

AGE OF EUROPEAN EXPLORATION:

Name That Explorer

During the 1400s and 1500s, European explorers traveled across oceans to lands in southern Africa, Asia, and the Americas—places unfamiliar or completely unknown to Europeans. These expeditions had far-reaching consequences on the lives of the people already living in those places, on the land itself, and on world politics and trade. Some historians refer to this critical time as the “Contact Period.” How did these expeditions happen, and which explorers were involved?



Use the word bank to identify which explorer is being described. Do additional research if necessary.

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| Vasco Núñez de Balboa | Vasco da Gama | Christopher Columbus | Pedro Álvares Cabral |
| Bartolomeu Dias | Ferdinand Magellan | Jacques Cartier | Juan Ponce de León |

1. In 1488, this Portuguese explorer became the first European navigator to round the southern tip of Africa. Portugal’s king named the newly discovered water passage “The Cape of Good Hope” because it provided a new sea route from Europe to the Asian spice trade islands. _____

2. In 1492, Spain sent this explorer to find a westward route to the Asian East Indies. Instead, he landed in a vast continent Europeans had no idea existed. _____

3. In 1497, this explorer sailed from Portugal to India. He became the first European able to sail to Asia by rounding Africa’s Cape of Good Hope. _____

4. In 1500, this explorer sailed 13 ships into the western Atlantic Ocean, headed for Asia. The ships landed on the eastern coast of what he assumed was a large island. In fact, it was the continent of South America. The land he claimed as a colony for Portugal eventually became the country of Brazil.

5. In 1513, this explorer set out across the Atlantic Ocean into the Caribbean Sea. He explored the coastline as far south as the Florida Keys. _____

6. In 1513, this explorer landed on the Atlantic coast of what is present-day Panama and hiked through thick jungles to discover that the American continent had a coastline facing the Pacific Ocean.

7. In 1520, this explorer sailed along the southern coast of what is present-day South America until he discovered a water passage that led to the Pacific Ocean. That water passage (called a strait) is named for him.

8. In the 1530s, this explorer was the first European to discover the land along the shores of the St. Lawrence River. He was the first to document the territory’s name as “Canada.”
