

- ▶ Reading of Vespucci's voyages, a German mapmaker proposed using a form of the name Amerigo for the newly found lands. In 1507 he published the first map with the name *America* on the lands of the Western Hemisphere still unknown to Europeans. This portrait of Vespucci appeared in a geographical work published in 1673.

1500–1800

The Age of Exploration

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THE STORY MATTERS ...

During the Age of Exploration that began in the late fifteenth century, European explorers made voyages in search of wealth, new lands, and converts for Christianity. They found all of these things and more, including civilizations undreamed of by Europeans. They also established the first global trading empires. One of these European explorers was Amerigo Vespucci, an Italian navigator who made several voyages to the Western Hemisphere.

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

What are the effects of political and economic expansion?

LESSON 1

European Exploration and Expansion

LESSON 2

The First Global Economic Systems

LESSON 3

Colonial Latin America

Place & Time: The Age of Exploration 1500–1800

The Age of Exploration led to great cultural and economic changes, both in Europe and throughout the world. The European explorers of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries pioneered new trade routes that would link regions previously isolated. New global political and economic relations developed, and a new interconnected world began to emerge. However, this large-scale European expansion often had negative side effects for the indigenous peoples, including war, disease, and cultural devastation.

Step Into the Place

Read the quotes and look at the information presented on the map.

DBQ Analyzing Historical Documents What different motivations affected European explorers of this time?

PRIMARY SOURCE

“And [the Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama] told [the Indian ruler of Calicut]... [kings of Portugal] had annually sent out vessels to make discoveries in the direction of India, ... not because they sought for gold or silver, for of this they had such abundance that they needed not what was to be found in this country. He further stated that the captains sent out traveled for a year or two, until their provisions were exhausted, and then returned to Portugal...”

—from *Journal of the First Voyage of Vasco da Gama, 1497–1499*



PRIMARY SOURCE

“[Hernán Cortés] said to [the Aztec ruler] Montezuma through our interpreter, half laughing: ‘Señor Montezuma, I do not understand how such a great Prince and wise man as you are has not come to the conclusion, in your mind, that these idols of yours are not gods, but evil things that are called devils’...”

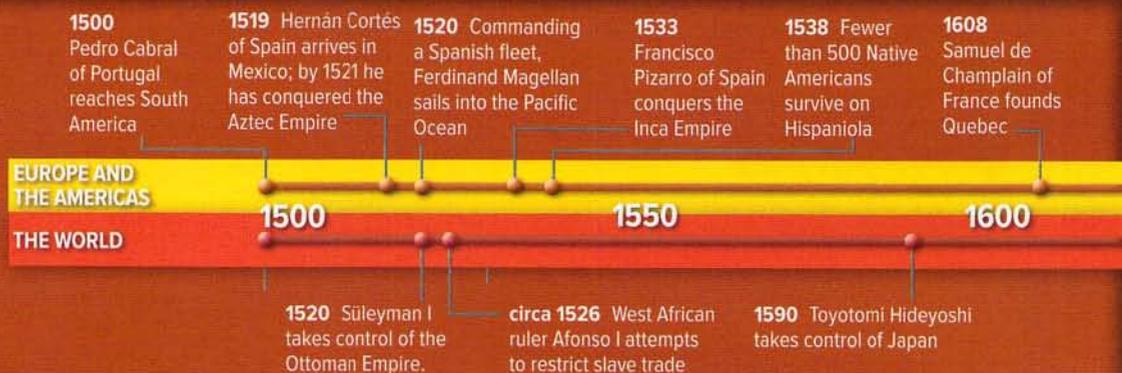
Montezuma replied half angrily... ‘Señor [Cortés],... we consider [our gods] to be very good, for they give us health and rains and good seed times and seasons and as many victories as we desire, and we are obliged to worship them and make sacrifices, and I pray you not to say another word in their dishonour.’”

—from *The Discovery and Conquest of Mexico, Bernal Diaz del Castillo, 1552–1568*

(Master of Saldana/Bridgeman Art Library/Getty Images; © Pedro Barretto de Resende/The Bridgeman Art Library)

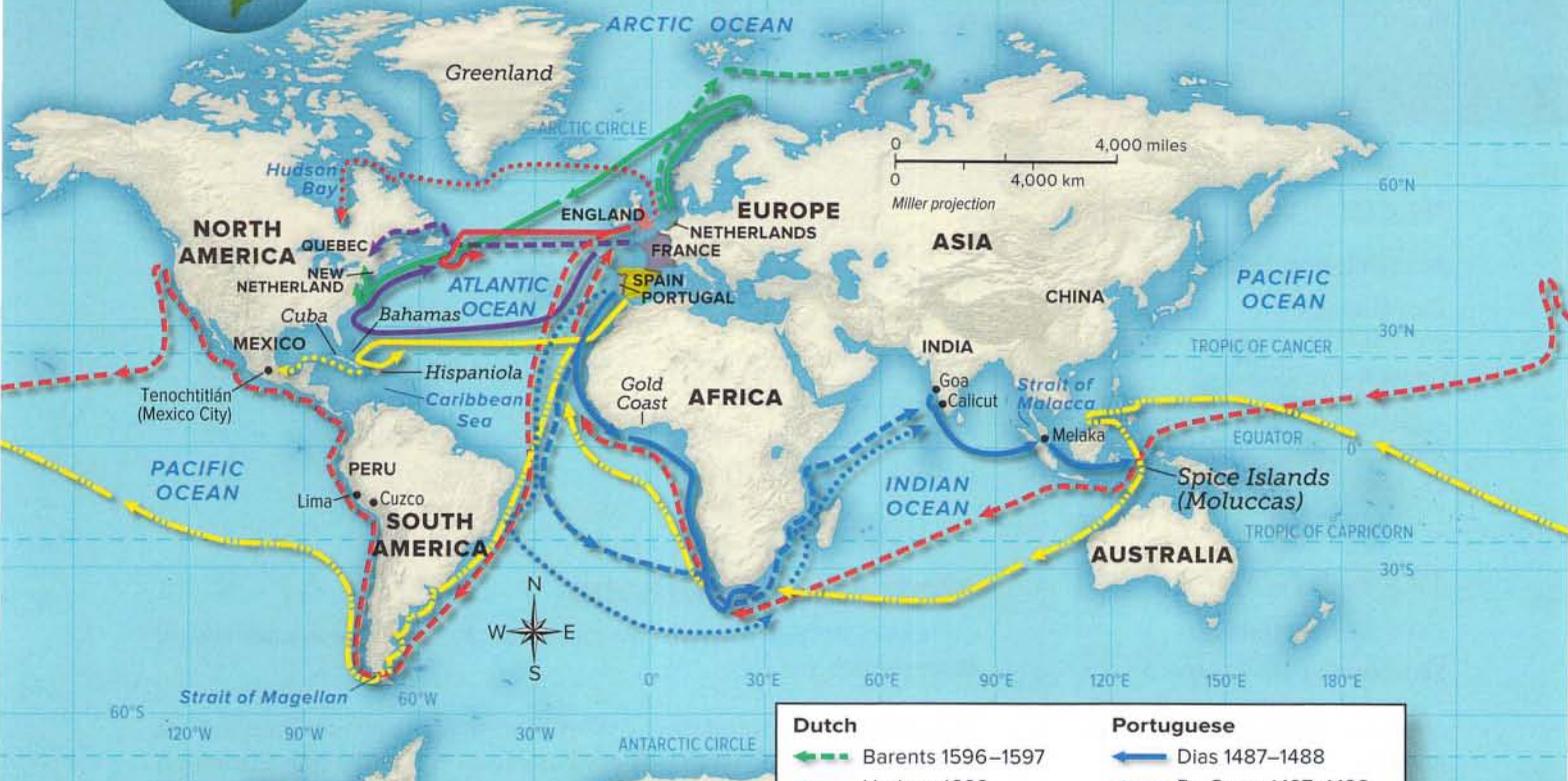
Step Into the Time

DEMONSTRATING UNDERSTANDING Choose an event from the time line and explain how it shows a consequence of the European voyages of discovery.





European Voyages of Discovery 1500–1800



Dutch	Portuguese
← Barents 1596–1597	← Dias 1487–1488
← Hudson 1609	← Da Gama 1497–1498
English	← Cabral 1500–1501
← Cabot 1497–1498	Spanish
← Drake 1577–1580	← Columbus 1492–1493
← Hudson 1610–1611	← Cortés 1519
French	← Magellan 1519–1521 and Elcano 1521–1522
← Verazzano 1524	
← Cartier 1534–1535	

