize on da Gama’s discoveries and secure a trading post at Calicut.

After Muslim traders killed 50 of his men, Cabral retaliated by burning 10 Muslim cargo vessels and killing the nearly 600 sailors aboard. He then moved on to Cochin, where he established the first Portuguese trading post in India. In 1502, King Manuel put da Gama in charge of another Indian expedition, which sailed that February. On this voyage, da Gama attacked Arab shipping interests in the region and used force to reach an agreement with Calicut’s ruler. For these brutal demonstrations of power, da Gama was vilified throughout India and the region. Upon his return to Portugal, by contrast, he was richly rewarded for another successful voyage.

## Da Gama’s Later Life and Last Voyage to India

Da Gama had married a well-born woman sometime after returning from his first voyage to India; the couple would have six sons. For the next 20 years, da Gama continued to advise the Portuguese ruler on Indian affairs, but he was not sent back to the region until 1524, when King John III appointed him as Portuguese viceroy in India.

Da Gama arrived in Goa with the task of combating the growing corruption that had tainted the Portuguese government in India. He soon fell ill, and in December 1524 he died in Cochin. His body was later taken back to Portugal for burial there.

1) In what country was Vasco da Gama born?

2) When was Vasco da Gama born?

3) What was Vasco da Gama most known for?

4) Why did the King of Portugal want to find a sailing route to India?

 5) How did Vasco da Gama die?

***Friday 5/15 Impact of the Age of Exploration***

Read about the different Impact of the Age of Exploration  
Which reason do you believe has had the biggest impact on society today? Make sure to support your answer with REASONING.

IMPACTS OF THE AGE OF EXPLORATION

The Age of Exploration, or Age of Discovery, is one of the most important events in the history of the western world.  It began in the early 15th century and continued until the end of the 17th century, and involved European explorers using their navigational skills to travel and explore the world.  As an event it would lead to transformative changes in the world and bring about an era of globalization, meaning the world became more interconnected than it had ever been before.  
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The voyages of Christopher Columbus, beginning in 1492, are considered to be some of the most important events in all of human history.  Columbus explored the New World for European nations and his journeys sparked a long period of European exploration in both North and South America.  Many other explorers followed in his footsteps, including: Henry Hudson, John Cabot, Jacques Cartier, Hernan Cortes, Francisco Pizarro, and many more.  These explorers would lead to many different events that would forever change and alter the New World.

First, and foremost, European Exploration in the New World caused the Columbian Exchange.  The Columbian Exchange was the transfer of plant species, animal species, human beings and diseases between the New World and Old World following Columbus’ 1492 voyage.  In general, both the New World and Old World changed in dramatic ways as each was introduced to these things.  For example, European and Asian diseases caused the death of millions in the New World.  Small pox alone was responsible for many deaths, as the indigenous people of the New World had never been exposed to the disease and had not built up immunity.  This would allow Europeans to more easily establish themselves in the New World and develop their colonies.  On the other hand, the Old World was introduced to new food items from the New World, including: blueberries, corn, potatoes, raspberries, tomatoes and more.

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Second, European exploration led to the downfall of many different indigenous groups throughout North and South America.  As previously mentioned, the Columbian Exchange, caused the deaths of many due to disease, but European explorers also carried out several campaigns against the people of the New World.  None of these is more famous than Spanish conquistador Hernan Cortes and his conquest of the Aztec Empire in modern-day Mexico.  When Cortes and his men arrived into the area of the Aztec Empire they became allies with the traditional enemies of the Aztecs. Together they marched towards the Aztec capital city of Tenochtitlan.  In general, Cortes overwhelmed the Aztecs by capturing their leader, Montezuma II, and by leading several key battles against the Aztec people.  Aided by the spread of European diseases, such as small pox Cortes took control of the great Aztec capital city. Cortes built Mexico City on the ruins of Tenochtitlan and it became one of the most powerful cities in the Spanish Empire.

Third, the Age of Exploration led to the mass migration of peoples to the New World.  After exploring and establishing early settlements in the New World, European nations next established colonies along the Atlantic coastline of the New World.  Many of the colonies were used as part of the trade triangle which also saw millions of African slaves brought to the New World aboard the slave ships of Europe.  Between the 17th century and the early 20th century, millions of European people also came to the Americas and established new countries, such as: the United States and Canada.  Today, these North America countries are some of the most powerful and economically prosperous countries on the planet