



Study Guide

Chapter 2, Section 2

For use with textbook pages 43–49

EARLY EXPLORATION

KEY TERMS

- line of demarcation** An imaginary line running down the middle of the Atlantic from the North Pole to the South Pole (page 47)
- strait** Narrow sea passage (page 49)
- circumnavigate** To sail around (page 49)

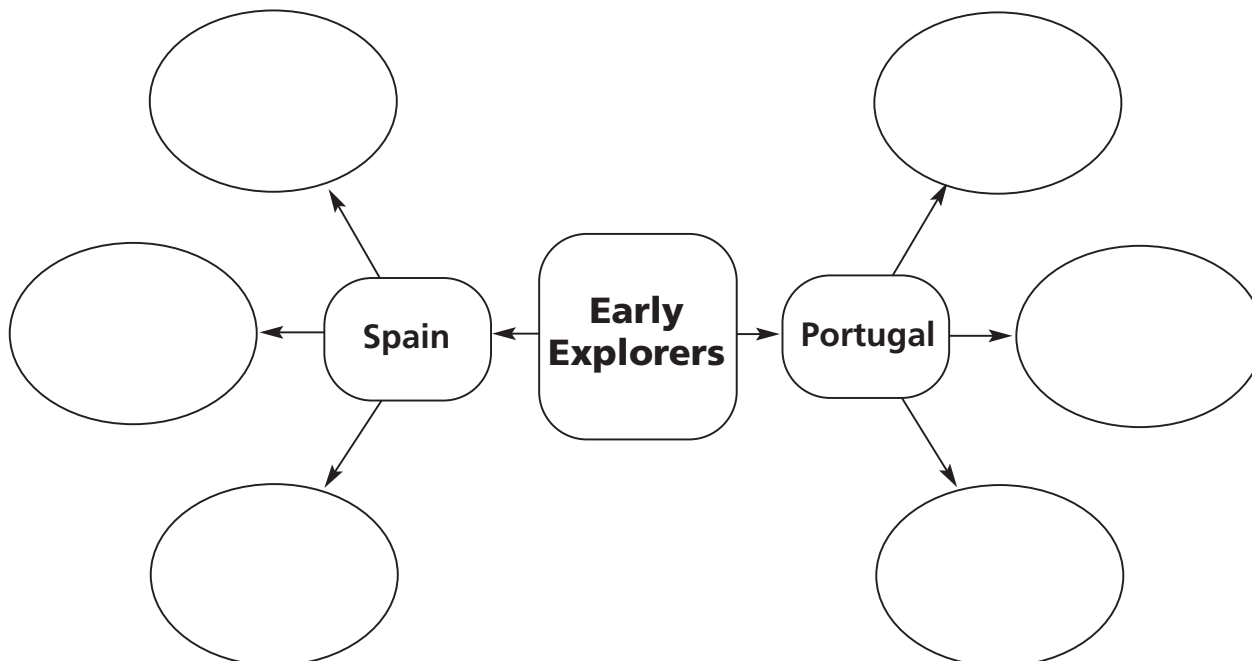
DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

Have you ever explored an area new to you? Why were you interested in learning about the new area? What did you learn from your explorations? Are there other places you would like to explore?

In the last section, you read about changes that took place in Europe and Africa that led to the growth of exploration. This section focuses on what was learned about the world because of Spanish and Portuguese exploration.

ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the chart below to help you take notes as you read the summaries that follow. Think about why Europeans were interested in exploration.



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READ TO LEARN

- **Seeking New Trade Routes** (pages 43–45)

Early maps used by Columbus and other explorers showed one large area of land bordered by oceans that ran together into what they called the Ocean Sea. The land-mass showed three continents (Europe, Asia, and Africa), but did not include America. Portugal hoped to find a new route to China, India, and West Africa because Portugal did not have a Mediterranean port needed for foreign trade. The country began to explore the boundaries of the known world in search of new and better routes.

Prince Henry of Portugal hired astronomers, geographers, and mathematicians to teach Portuguese shipbuilders and sailors about navigation. Portuguese traders sailed the West African coast, known as the Gold Coast. They traded for gold, ivory, and slaves. In 1487 Bartholomeu Diaz accidentally sailed around the southern tip of Africa during a storm. This newly found area, which he called “Cape of Storms,” was later renamed “Cape of Good Hope” by King John II of Portugal. He hoped that it would lead to a new route to India. Vasco da Gama, with the help of an Arab pilot who knew the Indian Ocean, was the first to complete the eastern sea route to India in 1498.

1. What contributions were made by these Portuguese explorers?

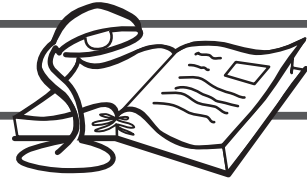
- **Columbus Crosses the Atlantic** (pages 45–49)

Christopher Columbus, an experienced Italian sailor, thought he could reach Asia by sailing west. He became a sailor for Portugal. Columbus thought the voyage would take about two months based on the work of the ancient Greek astronomer Ptolemy. However, the earth was much larger than Ptolemy had predicted.

Most Europeans first learned that the Americas existed after Columbus made his famous American landing. They did not know that the Vikings, from northern Europe, had reached North America hundreds of years earlier. The Vikings created settlements in Iceland and Greenland in the 800s and 900s. A Viking sailor named Leif Eriksson explored Vinland in about 1000.

Explorers needed sponsors to pay for their expeditions. King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain agreed to pay for Columbus’s voyage westward to Asia. Nobody knew the Americas blocked his planned route. Queen Isabella wanted to share in the wealth that was being made by countries such as Portugal. A devout Christian, the queen was promised Christianity would be brought to any lands found. She promised Columbus a share of any profits gained along the way.

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Columbus set out from Spain on August 3, 1492, with about 90 sailors on a fleet of 3 ships: the *Niña*, the *Pinta*, and the *Santa María*. A month into the journey, the sailors had yet to see land. Many of the men wanted to turn around. Columbus was determined to continue the voyage. He changed the distances in the ship's log so the crew would think they were closer to home than they really were.

Finally, land was sighted on October 12, 1492. Columbus claimed a small island (now the Bahamas) for Spain and named it San Salvador. Columbus thought he was in the East Indies, the islands off the coast of Asia, so he called the local people Indians. He did not know he had reached the Americas instead. Today, the Caribbean islands are also known as the West Indies. Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand were so pleased they agreed to sponsor his future voyages.

Columbus made three more voyages, claiming new lands for Spain and establishing settlements. In 1493, 1498, and 1502, Columbus explored the Caribbean islands of Hispaniola (Haiti and the Dominican Republic), Cuba, and Jamaica. He also explored the coasts of Central America and northern South America. He did not realize he had not reached Asia until later explorations. Later voyages would establish the Spanish Empire in the Americas.

Spain and Portugal asked the pope, the head of the Roman Catholic Church, to help them protect their land claims. The pope drew an imaginary line from the North Pole to the South Pole down the middle of the Atlantic. This **line of demarcation** divided the whole unexplored world between Spain and Portugal. Spain was to control all lands to the west of this line, and Portugal was to control all lands to the east.

Portugal thought the dividing line favored Spain. Both countries agreed to move the line farther west. The agreement was spelled out in the Treaty of Tordesillas in 1494.

In 1499 Amerigo Vespucci mapped out South America's coastline. He concluded that South America was a continent and not part of Asia. European geographers called the continent America, in honor of Amerigo Vespucci.

In 1513 Spanish explorer Vasco Núñez de Balboa found a land route from Panama to the Pacific Ocean. After many days of difficult travel through the jungles, he reached what would later be known as the Pacific Ocean. Balboa claimed the ocean and all adjacent lands for Spain.

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To find Asia, Ferdinand Magellan believed he could sail around the tip of South America and then cross the sea Balboa had discovered. He started his voyage from Spain in 1519 with five ships. He sailed west across the Atlantic Ocean and south along the eastern coast of South America. At the southern tip, his ships sailed through a narrow sea passage, or *strait*, to an ocean he named Pacific, meaning “peaceful.” The strait itself was later called the Strait of Magellan.

After four months of sailing across the Pacific, Magellan landed in the Philippines. He was killed in an island war. Only one of the five original ships made it back to Spain containing only 18 of the more than 200 original crew members. It had taken these men almost three years to be the first to sail around, or *circumnavigate*, the world.

2. Why were Columbus’s expeditions for Spain significant?
