

# 5th Grade History - Chapter 2 Study Guide



**Hernando de Soto**

Spanish explorer of the Southwest. Was the first European to see the Mississippi River.



**Vasco da Gama**

Portuguese navigator who was the first European to sail from Europe to Asia.



**Marco Polo**

Italian merchant who made the first widely known journey to China. His book influenced future explorers.



**Francisco Coronado**

Spanish explorer of the American Southwest who was searching for the seven cities of gold.



**Henry Hudson**

English explorer, who searched for the Northwest Passage through North America. Claimed present day New York for the Dutch.



**Christopher Columbus**

Italian sea captain sailing for Spain reached the Americas in 1492 in search of a new sea route to Asia.



**Samuel de Champlain**

French explorer and founder of Quebec, the first permanent French settlement in North America.



**Leif Ericson**

Viking leader who was probably the first European to explore North America.



**Sir Walter Raleigh**

English explorer and soldier who started two unsuccessful colonies at Roanoke Island.



**Ferdinand Magellan**

Portuguese explorer sailing for Spain who led the first known voyage around the world.



**Amerigo Vespucci**

Italian explorer that proved that Columbus had not reached Asia, but a new continent, which later were named after him.



**Hernando Cortes**

Spanish conquistador who explored Mexico and interacted with the Aztec and other Native groups.

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An improvement in **cartography** helped to create more accurate maps for sailors.



The **caravel** allowed sailors to move and steer quickly through dangerous waters, even against the wind.



The **astrolabe** allowed sailors to navigate by the position of the stars and constellations.



A **magnetic compass** showed sailors where north was, so they could sail in a consistent direction.



**The printing press** made books more readily available to the public by mass producing them.

## THE NORTHWEST PASSAGE

The name given to the suspected shorter route to Asia, although it wasn't found for many years to come.

## THE SILK ROAD

Rising prices and dangerous areas on this lengthy trade route from Asia to Europe led to increased exploration of a shorter route to Asia.

## THE RENAISSANCE

At this time in Europe this movement was going on where people wanted to increase their knowledge through learning and reading.

## NAVIGATION

The art of sailing. Improvements in technology in this area (see left) increase exploration by making it more accurate, faster, and safer.

## DIFFICULTIES

In the beginning the explorers faced many of these, including: slow ships, poor maps, and difficulty sailing over long distances.

## ESSAY QUESTION

During the Age of Exploration in Europe what were the **two** reasons that countries began exploring? Give an example of each of the two reasons for exploration. (Include the **name of the explorer**, **the area they explored** and **the outcomes of their exploration**.)