



# Early European exploration

from the Esri GeoInquiries™ collection for World History

Target audience – World history learners

Time required – 15 minutes

## Activity

Compare and contrast Spain's and Portugal's early sea explorations to reach Asia.

## Standards

**C3: D2.His.1.9-12.** Evaluate how historical events and developments were shaped by unique circumstances of time and place, as well as broader historical contexts.

**C3: D2.His.3.9-12.** Use questions generated to assess how the significance of their actions changes over time and is shaped by the historical context.

## Learning Outcomes

- Students will compare and contrast Portugal's and Spain's early efforts to find a sea route to Asia.
- Students will identify and explain the global effects of early European exploration.

Map URL: <http://esriurl.com/worldHistoryGeoInquiry11>

## Ask

### Who led the Age of Exploration?

- Click the link above to launch the map.
- ? What kingdoms were located on the Iberian Peninsula? [*Portugal and Spain*]
- Open and read the map note off the coast of Portugal.
- ? Why did Portugal become the early leader of exploration? [*Prince Henry's School of Navigation*]

## Acquire

### Where did Portugal explore?

- Open and read the map note near West Africa.
- Why had no one explored past Cape Bojador? [*People believed it was the edge of the world.*]
- With the Details button depressed, click the button, Contents.
- Click the checkbox to the left of the layer name, Early Portuguese Routes.
- Click the button, Bookmarks. Choose Southern.
- Click on each route to answer the following questions.
- ? Who sailed past Cape Bojador, and in what year? [*Eanes, 1434*]
- ? Who sailed to the southern tip of Africa, and in what year? [*Dias, 1488*]
- Open and read the map note near the southern tip of Africa.
- ? Why do you think Portugal changed the name? [*Cape of Storms might have discouraged exploration.*]

## Explore

### Where did Spain explore?

- Click the button, Bookmarks. Select Western.
- Turn off the layer, Early Portuguese Routes.
- Turn on the layer, Spain's First Voyage.
- Click the red line.
- ? Who explored for Spain and in which direction? [*Columbus, west*]
- Click the button, Bookmarks. Select Landfall.
- ? Where did Columbus make landfall? [*The Bahamas and Hispaniola*]

more ►



## Analyze

### Why was a line drawn in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean?

- Click the button, Bookmarks. Select Treaty.
- Turn on the layer, Line of Demarcation.
- Click the line and read the pop-up.
- ? Which country had rights to land east of the line? West of the line? [*Portugal, east; Spain, west*]
- Turn on the layer, Early Exploration Routes, 1493 – 1524.
- Click the button Bookmarks. Select Race to Asia.
- Click each route and ask the following questions.
- ? Who was the first to reach Asia by sea? Country? [*Da Gama; Portugal*]
- Click the line for any of Columbus' voyages & view the bar graph.
- ? What patterns do you notice? Possible explanations? [*The second expedition was the largest, showing Spain's intent to colonize; his crews get smaller.*]
- Open and read the map note off the coast of Brazil.
- ? Who are the Americas named after? Why? [*Amerigo Vespucci; realized the area was not Asia*]



## Act

### How did these expeditions affect the world?

- Click the button, Bookmarks. Select Asia.
- Turn on the layer, Africa and Asian Port Cities.
- ? What patterns do you notice? [*Portuguese cities along African coast; English cities in India; Dutch cities in the Far East*]
- Click the button, bookmark. Select Americas.
- Turn on the layer, European Claims, 1700.
- ? Which countries had claims in the Americas by 1700? [*England, France, Spain, Portugal, the Netherlands*]
- ? What other ways will Europeans impact the Americas, Africa, and Asia? [*Language, trade, conquest, slavery, housing, food, and diseases*]

### ZOOM TO A BOOKMARK

- Click Bookmarks.
- Click a bookmark name to zoom to a map location and scale.

### IDENTIFY A MAP FEATURE

- Click a feature on the map, and a pop-up window will open with information.
- Links and images in the pop-up are often clickable.
- An arrow icon in the upper right of the window indicates that multiple features have been selected.
- Click the button to scroll through the features.

## Next Steps

**DID YOU KNOW?** ArcGIS Online is a mapping platform freely available to public, private, and home schools. A school subscription provides additional security, privacy, and content features. Learn more about ArcGIS Online and how to get a school subscription at <http://www.esri.com/schools>.

THEN TRY THIS...

- Create a density map of the ports.
- Discover a more modern explorer's path with the Humboldt story map at: <http://esriurl.com/Geo17471>.



## TEXT REFERENCES

This GIS map has been cross-referenced to material in sections of chapters from these high school texts.

- *World History: Human Journey by Holt — Chapter 7*
- *World History by Pearson — Chapter 14*
- *World History by Glencoe — Chapter 13*