The Age of Exploration

During the 1400s

European countries competed to find a sea route to the Indies

New technology helped make long distance navigation possible
Trade Route

A path used by a society to buy and sell goods to other groups.

European countries wanted to find a trade route to Asia during the Age of Exploration.
Navigation Technology

Inventions:
- **Compass**: shows direction North
- **Astrolabe**: used stars to measure distance
- **Caravel and Carrack**: faster ships
Christopher Columbus

- Planned to sail across the Atlantic to the Indies
- Three Ships and new technology made voyage possible
- Voyage paid for by Queen Isabella of Spain
- Voyages led to contact and conflict with Native Americans.
- The Columbian Exchange- trade over time of goods and diseases between New and Old World.
Queen Isabella of Spain

- Funded Christopher Columbus’s voyage in 1492
- Led Spain to become first global power
- Wanted to use her power for Catholic glory
- Demanded all Native Americans convert or be killed
Amerigo Vespucci

Sailed along South America’s coast in 1502.

Concluded The New World was a continent, not part of Asia.
Ferdinand Magellan

- Portuguese sailor working for Spain
- Reached southern tip of South America
- Sailed through a strait to the Pacific
- Crew was first to circumnavigate the globe
Circumnavigate

To sail around the world

Ferdinand Magellan reached to the Pacific Ocean in 1520 through a strait, and his crew would be the first to circumnavigate the globe.
Conquistadors

Spanish explorers who traveled to the New World for riches.
Agreed to give Spain 1/5 of the treasure
Aztec Empire

- Wealthy Empire in Mexico and Central America.
- Trained as jaguar warriors, strict code of laws, practiced human sacrifice
- Conquered by Hernan Cortes between 1519 and 1521
- Lost because of disease and Spanish weapons and animals
Inca Empire

- Wealthy empire in Peru, South America
- Built monuments, studied astronomy and mathematics, performed human sacrifices
- Leader Atahualpa was arrested and later executed by Francisco Pizarro
The Columbian Exchange

Transfer over time of goods, ideas, and diseases between the New World and Old World.

**From New World**
- Pumpkins
- Corn
- Potatoes
- Beans
- Chocolate
- Tobacco
- Tomatoes

**From Old World**
- Grapes
- Bananas
- Sugarcane
- Citrus Fruits
- Horses
- Diseases
Juan Ponce de Leon

- Landed on the coast of Florida in 1513.
- Claimed the territory for the Spanish crown.
- Named the land “La Florida” after the Spanish name for Easter, *Pascua Florida*
- Seriously injured fighting the Calusa People and died
St. Augustine

- First permanent European settlement in the current United States.
- Built the colony in Florida to drive out the French.
- First governor Menendez attacked French at Fort Caroline
- Established first fort and mission
Jean Ribault

• Claimed Florida for France in 1562

• Sailed into St. John’s River near present-day Jacksonville
Fort Caroline

- French Fort built along the St. John’s River in 1564.
- Attacked and captured by Spanish governor Menendez from St. Augustine.
- Spanish victory ended France’s attempt to control Florida.
Hernando do Soto

- Sent by Spain to find riches.
- Inspired to find the Seven Cities of Gold
- Wandered for three years and stole food and supplies from Native Americans
- Crossed the Mississippi River and died of Fever.
Francisco Vasquez de Coronado

- Sent by Spain to explore the Southwest and find riches.
- Wanted to find the Seven Cities of Gold
- Interacted with Zuni people but found no gold
- Traveled to Colorado River
Spanish Settlements

**Pueblos** - towns that were centers of trade

**Missions** - religious communities that included a town, farmland, and a church.
- Goal was to spread religion

**Presidios** - fort built near a mission
- Large farms with many workers.
- Spanish raised export crops of tobacco and sugarcane.
- Used Native Americans as enslaved plantation workers
  - *New Laws* by Las Cases outlawed
  - Traders brought millions of West Africans to sell to plantation owners
Roman Catholic Church

Church headed by the Pope, Bishop of Rome

Oldest and largest branch of Christianity

Main headquarters, Vatican City in Rome, Italy
Martin Luther

• Questioned the power and authority of the Roman Catholic Church
• Nailed a list of complaints on door of Catholic leaders in Germany, 1517
• Started movement called Reformation
• Led to new form of Christianity called Protestantism
The Reformation

Movement led by Martin Luther after disagreement with Catholic Church to create a new Christian religion, Protestantism

Led to conflict between European nations
Spanish Armada

War Fleet sent to invade England in 1588

Prince Philip of Spain objected to Queen Elizabeth I converting England to Protestantism
Sir Francis Drake

Carried out second circumnavigation of the world 1577-1580

Defeated the Spanish Armada

Privateer- pirate who worked for Queen Elizabeth I
Northwest Passage

A direct water route through the Americas to Asia.

England, France, and the Netherlands sent explorers to map North America and find Northwest Passage
John Cabot

Italian explorer sent by England to look for the Northwest Passage in 1497

Landed on the coast of Newfoundland in modern-day Canada
Henry Hudson

- English explorer hired by the Netherlands to find the **Northwest Passage**
- Discovered the Hudson River in present-day New York, then later Hudson Bay
- Set adrift by his crew because they became impatient
French Fur Trappers

- French explorers and settlers established first settlements in North America for trade
- French fur trappers traded with Native Americans into the interior of North America
- Joliet and Marquette, fur trader and priest, travelled Mississippi River
Robert de La Salle

- French explorer that followed Mississippi River all the way to Gulf of Mexico in 1682
- Founded Louisiana
Tenant Farmers

New France- estates along St. Lawrence River
Farmers paid rent and worked for the lord of the estate where they lived.

French got along well with the Native Americans
Did not pose a threat to their customs and lands.
French Missionaries

Goal was to convert Native Americans to Catholicism but did not try to change their customs.
Dutch West India Company

A large fleet of trading ships that sailed all over the world.

Trade routes between North America and Africa
New Netherland

The Dutch Colony in North America

Heart of colony was New Amsterdam on Manhattan Island
Sir Walter Raleigh

- English pirate during the late 1500s
- Stole Spanish treasure for Queen Elizabeth II.
- Sent scouts to find place for colony near Virginia, Roanoke Island in 1585.
Roanoke Island

First English settlement in America

Colony started by Sir Walter Raleigh

Group of settlers disappeared mysteriously
Croatoan

Roanoke Island was found deserted in 1590.

The only clue found was a tree with the word “Croatoan” carved in it.

Believed colonists may have traveled to Croatoan Island to the South, but they were never seen again.
Charter

A document granted the right for a group to form a colony.
Joint-Stock Company

A Company in which investors buy shares, or part ownership.

Ex. The Virginia Company
Chesapeake Bay

An area between Virginia and Maryland

Contains a river flowing into a large estuary and bay.
Jamestown

- Settlement by the Virginia Company of London.
- Plan was to find gold and establish trade in fish and furs
- Faced hardships—disease and hunger
- John Smith built ties with Powhatan People
King James I

King of England who granted charter to Virginia Company to start colony of Jamestown.
The Virginia Company

Joint-Stock Company from London

Got charter to set up colony in Chesapeake Bay- Jamestown

Planned to find gold
Cash crops

Crops only grown for profit, not to eat.

Ex. Tobacco in Jamestown
Powhatan People

- Native Americans in Virginia.
- Faced conflict with the settlers at Jamestown.
- Warriors and hunters, grew maize and fished.
John Smith

- Captain who forced the settlers to work
- Helped colony survive first 2 years
- Built good ties with Powhatan people
- According to legend, rescued by Pocahontas
Pocahontas

- Daughter of the chief of Powhatan people near Jamestown, Virginia.
- Said to have saved the life of John Smith.
- Married tobacco planter John Rolfe and returned to England to get investors for Jamestown.
“The Starving Time”

The winter of 1609-1610 in Jamestown 500 residents starved until 60 were alive.
John Rolfe

Colonist who married the chief’s daughter Pocahontas and improved relations with Powhatan.
A land grant given to settlers to come to a colony.

Jamestown—settlers got 50 acres to settle in the colony and work hard.
House of Burgesses

The first legislature in North America elected by the people.

The Virginia company could vote for burgesses, or representatives.