Age of Exploration
1450 - 1750

Voyages of Exploration
Trade with the East
Colonies in America
Commercial revolution

Mercator Projection
Voyages of Portugal and Spain

• 1300’s Spain and Portugal were effectively squeezed out of the rich markets of the East.

• 1400’s Portugal and Spain began to look for different routes to the Eastern Markets.

• Portugal led the way in the voyages of exploration.

• Portugal was ruled by several practical and ambitious monarchs.

• The most notable was Prince Henry “The Navigator”
Prince Henry the Navigator

- Established an informal school for sailors at the town of Sagres in Southern Portugal.
- The school developed the technology for discovery: Magnetic compass, co-ordinate system, astrolabe, 3-mask caravel
- They began to search the coast of west Africa.
- They discovered two group of Islands in the Atlantic. The Azores Is. & The Canary Is.
- Established trading post all along the west coast of Africa and begin dealing in Gold and Ivory
- By 1441 the Portuguese began to deal in the Slave trade.
Early Explorers

• 1488 Bartholomew Diaz rounded the Cape of Good Hope.
• 1488 Vasco Da Gama sails to India.
• 1492 Christopher Columbus sails west to get east.
Treaty of Tordesillas 1494

- Exploration led to competition between Spain and Portugal.
- Portugal rejects Spanish claims to Caribbean islands.
- To keep peace the Catholic church arranged a settlement.
- The treaty drew an imaginary line "Of Demarcation" @ 46 37’ west longitude.
- The treaty gave lands east to Portugal and west to Spain.
Profitable Trade with the East

- When the Portuguese traders reached India they discovered Arab traders were already there.
- The competition between the Arab (Muslim) and the Portuguese (Catholic) for the spices of India and Spice Islands soon became a religious crusade.
- The Portuguese began a policy of burning Arab ships, ransacking Muslim towns, and torturing prisoners.
By the late 1500’s northern European countries wanted in on the profits of the spice trades.

By passing key ports, they believed they could break the Portuguese hold on the spice trades.

The Dutch acted first. In 1595 they sent a Dutch fleet to explore the East Indies and formed The Dutch East Indies Company to finance trading expeditions.
Eastern Trade Continued, Some More!

• The Dutch were ruthless competitors. They attacked ships and raided trading stations.

• By the 1600’s The Dutch were the leading trade nation in the East Indies
Conquest of America

- In the 1400’s Europeans held conflicting views on the size of the Earth.
- While there were several different theories,
- Columbus believed the earth to be 22,000 miles in circumference at the equator or 61 mi.=1 degree
- The earth is actually 24,902 miles in circumference at the equator or 69 mi=1 degree
Columbus Voyage

✓ Aug. 3, 1492 three small ships: Nina, Pina, and Santa Maria leave from Palos, Spain.
✓ Oct. 12, 1492 they first sighted land.
✓ Believing that they reached the East Indies they called the people Indians.
✓ In fact they landed on an island of the West Indies in the Caribbean sea.
Colonies in America

✓ Shortly after reaching land Columbus realized he WAS NOT in India or the Spice Islands. A land he called THE NEW WORLD.

✓ The Spanish and Portuguese were quick to set up Colonies in the New World, because they would control the colonies. The reasons for exploring this New World were “Gold, God, and Glory!”

✓ Instead of financing expeditions, the King gave Spanish Conquistadors the right to establish outpost in the new world.

✓ So. The new world was colonized with very little of the King’s money.

✓ The Conquistadors were successors to the Crusader Knights.
The Conquistadors

Hernan Cortez

Francisco Pizzaro

Francisco Coronado
Aztecs and Incas

• Mexico
  THE ANDES
Cortes

- 1519- Cortes lands off coast of Mexico in search of Gold
- He soon learns of the Aztec people and makes alliances with the smaller tribes that hate the Aztec.
- He then marches his small group into the capital of Tenochtitlan.
- By 1521 the Aztec nation fell to the Spanish
Pizarro

- Nine years after Cortez, 180 Spanish soldiers land on the pacific coast of south America, commanded by Francisco Pizarro.
- Taking advantage of a local civil war he executes the Inca King.
- By 1535, he controlled most to the Great Inca Empire
From 1524 to 1534, Pizarro probed the coast, found the Inca Empire, and took Cuzco.
Coronado

- 1540 First Conquistador to explore the southwestern part of the U.S.
- Searching for the 7 cities of Cibola
Organizing the Spanish Empire

- The Spanish set up strong central governments.
- They were divided into 5 provinces.
- Each province had a **Viceroy** appointed by the King.
- There was also a **Council of the Indies** that met in Spain and made laws for the colonies.
- In areas not populated, the Spanish introduced a system of **Catholic Missions**. Their job was to house Spanish Troops and Teach local Indians the Catholic faith.
The Economy of the Americas

• The Spanish treated the Natives very badly.
• The desire for precious stones and raw materials caused the Indians to be over worked and in some cases worked to death.
• Advocates for better treatment suggested that local Indians be replaced with slaves from Africa.
Early Peoples of Africa

• By 3000 B.C. civilizations in Africa were taking shape in Egypt, Nubia, and Kush, in East Africa.
• Around 3,000 B.C. the Kingdoms of the Upper Nile and Lower Nile were united under King Menes.
• At the same time, powerful trade States flourished at the bend of the upper Nile.
Kingdom of Kush

- An active system of trade developed between Egypt and Kush.
- The merchants of Kush traded in Gold, Ivory, and Ebony Wood.
- In 750 B.C. Kush armies invaded and conquered Egypt and ruled the region for 80 years until Assyrian forces pushed them south out of Egypt.
- The Kushites mined Iron ore in the region and supported a large iron industry.
- Around 200 A.D. The Kush Empire went into decline and their neighbor to the south Axum began to grow in power.
KINGDOMS OF KUSH AND AXUM
Kingdom of Axum

- Around 200 A.D. Merchants of Axum began to trade in Gold, Ivory and Animal Hides with people in both the Mediterranean and Asian worlds.
- Arabs that took part in the trade business also settled along side the farmers and merchants of Axum.
- The result was a civilization of blended African and Arab cultures.
- In 324 A.D. The people of Axum converted to Christianity.
- Today the people of Ethiopia claim their Christian roots to the Axum people.
The Kingdoms of Ghana and Mali

- The first trade state in West Africa was Ghana.
- The King of Ghana controlled all the gold traffic in west Africa. The name Ghana came to mean Gold in Africa.
- Ghana reached its height in the 10th century and in the 11th century Muslim traders came into the area.
- The people did not convert to Islam, but the traders were hired as interpreters.
THE MANDINGO OF MALI

• Religious wars would bring an end to the Ghana control of the gold trade routes.
• A **Mandingo King** would absorb what was left of the Ghana empire.
• They convert to Islam in the late **1100’s**.
• For the next **200** years the Mali would blend their African culture with the Muslim faith.
• In the **1300’s civil war** weakened the empire and the **Songhai** became the power brokers in West Africa.
THE GOLD-SALT TRADE IN WEST AFRICA

• During the **1100’s** a system of trade developed in West Africa.
• The Key to this system was the **Exchange of Salt and Gold**.
• The people of the **tropical West Africa** had large gold deposits but needed salt in their diets.
• Those in **Northeastern Africa** had salt, but needed gold as a medium of exchange in the Mediterranean area.
• As the **Gold-Salt Trade** grew, powerful warlords worked to control the trade routes between the major trade cities of **Taghaza** and **Timbuktu**.
In the 1300’s and 1400’s the Songhai expanded their Empire through trade and war.

During this time they established a strong efficient government.

Built Timbuktu into a city of trade and education.

1590, the Moroccan King sent an invasion army into the Songhai. Using Guns and Cannons they were able to defeat the Songhai defenders and the empire broke up into several Independent Trade States.
Zimbabwe

• In the east, **Zimbabwe** became a powerful inland trade state.

• **1100’s** the people built a great walled capital city, called “The great Zimbabwe” it consisted of **Palaces, Stone Homes and Temples**.

• By the **1500’s** the Portuguese began to destroy coastal towns, cutting off trade routes.

• About the same time, a shortage of salt, soil depletion and poor leadership opened the way for invasion.
ZIMBABWE
**DAILY LIFE**

- **Importance of family:** In Hunting/Gathering societies lived in small nuclear families and several families made up a **hunting band.**
  
  In the Farming/Herding societies they cultivated the extended family. Each family made up a **tribe.**

- **Status of Women:** Women were generally respected because of marriage and children were basic to family life.
  
  Marriages were arranged by families in their early teens and usually to men older because they were established.

  Women won a place in the husbands family by having children.
Govt. and Law: In the large trading States usually a King was in charge. His rule was considered divine, His word ABSOLUTE.

In much of Africa, there was no central government. People here regulated their affairs by mutual agreement.

Religion: Most African religions were Monotheistic. They also believed that their Dead Ancestors were still apart of the family.

They also believed that Spirits lived in Natural Things.
The Slave trade – Triangular Trade

- Because the type of work in the Americas was so labor intensive, both the Portuguese and the Spanish brought increasing numbers of Africans to the new world.
- The newly enslaved Africans suffered brutal hardships on the Middle Passage, as the voyage across the Atlantic was called.
- Eventually, raw materials from the Americas, paid for the guns in Europe, which were traded for the slaves in Africa that gathered the raw materials in the Americas.
- This process became known as Triangular Trade.
Dividing up The Americas

- 1500’s Political troubles and religious wars kept most Europeans out of the Americas
- The Dutch, France and England raided Spanish ships.
- 1600’s Other Europeans began to colonize North America
• The Dutch made the Netherlands into a powerful commercial nation.

a. They fought a long war of independence with Spain.

b. They outfitted trading expedition to compete with the Portuguese in the East Indies.

c. In the New World they organized the Dutch west Indies Company to investigate trade opportunities there.
By the early 1600’s, the Dutch had established settlements along the Hudson river as far north as modern day Albany N.Y.

The first Governor New Netherlands was Peter Minuit.

In 1626, he bought Manhattan Island for cloth and beads!

In order to attract people to the new world the Dutch granted land to wealthy landowners or *Patroons.*

*Patroons then brought others to work on their estates*
THE FRENCH

• To the North of the Dutch the French explored in what is now known as Canada.

• Distracted at home, the French monarch paid little attention to colonizing North America.

• 1608- Samuel de Champlain established a permanent settlement of Acadia in modern Quebec.
In the Late 1600’s The French King took more personal interest in North America and sent a governor to act in his behalf.

Many French explorers were fur traders and miners. Others were interested in find a northwest passage to the Pacific.

When they discovered the Mississippi river turned south they gave up on that idea.

1682- Robert la Salle reached the mouth of the Mississippi and claimed the land for France.

He named the land Louisiana after the French King.
During the 1600’s the English settled the Atlantic seaboard from Nova Scotia to Georgia.

English Colonies were either established by trading companies or they were proprietary colonies, that is they were colonies owned by friends of the King.
More of the English

- Each colony elected an assembly that passed local laws.
- Parliament selected a governor for each of the colonies to carry out their policies.
- The English government encouraged English people to migrate to the colonies.
- The Parliament tended to leave the colonist alone as long as they were making a profit for the King.
- The colonist were not taxed.
Even MORE on the English!

• While the French Lived in Relative Peace with the Indians, the English built large settlements and Displaced the Indians.

• Determined not to be moved, the Indians destroyed many of the English settlements
AND! Even MORE on the English!

- The Colonist fought with equal determination.
- In the end, the colonist won out. Superior weapons and Technology and numbers pushed the Indians into the Great Plains.
THE END