Routes of Exploration to the New World

Chapter 5
Introduction

- We will study eight different European explorers.
  - Why did they come to the New World?
  - How did their arrival affect the native peoples?

- The explorers we will study in this chapter came from Spain, England, France, and Holland.

- Some of their accomplishments were great and others had a negative impact.
Vocabulary

- **Conquistadors** – Spanish explorers who came to the Americas in the 1500’s and claimed large areas of land for Spain
- **Northwest Passage** – the supposed route across the northern part of North America that Europeans were looking for but never found
- **contagious diseases** – sicknesses that can pass from one person to another as germs are spread by touch or through the air
- **East Indies** – Southeast Asia, including India, Indonesia, and Malaysia
- **colonies** – places ruled by another country, not by their own people
Reading Focus

Read each section then stop and consider the following six areas of focus to complete your reading notes:

1. Personal Background (occupation)
2. Sponsor (who paid for the trip)
3. Motives (why did they go)
4. Dates (year started and year ended)
5. Route of Exploration (path explored from map)
6. Impact (lasting effects)
Personal Background (occupation)

nobleman  sailor  soldier  merchant
Sponsor
Motives

to spread Christianity

to find a route to Asia

to find riches
Dates

- year exploration began
- year exploration ended
Route of Exploration
Impact

- Claimed lands for Europe
- Provided information for new maps
- Spread disease
- Mistreated or killed native people
- Established a settlement
5.2 Christopher Columbus

- Became a sailor at the age of 15
- Believed that the Earth was smaller than it is and had one ocean. He thought he could reach Asia faster by sailing west across the Atlantic.
- After 13 years, he convinced Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand of Spain to give him three small ships and 90 men. He promised to return with gold and spices to make Spain rich.
- Left Spain on August 3, 1492 and arrived on San Salvador (“Holy Savior”) on October 12th. He thought he had reached Asia, but he actually made the first European land claims in the New World.
- He returned to Spain in 1493 where the Queen and King agreed to pay for more voyages (3).
- He explored around Cuba and the coasts of South and Central America until he died in 1506, not knowing that he had reached the New World.
- They found gold, established colonies, took slaves, and found the perfect climate for growing crops, but forced the Indians to work in fields and mines.
Check Your Work

- It is possible to have more than one item circled or shaded in each category.
- Be sure to write the dates of exploration clearly in the boxes.
- Work together with your partner to complete the next section, then stop.
5.3 John Cabot

- Was a young merchant in Venice, Italy
- Wanted to explore the world and find where the spices and silks came from. He set out to find the West Indies by sailing west to try and find a new trade route to Asia.
- Received financing from other merchants and approval from King Henry VII to explore “unknown land.”
- He left England in May 1497 with a small ship and 17 men. On June 24, he reached the eastern coast of Canada and claimed the land for England. He returned to the “New World” a year later to explore around Chesapeake Bay, but his ship sank and he never returned to England.
- Did not realize that he had discovered a new continent, and had made England’s first land claims in North America.
5.4 Juan Ponce de Leon

- A young soldier that left for the New World on Columbus’ second voyage. Settled on a Caribbean island named Hispaniola and became a military commander.
- In 1506, he explored the island of Borinquin (Puerto Rico) and met an Indian carrying gold. He then led soldiers to conquer Puerto Rico and killed many Native Americans, but King Ferdinand of Spain made him the governor.
- He heard stories of the “fountain of youth.” He wanted the glory of finding this spot. He set sail in 1513 and reached a coast of sweet-smelling flowers and beautiful birds. He named the land Florida and claimed it for Spain. He never found the fountain of youth.
- He returned to Florida in 1521 to start a settlement and brought 200 men with horses, cattle, and seeds. The Indians attacked and Ponce de Leon was struck with an arrow. He sailed to Cuba and died, not knowing that Florida was part of a continent and not an island.
5.5 Hernan Cortes

- A Spanish nobleman living in Cuba sailed to Mexico in 1519 to conquer the Aztecs. He wanted adventure, gold, and silver.
- Thinking Cortes was a god, they sent him gold, which made him want to conquer them.
- He marched to the Aztec capital and took the emperor prisoner for six months. He left the town for a short trip and when he returned was attacked by the Aztecs.
- After their defeat, Cortes returned and surrounded the Aztec capital for almost a year and defeated the Aztecs in 1521.
- Many of the Aztecs had been killed or sickened by smallpox, which was brought by Europeans.
- The Spaniards now ruled all of Mexico.
5.6 Jacques Cartier

- By 1521, Spain had reached Asia by sailing around the Southern tip of South America (a long distance) and explorers had learned that the Americas were between Europe and Asia.
- In 1534, King Francis I of France sent Jacques Cartier to find a shortcut through North America (Northwest Passage).
- Jacques Cartier, an experienced sailor and navigator, sailed west on three separate voyages and claimed land for France.
- He explored and mapped the St. Lawrence River, interacted with the Indians, and tried to establish a colony with 100 settlers. After two harsh winters, in 1542 they gave up and returned to France.
- He was unable to find a Northwest Passage.
5.7 Francisco Vasquez de Coronado

- Although born a nobleman, Coronado came seeking glory and fortune.
- The expedition was paid for by Spain and his rich wife.
- He came hoping to find the, “Seven Cities of Gold in Cibola,” but found NO GOLD.
- When exploring the southwestern US, an Indian slave told him about a land with gold, in Kansas, but after traveling there he found NO GOLD.
- He killed the Indian and was charged with bad leadership and mistreatment of the Indians.
- Spanish missionaries considered the expedition successful because they converted many Indians to Christianity.
5.8 Henry Hudson

- Holland and England funded this trip, still hoping to find a “Northwest Passage.”
- In 1609, Hudson tried to sail up and across Europe near the Arctic Circle, but his crew rebelled and he sailed west across the Atlantic.
- They reached Maine and Chesapeake Bay, then sailed into a narrow harbor hoping that it was the “Northwest Passage.”
- It turned out to be a river (Hudson River), but it gave Holland a claim to the land and Dutch settlers came.
- In 1610, Hudson returned. He traveled into a large body of water (Hudson Bay) and the ship was stuck over the winter when the waters froze. He drew the first map of Hudson Bay.
- In Spring, the crew rebelled again, and sent Hudson, his son, and seven other crew members afloat without food or water and the ship returned to England. Hudson or his crew were never seen again. England gained a claim to Eastern Canada.
5.9 Robert de La Salle

- In 1667, La Salle, a French nobleman, sailed to “New France”.
- He learned Indian languages and was exploring the Ohio River when Indians told him about a great river that flowed South to the Gulf of Mexico.
- He dreamed of great wealth, but also of expanding the French empire with posts, settlements, and forts along the river. At first, King Louis XIV, wanted La Salle to pay for the exploration himself.
- When La Salle reached the Gulf of Mexico, he named the area Louisiana, for the French king.
- La Salle returned to France and told the King of his plan for finding a sea route from France to Louisiana and the King agreed to sponsor the trip.
- In 1684, La Salle and more than 200 settlers sailed across the Atlantic, but La Salle sailed past Louisiana (by mistake) and landed on the coast of Texas.
- The conditions were terrible and everyone was starving. La Salle set out on foot to find help, but his crew was convinced that he was crazy and murdered him.
- La Salle ended up giving France claims to the entire Mississippi Valley.