

















# Age of Exploration Timeline

Cut apart the timeline squares and the timeline strip. Glue the three parts of the timeline strip together to make one long timeline. Glue timeline squares on to the timeline strip.

 <p><b>1400</b> Prince Henry sponsors exploration</p>	 <p><b>1446</b> Portuguese reach Cape Verde</p>	 <p><b>1488</b> Dias rounds Cape of Good Hope</p>	 <p><b>1492</b> Columbus discovers America</p>	 <p><b>1497</b> Vasco da Gama reaches India</p>	 <p><b>1497</b> John Cabot explores Newfoundland</p>	 <p><b>1513</b> Balboa discovers Pacific Ocean</p>
 <p><b>1513</b> Jorge Alvarez reaches China</p>	 <p><b>1519-22</b> Magellan circumnavigates the globe</p>	 <p><b>1528-36</b> de Vaca's exploration of N. America</p>	 <p><b>1534</b> Cartier explores eastern Canada</p>	 <p><b>1543</b> Portuguese reach Japan</p>	 <p><b>1576</b> Frobisher explores N. Canada</p>	 <p><b>1606</b> Janszoon discovers Australia</p>
 <p><b>1607</b> Hudson explores the coast of N. America</p>	 <p><b>1642-3</b> Abel Tasman discovers Tasmania and New Zealand</p>					

## Layers of Learning

1400

1450

Glue this tab to top of Book of Years page. Cut off if not using Book of Years.

1500

1550

# Age of Exploration

1600

1650

## Timeline Events Explained

- 1. 1400 Prince Henry sponsors exploration.** Henry was the prince of Portugal when he became aware of the sub-Saharan trade routes. He became obsessed with learning more about Africa and gaining access to its riches. He began to sponsor voyages into the Atlantic and down the coast of Africa. Henry's explorers discovered the dependable trade winds in the Atlantic that allowed them to return to Europe with a gentle following wind. During his life Portuguese ships reached the Senegal River in Africa and established trade routes to the gold and slaves to be found there.
- 2. 1456 Portuguese reach Cape Verde Islands.** When the Portuguese discovered Cape Verde there were no people living on the islands. Cape Verde soon became an important stop for ships coming and going from the African coast. In 1462 a permanent settlement had been founded on the islands.
- 3. 1488 Bartolomeu Dias rounds the Cape of Good Hope.** The Portuguese expanded their dreams of exploration to include a sea route to India, where they knew all the valuable spices could be picked up, bypassing the Muslim traders. Bartolomeu Dias was sent to find that route. He rounded the southern tip of Africa and wanted to continue on to India, but his crew wouldn't budge so they returned to Europe. But now everyone knew there was a way.
- 4. 1492 Columbus discovers America.** Christopher Columbus was obsessed with the sea from a very young age. After reading traveler's accounts and consulting as many maps as he could get his hands on he became convinced that one could reach India and China by sailing west. Eventually, after trying nearly every court in Europe the Spanish Queen Isabella agreed to sponsor a voyage. He landed in the Bahamas Islands and, thinking they were the Spice Islands, named them the "Indies" and the people who lived there "Indians". He never admitted that he had not reached India, but had in fact discovered a whole new continent.
- 5. 1497 Vasco da Gama reaches India.** Da Gama's voyage linked east and west by sea for the first time. It also signaled the beginning of European colonization in Asia and the end of Muslim dominance of the spice trade. At the time Da Gama reached India, India was strong and wealthy, far beyond European standards. But over the centuries India declined as Europe gained in strength.
- 6. 1497 John Cabot explores New Foundland.** Cabot sailed for England and was the first European since Viking times to reach the North American mainland. England wanted in on the trade routes to Asia and hoped a way could be found by sailing north of the land Columbus had discovered. The people of Bristol, England, the port Cabot sailed from, knew of rumors of land to the west. So Cabot hoped that at the very least he would find riches in this new land even if he didn't make it to Asia. In all Cabot made three expeditions to North America.
- 7. 1513 Vasco Núñez de Balboa discovers the Pacific Ocean.** Balboa settled in the New World in 1500 and lived on the island of Hispaniola. In 1510 he founded a new settlement in Panama. He heard rumors of gold to the west. So he formed an expedition to cross the rugged mountains of the isthmus. Not only was the trail extremely difficult, but there were hostile kingdoms and tribes blocking the way. Balboa fought two battles and spent a month crossing the isthmus. When he reached the Pacific Ocean he waded in up to his knees, raised his sword aloft, and claimed the sea and all the lands touching it for Spain.
- 8. 1513 Jorge Alvarez reaches China.** Alvarez sailed for Portugal. He started in Malacca, which by this time was a Portuguese outpost and trading center. His ships reached land in China, but trade relations would not be established until the second expedition later

that year by another Portuguese explorer.

9. **1519-22 Magellan circumnavigates the globe.** The Spanish were still eager to find a sea route to Asia to compete with the Portuguese so they sent Magellan to find a western route. With five ships and 270 men Magellan sailed west to Brazil then south along the coast. During the second year of the voyage he found a route through the Tierra del Fuego and sailed into the Pacific. Magellan was killed in a battle with the natives of the Philippines in 1521, but the expedition continued on to find the Spice Islands. The next year they sailed across the Indian Ocean, around Africa and back to Portugal. Only one ship and 18 men returned home. The feat was not repeated, in spite of many attempts, until Sir Francis Drake in 1580, 58 years later.
10. **1528-36 Cabeza de Vaca's expedition across North America.** De Vaca was the treasurer for an expedition to explore Florida. The expedition was led by Pánfilo de Narváez, but the expedition was ill fated and was attacked repeatedly by natives, then lost and battered by storms. Narváez died fairly early in the journey, which left de Vaca in charge of the few remaining survivors. They were enslaved by tribes living along the Mississippi River. After years they escaped and traveled on foot through Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and Mexico for eight years. To make a living along the way de Vaca became a faith healer for the tribes who would give him food and other aid in exchange. Eventually he traveled south far enough in Mexico to encounter Spaniards. Later, back in Europe, he wrote an account of his travels and the native people he encountered on the way.
11. **1534 Jacques Cartier explores eastern Canada.** Sailing for France, Cartier was sent to explore more of the New World in the north, far from Spanish claims, and, if possible, find a route to Asia. He mapped the Gulf of Saint Lawrence, made friendly contact with the natives, and named the land he found "The Country of the Canadas" which he mistakenly thought was what the natives called themselves. He eventually made three voyages to Canada and discovered the Saint Lawrence River.
12. **1543 Portuguese reach Japan.** António Mota was swept off course by a storm and accidentally landed in Japan. Later that same year Fernão Mendes Pinto sailed to Japan on purpose and established trade relations.
13. **1576 Martin Frobisher explores northern Canada.** Frobisher sailed for England and was searching for a northwest passage to Asia. He never found it, but he did discover Frobisher Bay and Baffin Island. He brought 200 tons of worthless rock back to England with him thinking it was gold ore. He was also an English privateer and did much better plundering treasure from the French.
14. **1606 Willem Janszoon discovers Australia.** Janszoon was sailing for the Dutch East India Company which sent him to find more islands and people to trade with in the East Indies. He sailed past New Guinea and southward, landing in Queensland, on the northern tip of Australia. He thought he was on a southern extension of New Guinea. Thirteen years later he was exploring the region again and landed on the western Australian coast, believing he had found an island, never realizing his earlier discovery was part of the same large continent.
15. **1607 Henry Hudson explores the North American coast.** Hudson was sailing for the English who were still anxious to find a north-west passage. Hudson didn't find a route to China, but he did find Greenland, the Hudson River, and Hudson's Bay over the course of several voyages and seven years. He was cast adrift by mutineers in Hudson's Bay with his son and seven others during his last voyage.
16. **1642-3 Abel Tasman discovers Tasmania and New Zealand.** Tasman sailed for the Dutch East India Company, which sent him to explore the ocean east of Australia. During his voyage he discovered and sighted several islands including Tasmania, New Zealand, Fiji, and Tonga.