

Infographic

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Spanish Explorers and Conquistadors

After Columbus's voyage in 1492, Spanish explorers and conquistadors sailed across the Atlantic Ocean. Some came in search of routes to Asia. Others came to seek gold or to achieve glory for God. Study the Infographic to learn about the Spanish expeditions in the Americas.



1540-1542

FRANCISCO CORONADO

With a small group, he began to explore the American Southwest in search of the rumored Seven Cities of Gold.



1528-1536

ÁLVAR NUÑEZ CABEZA DE VACA

Shipwrecked during an expedition from Cuba, he reached what is now Texas in 1528. He became the first Spaniard to explore Texas.



HERNANDO CORTÉS

He led an expedition from Cuba to Mexico that ended with the conquest of Moctezuma and the Aztec.



1519-1521



1513

VASCO NUÑEZ DE BALBOA

He led an expedition across Central America to what later was named the Pacific Ocean.



1531-1533

FRANCISCO PIZARRO

His forces conquered the Inca empire ruled by Atahualpa.



HERNANDO DE SOTO

He led an expedition through the American Southeast in search of gold. He became the first European to see the Mississippi River.



1539-1542



JUAN PONCE DE LEÓN

Stories of a fountain of youth led him to sail north from Puerto Rico. He reached a land he called Florida.



1513

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

Sailing under the flag of Spain, he reached a group of islands in the Atlantic Ocean while seeking a route to Asia.



1492

FERDINAND MAGELLAN

Sailing for the Spanish, he set out to find a route to the Indies by sailing around the southern tip of South America. Although he was killed, some of his crew returned to Spain, completing the first known voyage around the world.



1519-1522