

1497

Cabot reaches Newfoundland and Labrador

1513

Balboa reaches the Pacific Ocean

1522

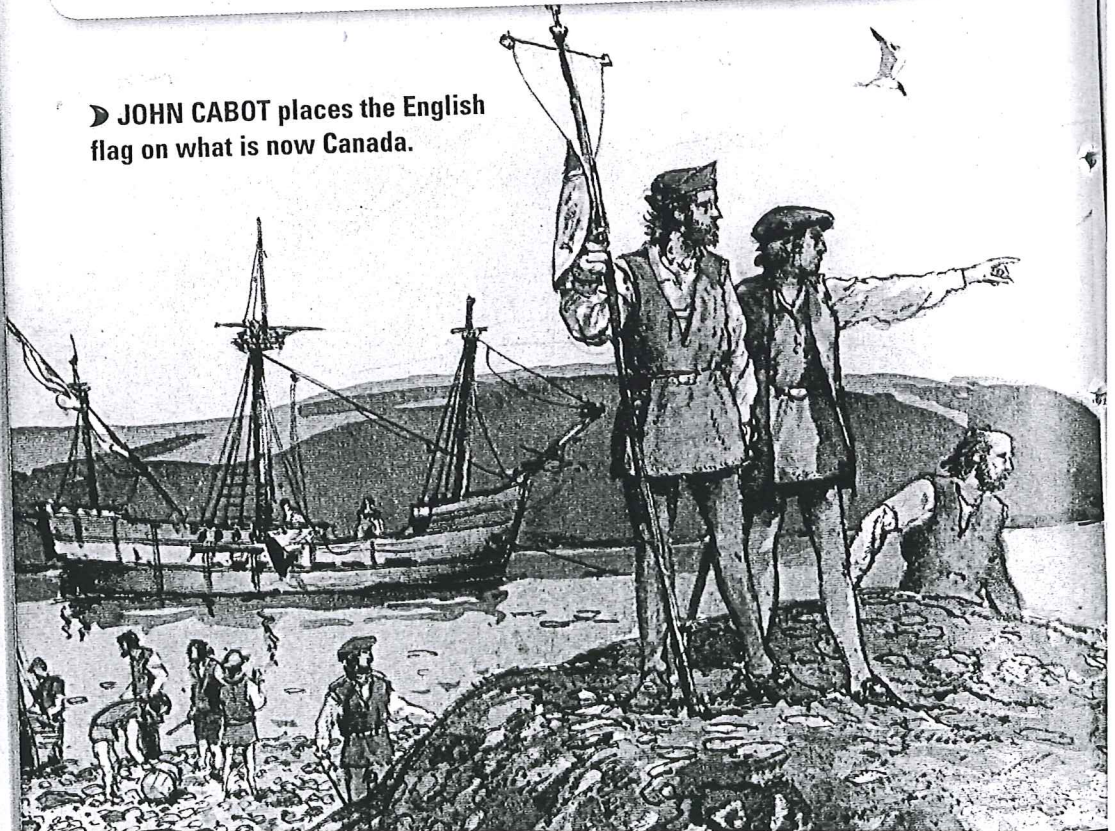
The Magellan expedition completes a voyage around the world

A Changing World

YOU ARE THERE

It is June 1497, and you have been at sea for more than a month. Back in England, you signed up for this journey after hearing about Columbus's expeditions. However, now you are starting to have second thoughts. Fog is all around your ship. Almost everyone on board looks worried. "This cold air chills me to the bone," says a crew member. You squint to try to see through the fog, but it is no use. Whatever is out there remains a mystery.

► **JOHN CABOT** places the English flag on what is now Canada.



WHAT TO KNOW
Why did Europeans explore the Americas, and what did they find?

VOCABULARY

isthmus p. 123
treaty p. 125

PEOPLE

John Cabot
Amerigo Vespucci
Vasco Núñez de Balboa
Ferdinand Magellan

PLACES

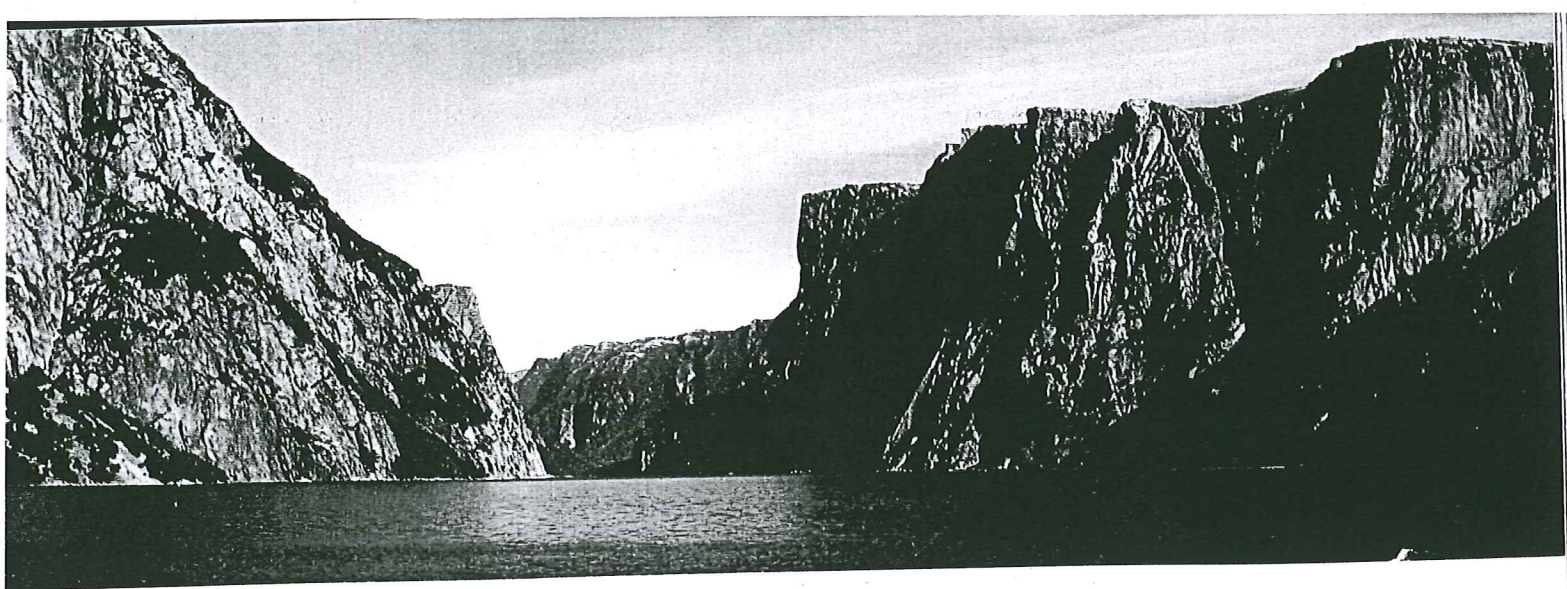
England
Newfoundland and Labrador
Philippine Islands



MAIN IDEA AND DETAILS

Main Idea

Details



► **A NORTHERN VOYAGE** Cabot sailed to present-day Newfoundland and Labrador.

England Explores

Columbus returned three times to what he thought was the Indies. He never found great riches, but he did show that it was possible to sail across the Atlantic. Columbus's trips inspired several European rulers to send ships west to claim lands. In time, Europeans created a new culture in the Americas.

John Cabot Sets Sail

In England, King Henry VII heard of Columbus's success for Spain. The king paid an Italian sailor, Giovanni Caboto, to lead an expedition sailing west across the Atlantic. The English called him **John Cabot**. King Henry's aim was to help England compete with other European nations for land and wealth.

In May 1497, Cabot and a crew of 18 sailed west on a course far north

of Columbus's first route. After a long, slow journey, they reached land on June 24. Once on shore, Cabot claimed the land for England. He then sailed south along the coast before returning to England. Cabot's son Sebastian joined him on this voyage. Years later, Sebastian described the place as "a very sterile [lonely] land."

When Cabot returned to England, he said he had found the Indies. Cabot, like Columbus, thought he had reached Asia. Many people today believe Cabot had actually reached the coast of present-day **Newfoundland and Labrador**, now a part of Canada. This was the same place that the Vikings had visited almost 500 years earlier.

READING CHECK MAIN IDEA AND DETAILS

What was the aim of King Henry VII when he paid for Cabot's expedition?





► **MAPMAKERS** In the 1500s, mapmakers made new maps of the world based on information from early explorations of the Americas.

A New Map of the World

Not everyone believed that Columbus and Cabot had found Asia. **Amerigo Vespucci** (veh•SPOO•chee) of Italy aimed to find out for himself. In 1499, he sailed to a place just south of where Columbus had landed. Two years later, Vespucci sailed down the coast of South America.

Amerigo Vespucci's New Idea

Vespucci looked for signs that he had reached Asia, but he found none. The places he saw did not fit Marco Polo's descriptions of Asia. Vespucci began to think that maybe Earth was larger than most people thought. If so, that would mean Asia was farther away from Europe than Columbus believed.

The Naming of America

Over time, Vespucci came to realize that he, Columbus, and Cabot had found lands not yet known to Europeans. In 1507, a German mapmaker named Martin Waldseemüller (VAHLT•zay•mool•er) published a world map that included these newly found lands. He named the new lands in honor of Amerigo Vespucci.

The land on this new map stood for the present-day continent of South America. Later, the word *America* was also used for the land known today as the continent of North America.

READING CHECK MAIN IDEA AND DETAILS

How did Vespucci's voyage change how the world was seen?

Reaching the Pacific

After Vespucci's voyages, other explorers sailed around the mysterious "new" lands. Not one of them found China. Still, Europeans wondered what these lands could be if they were not a part of Asia.

Vasco Núñez de Balboa

The Spanish explorer **Vasco Núñez de Balboa** (NOON•yays day bahl•BOH•uh) was one of the first Europeans to settle in the Americas. He had set up a farm on the island of Hispaniola (ees•pah•NYOH•lah), but he was not a good farmer. Soon he owed money to many people. Instead of paying them, he escaped from Hispaniola by hiding on a ship bound for what is now Colombia.

After Balboa arrived, he met the survivors of a failed Spanish settlement. Later, he helped them take land from Native American groups and start a settlement in what is now the country of Panama.

Balboa heard about a huge ocean to the west. In 1513, Balboa and other explorers made their way west across the Isthmus of Panama, which connects North America and South America. An **isthmus** is a narrow strip of land that connects two large land areas. In time, Balboa's group reached the Pacific Ocean. They proved that Amerigo Vespucci was right about an unknown continent.

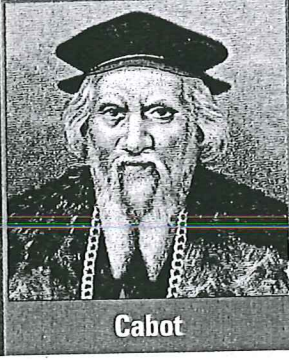
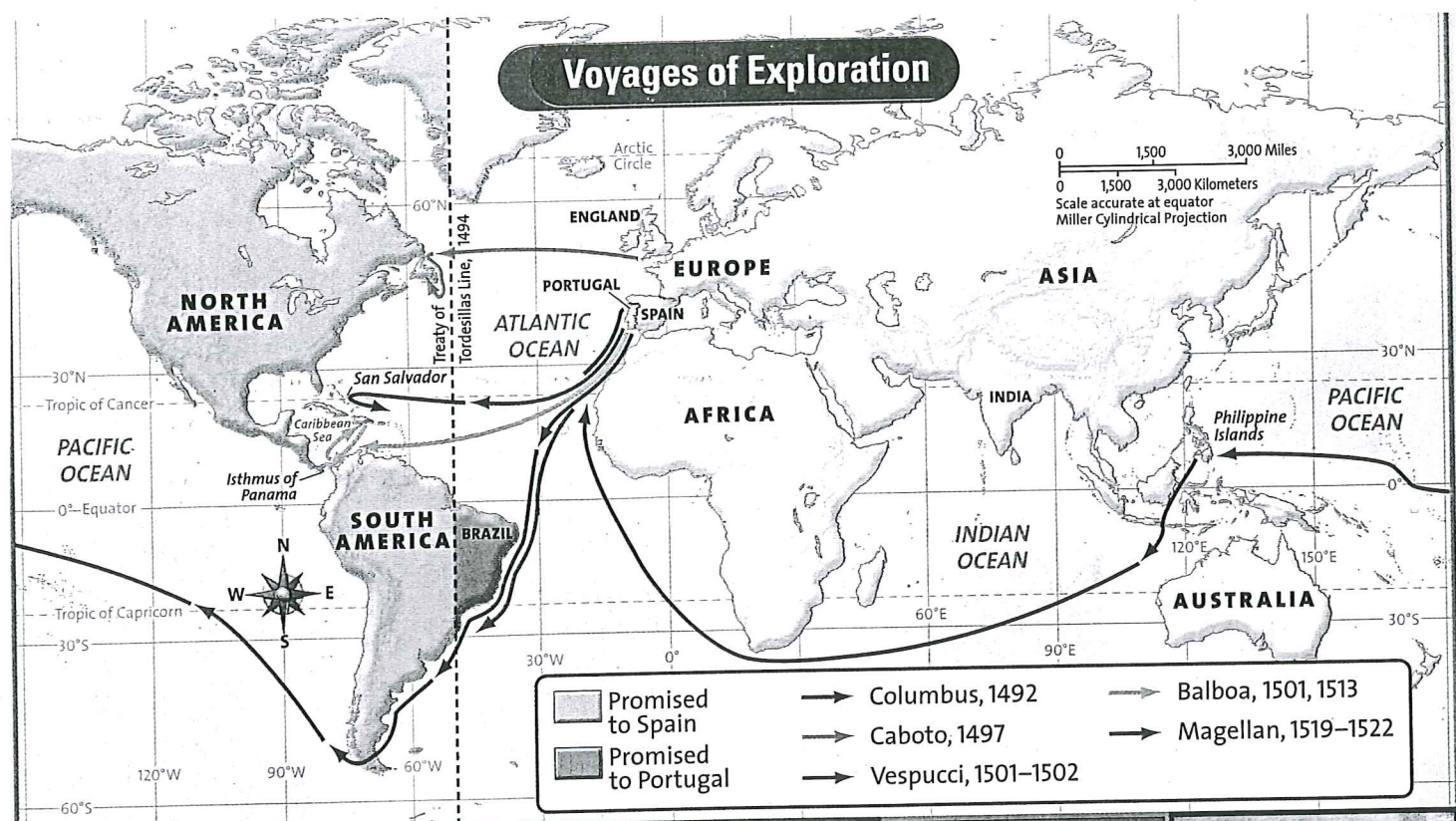
READING CHECK CAUSE AND EFFECT

What caused Balboa to travel across the Isthmus of Panama?

► **BALBOA REACHES THE PACIFIC** Balboa was 38 years old when he first saw the Pacific Ocean.



Voyages of Exploration



MOVEMENT Which explorer sailed across the Pacific Ocean?

A New View of the World

With the aim of finding a western route to Asia, the Portuguese explorer **Ferdinand Magellan** (muh•JEH•luhn) also proved that Vespucci was right. In 1519, Magellan left Spain with five ships and about 250 sailors. They passed through a waterway at the tip of South America. Then the sailors found themselves in the same ocean that Balboa had seen. Magellan named it the *Pacific*,

which means "peaceful." To him, its waters seemed calm compared with those of the Atlantic.

Magellan's Long Voyage

Magellan thought he could cross the Pacific in a few days. It took more than three months. Many sailors died of hunger and illness. Magellan himself was killed in a battle in the **Philippine Islands**, 500 miles off the coast of southeastern Asia. One ship finally made it back to Spain in 1522. Its sailors were the first Europeans to travel around the world.

The Treaty of Tordesillas

As more expeditions were organized, more lands were claimed. Often, more than one country claimed the same land. The Catholic rulers of Spain and Portugal asked Catholic Church leaders to settle such a case. In 1493, Church leaders drew a line on a map through the Atlantic Ocean. Portugal was promised the land to the east of the line. Spain was promised the land to the west.

In 1494, Spain and Portugal signed the Treaty of Tordesillas. A **treaty** is an agreement between countries. In this treaty, Spain and Portugal agreed to move the dividing line farther west. This change gave Portugal the land that would become part of the country of Brazil.

READING CHECK MAIN IDEA AND DETAILS

What did Magellan's expedition accomplish?

Summary

After Columbus's voyages, rulers were eager to pay for trips across the Atlantic. Explorers such as Cabot, Vespucci, Balboa, and Magellan explored many different areas. Spain and Portugal divided the Americas between themselves.

▶ **SPANISH COINS** One side of this gold coin (left) shows King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella.



REVIEW

- 1. WHAT TO KNOW** Why did Europeans explore the Americas, and what did they find?
- 2. VOCABULARY** Use the term **treaty** to explain how Spain and Portugal divided lands in the Americas.
- 3. GEOGRAPHY** What two oceans did explorers cross when they sailed west from Europe to Asia?
- 4. CRITICAL THINKING Make It Relevant** How do you think new maps of the world affected explorers? How do people use maps today?

- 5. MAKE A TABLE OF EXPLORERS** Make a table that lists the name of each explorer in this lesson and the area that person explored. Then use your table and the map on page 124 to trace their routes and describe the distances they traveled.

- 6. MAIN IDEA AND DETAILS** On a separate sheet of paper, copy and complete this graphic organizer.

Main Idea

Details

Vespucci sails to South America.

Balboa reaches the Pacific Ocean.

Magellan sails west to Asia.