

What is a MAP CHALLENGE?

This **Map Challenge** is a special workshop, challenging you to learn more -- taking you through the labeling of [this map](#) in detail!

A **Map Challenge** helps you really get involved when completing our maps!

WORLD EXPLORERS

MAP CHALLENGE!

European Explorers



Expanded Map Workshops, for Map of the Month's Individual maps

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Welcome to the World Explorers Map!

It is hard to imagine a time when parts of the Earth were unknown, yet to be discovered.

Ancient people were familiar with their own surroundings. Beyond several miles, they could rely only on legend or imagination to know what land or seas were like.



This image is from a map by Ortellius and shows the Victoria, the ship of Vasco Da Gama

Early humans always wondered: what was down a river, or beyond a mountain, or what land was over the ocean? Explorers were driven by desire for new trade routes, acquiring wealth, and often a desire to spread religion.

The history of exploration is filled with amazing tales. Ancients traveled thousands of miles over challenging land in search of treasure or to create empires. Navigators ventured into unknown waters battling fear disease and hunger. The history of exploration focuses on Asian and European explorers because they recorded their voyages and often mapped their expeditions. Less is known about the earlier movements of native peoples across the continents. Centuries of migration may have happened without ever being recorded.

Explorers were courageous and creative. Nowadays, travel is easy because everything is mapped and known.... Today, we think about what they did and are amazed that the dangers that they faced! Would we have been so brave or willing to go into the unknown?

EARLY MAPS!

Early maps were like pictures of what people imagined the world might be. The earliest known map was made in 600 BC by the Babylonians. This carved clay tablet had a symbol for Babylon at the center of a circle.

The outer edges of the map suggest unknown lands. The Greeks were the first to make maps that described what the world actually was, rather than based on legend.



In 150 AD, Ptolemy of Alexandria gathered all the information that was known from Greek and Roman travels.

He filled in over 8,000 place names on his maps. His maps described a huge area for the time: from Britain in the north, to northern Africa to the south, and east to China and southeast Asia.

Boundary lines were not correct as we know them today.



**Some
EARLY MAPS
were wrong!**

Some maps showed exaggerated or incorrect shapes for the lands mapmakers did not know well.

Mapmakers often guessed at what the contours of an area of land was. For instance, the coastal area we now know as California was often drawn as a separate island off the coast.



Some early maps had illustrations of sea monsters.

These creatures often represented unknown, unexplored areas!

DETAIL OF THE FULL MAP!



Getting Started with Map Activities!

On the **WORLD EXPLORERS** map, some of the routes of EUROPEAN explorers are already shown and labeled.

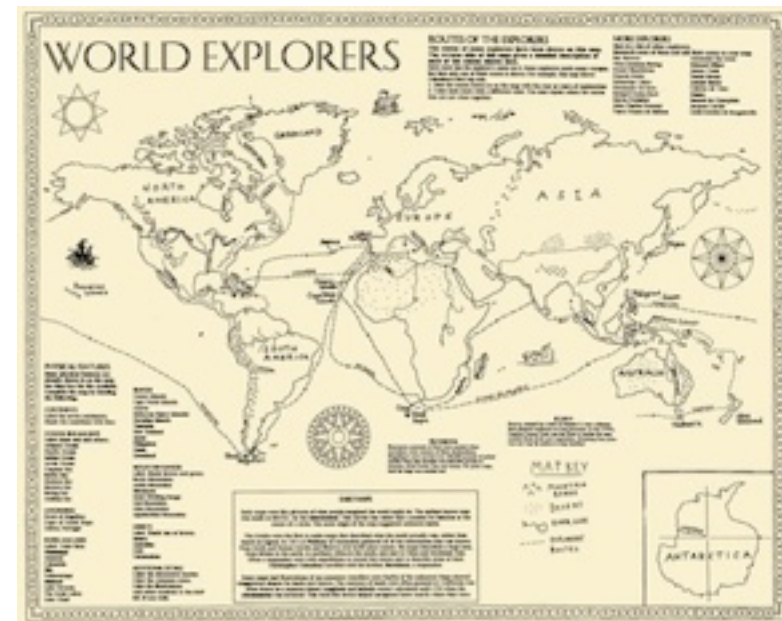
At left is a small segment of the map. Can you tell what part of the world we are looking at?

You can see the routes are shown with dotted lines. Arrows on the dotted lines show the direction of the expedition.

Vocabulary!

EXPEDITION:

a journey or voyage taken by a group of people who have a particular purpose. See more vocabulary words at the end of this file!



The Vikings

The Vikings were early Scandinavian explorers, looking for better lands and to trade goods.

Around the year 1000 A.D., they explored Europe, the Mediterranean Sea, and Asia, as far as the Black Sea and Caspian Sea.

ERIK THE RED (also Erik Thorvaldsson) was a violent and murderous man who voyaged from Iceland to Greenland.

LEIF ERIKSON, son of Erik the Red, was probably the first European to reach North America. Five hundred years before Columbus, Leif sailed from Greenland along coastal North America. It is likely that he landed on Baffin Island and Newfoundland, maybe even traveling to what is now called Cape Cod, in the state of Massachusetts.





LEIF ERIKSON

This section of your map shows the area the route that was taken by LEIF ERIKSON.

Be sure to label the bodies of water that he traveled through, and shade the coastlines with blue. Shade the route in a bright color.

VIKINGS IN THE MAIL!

These postage stamps were designed to commemorate Leif Erikson. The stamp at left is from the modern day Faroe Islands. At right, this commemorative stamp from the United States was made in 1968.

Vocabulary!

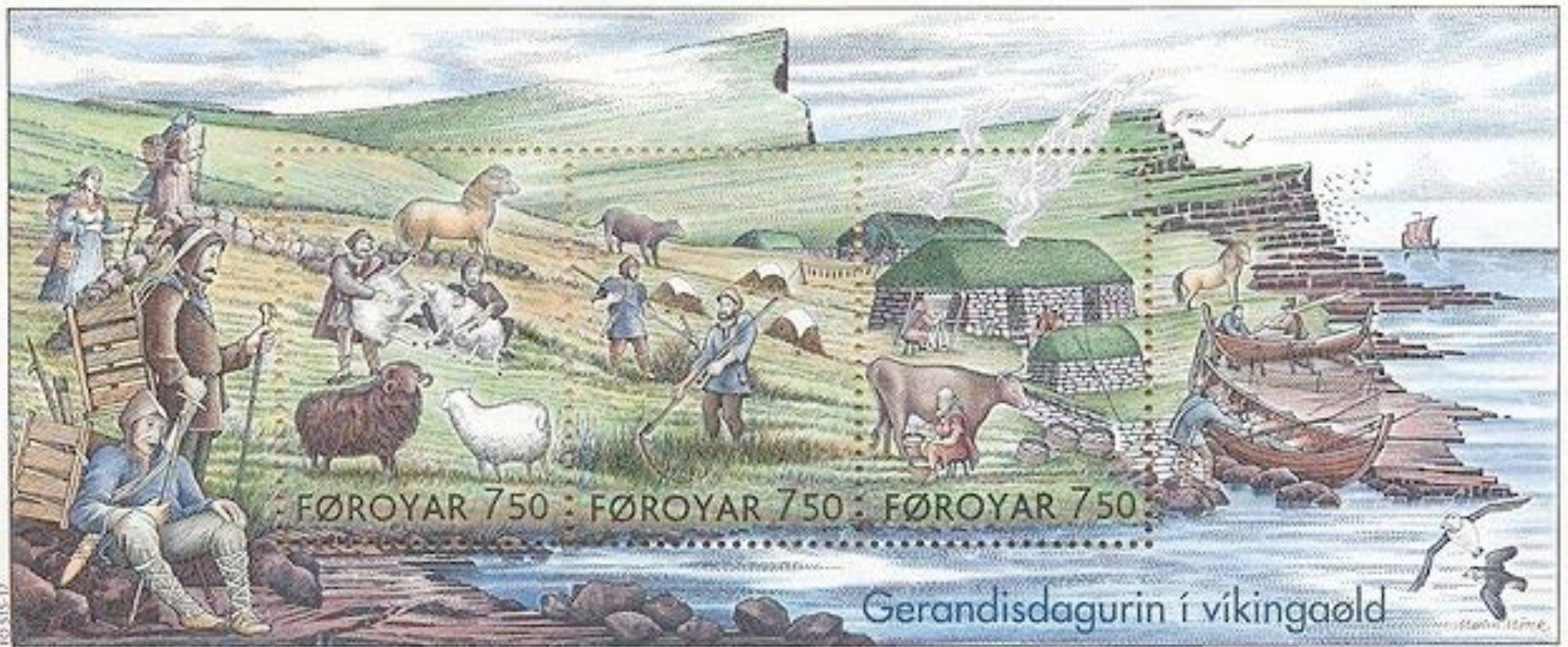
Commemorative stamp:

Postal services issue unique stamps on a significant date, such as an anniversary, to honor a place, event, person, or object.

This happens all over the world, in different countries. Many people find collecting stamps a fun hobby!



VIKING LIFE



This special group of postage stamp from the modern day Faroe Islands shows a typical village. The image **commemorates** and what life was like on land in the Viking Age.



What does this picture tell you about where people lived, what they wore, and what they did to support themselves?

When Marco Polo was only 17 years old, he left his native city with his father Niccolo and his uncle Mafeo who were traders. They set off for Asia, on a long journey to trade for all kinds of riches and goods. Trading in Asia was a new adventure, not many people had made this trip before.

They were away for a very long time: twenty-four years. Marco left Italy as a teenager and returned as a middle aged man. He had travelled almost 15,000 miles.

While on the journey, Marco and his family reached Cathay and befriended the Mogul emperor Kublai Khan, shown here. Marco became a servant and traveled with him through Asia and Southeast Asia.



MARCO POLO

Born in the famous city of Venice, Italy, the year 1254.



We know a lot about Marco Polo's journeys from a famous book he wrote called **"IL MILIONE"**, which was translated to be called **THE TRAVELS OF MARCO POLO**.



RESEARCH!
Who helped Marco Polo write his book **IL MILIONE**?

How did they come to know each other?

Here is an illustration from one of the volumes of Polo's book that was published during Polo's lifetime (roughly 1254 to 1324). This book has been reprinted many times and translated into many languages. People were fascinated about the new world that Polo described. **Even Christopher Columbus owned this book and was inspired by it. You can still get a copy of this book today from your library.**

In the 15th century, European traders wanted to find ocean routes to Asia, instead of overland routes. The most famous overland route was known as The Silk Road. The Silk Road extended from eastern China to the Middle East.

Christian traders from Europe who were searching for silk, gold and spices found it very hard to pass through the Middle East, an area jealously controlled by Muslims.

So Europeans were eager to find an ocean route to avoid conflict and to avoid high tariffs for passing through these lands.

THE SILK ROAD



This section of your map shows the route MARCO POLO took from Italy through Asia.

Be sure to label the mountain and the deserts of this area!
Shade the route a bright color.

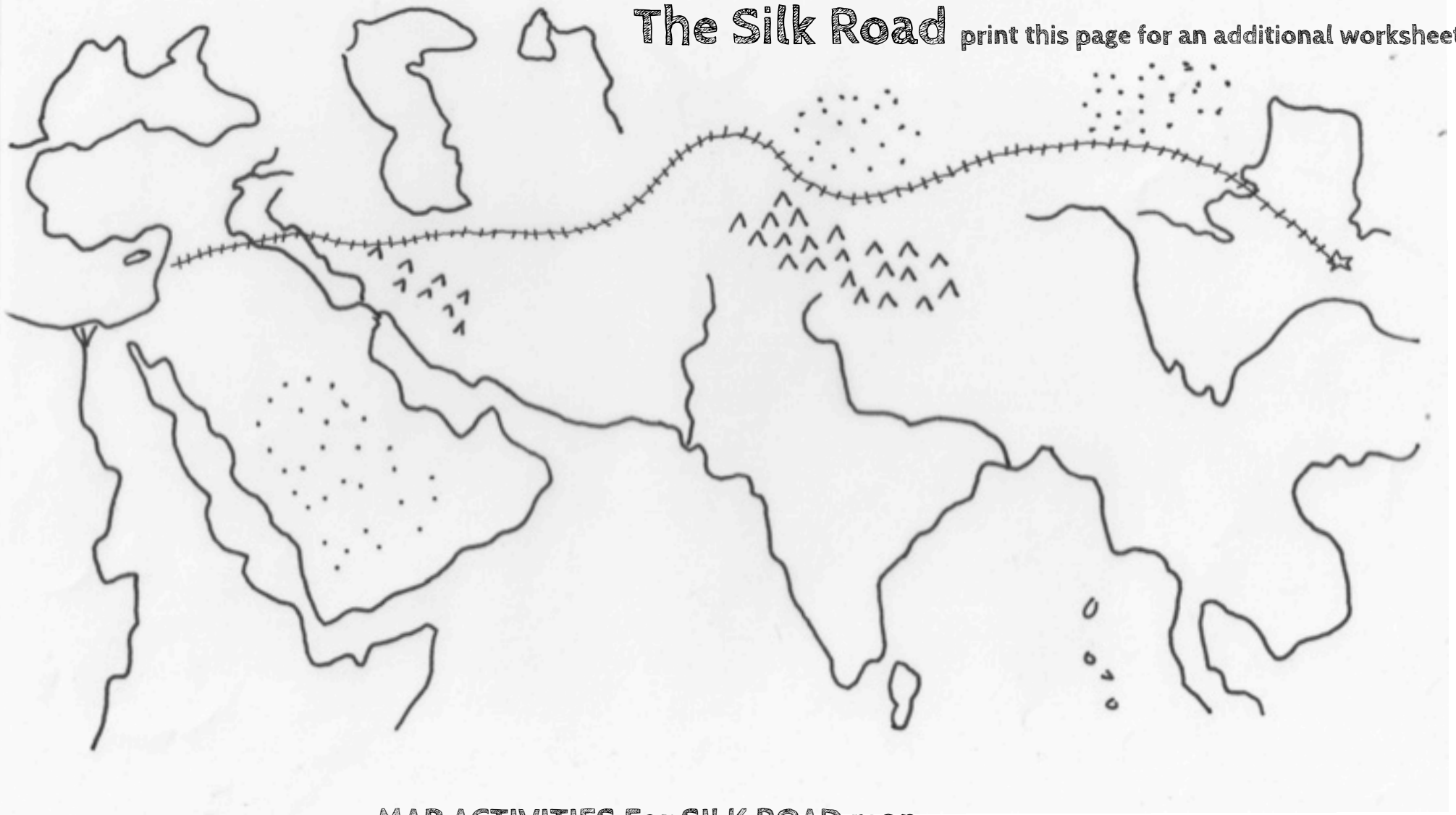




Caravan on the Silk Road, from the year 1380

The Silk Road

print this page for an additional worksheet!



MAP ACTIVITIES For SILK ROAD map

Label the SILK ROAD and color RED.

Label these bodies of water and shade with BLUE: Indian Ocean Red Sea Mediterranean Sea

Ganges River Indus River Caspian Sea Yellow River Yangtze River

With GREEN/BROWN pencil, shade these mountains and label them: Himalayas Zagros Mountains

With a TAN/BROWN pencil, shade these desert areas, and label them:

Gobi Desert Taklamakan Desert Arabian Desert

Note the Chinese city of Chang-an marked with a star and label it.

EUROPEAN EXPLORERS

In the 15th century, European traders wanted to find ocean routes to trade for silks, gold and spices in Asia. It was necessary to find a new way to reach Asia without going over land, as Marco Polo had done. People of the time knew the world was round, not flat. So they hoped to find Asia by sailing both east and west.

Christian traders found it impossible to pass through the Middle East. This area was jealously controlled by Islamic groups. Arabs had controlled the Indian Ocean for centuries.

ROYAL PATRONS

Explorers did not always have the means to travel. They needed ships, and crews and the money to buy supplies. They had to ask rich patrons to support their voyages.

Many patrons were **monarchs**, who desired new lands. These kings and queens also hoped to get richer by the trade. They also wanted to be admired for being the patrons of successful voyages!

Queen Isabella and her husband King Ferdinand of Spain agreed to fund Columbus's first voyage.



King Manuel of Portugal sent the explorer Vasco Da Gama to find an ocean route to Asia.





Christopher Columbus

Christopher Columbus has been called the founder of the New World. This is not true, since the Vikings had reached North America 500 years before. Columbus set out to find a route to Asia by traveling west. He had studied the theories of his day about geography. Columbus accepted the idea that the world was round, but he guessed it was much smaller than it was.

EARLY TRIPS

Columbus was an experienced sailor. Before his famous voyage, he took many journeys: in the Mediterranean Sea, along the west coast of Africa, and maybe even to England and Iceland.

PREPARING FOR THE FAMOUS VOYAGE

In the 1490s Columbus had a plan called the “Enterprise of the Indies”. He intended to leave the Canary Islands and sail to Japan, which was then known as **CIPANGU**. King John of Portugal was not interested in investing in the trip, but King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella agreed to fund him.

Columbus’s goals were to find riches, create a successful trade route, and convert people to Christianity.

After his famous trip, Columbus made three other voyages from 1493 to 1504. He explored islands in the Caribbean, including present day Martinique, Jamaica and Puerto Rico. He sailed down the Honduran coast to Panama, which he was sure was the Maylay peninsula in China. People doubted him, but still he insisted he had reached Asia.

Even though Columbus was mistaken about the lands that he had visited, he had the skills of perseverance and curiosity. He inspired other travelers who followed him.

SETTING OUT!

Columbus set sail in 1492 with three ships. They were named the Santa Maria, the Pinta and the Nina.

They landed 33 days later in the Bahamian Islands.

Thinking he had reached Asia, he named the island San Salvador, and mistakenly called the natives "Indians."

Columbus also explored other islands, including Cuba.



This section of your map shows the area the route that was taken by **COLUMBUS**.

Be sure to label the bodies of water that he traveled through, and shade the coastlines with blue.

Shade the route in a bright color.

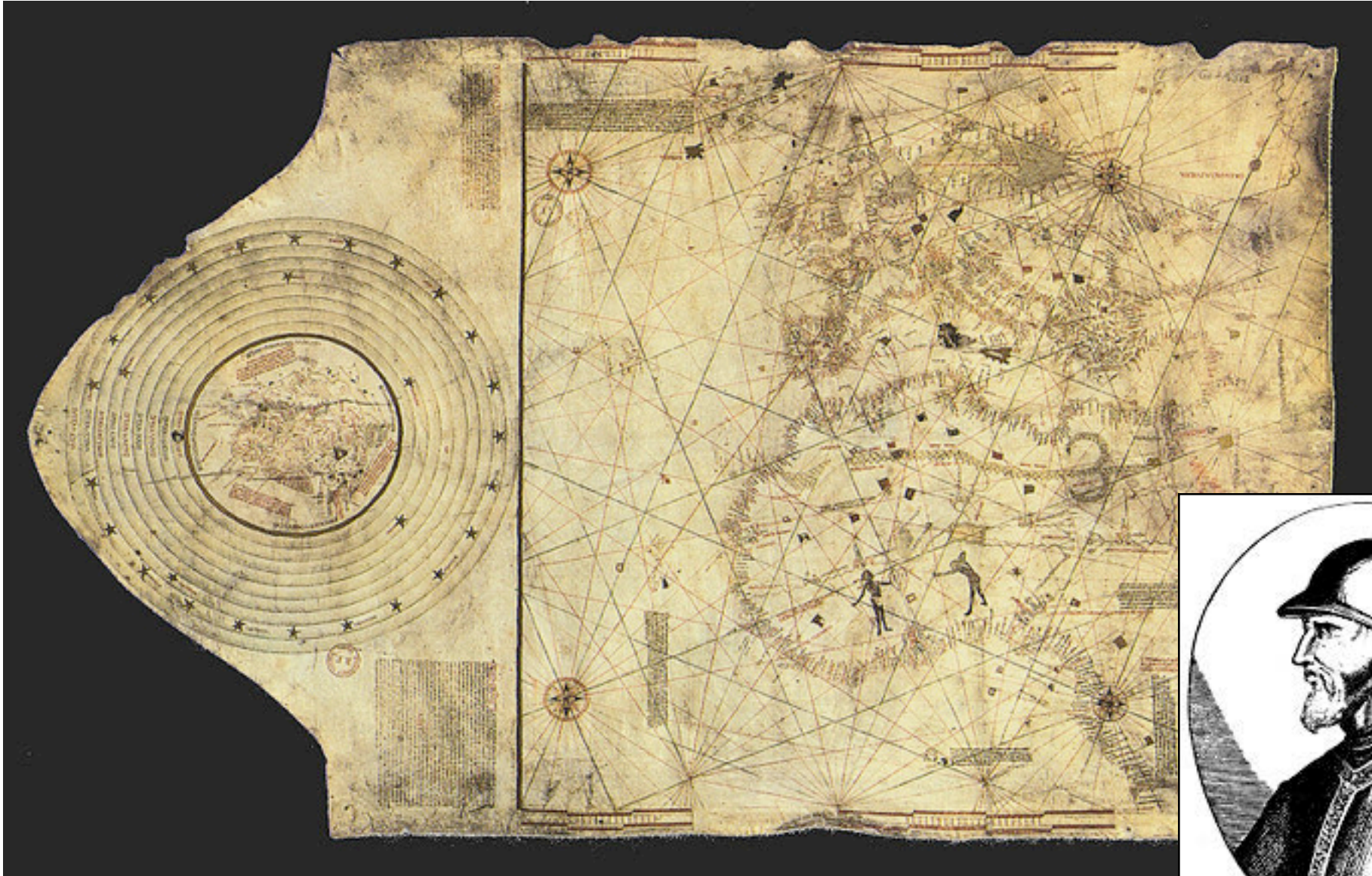


John Vanderlyn (1775-1852) was an American artist who made this painting that shows Christopher Columbus landing in the West Indies, on the island that he named San Salvador, on October 12, 1492.

The flag Columbus holds claims this land for the patrons who paid for his voyage: who were his patrons?

CARTOGRAPHY!

When explorers traveled, they often took a map maker to record the routes and describe areas of land. Christopher Columbus traveled with his brother Bartolome who was a cartographer.



It is thought that this map was made Bartolomeo and Christopher Columbus, around the year 1490, in their workshop in Lisbon, Portugal.

SAILING TO NEW WORLDS!

These postage stamps from 1893 commemorated the 400th Anniversary of Columbus's voyage. Columbus's fleet of ships were shown on the stamps.



RESEARCH!

Columbus and his crew, and many of the European explorers, sailed in ships known as carracks.

What materials were used to build them?

How many sails did a carrack have?

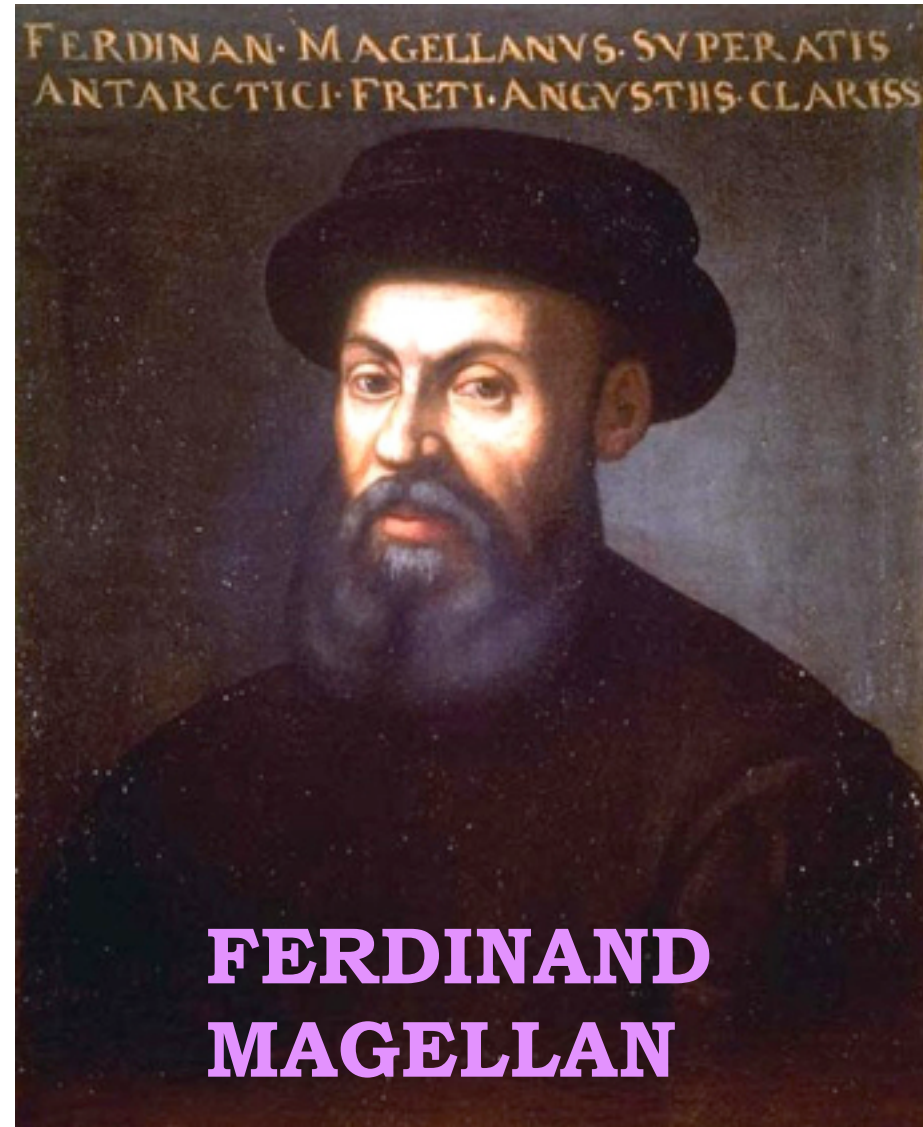
What kinds of goods did these ships carry to help the explorers survive?



Ferdinand Magellan, from Portugal, led the first trip to circumnavigate the globe, although he died before the voyage was over. As a young man, he had sailed east to India.

As a more experienced man, he wanted to try to go in the opposite direction, passing through the Americas, to reach Asia.

In November 1520, Magellan reached the tip of South America. His ship passed from the Atlantic Ocean through a strait of water to meet a new ocean, which he named the Pacific Ocean: peaceful waters. He also named the strait of water after himself, a name that this waterway still has today.

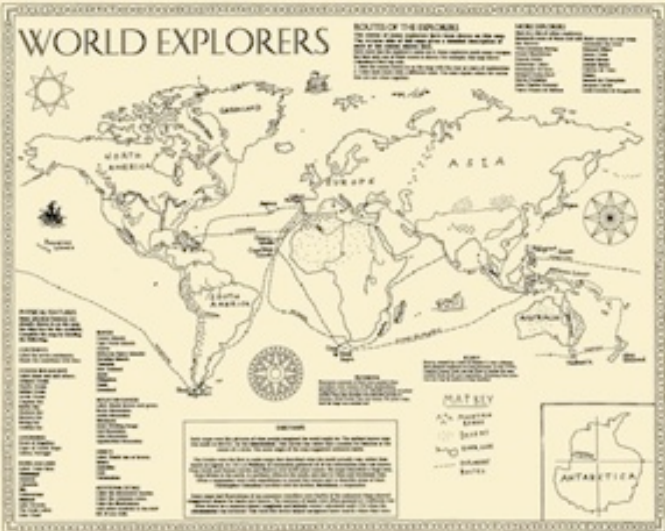


RESEARCH!
Magellan set sail in 1519 with five ships: what were their names? Who were the members of his crew?



Here we can see a close-up detail of the tip of South America as it is today.

You can see the strait of water Magellan named after himself.



Locate the section of your WORLD EXPLORERS map that shows the route that was taken by MAGELLAN. Be sure to label the bodies of water that he traveled through, and shade the coastlines with blue. Shade the route in a bright color.



**VASCO DA GAMA,
EXPLORER OF THE
15TH CENTURY**

***Gama's voyage marked a new beginning:
it was the start of Portuguese traveling in
waters that had been dominated
by Muslim traders.***

Vasco Da Gama was sent by King Manuel of Portugal to find an ocean route to Asia, and to set up trade agreements in Africa and Asia. Da Gama hoped to sail around Africa to India, passing through the Indian Ocean.

Vasco Da Gama had two big ships named SANTO GABRIEL and SANTO RAPHAEL, and a small caravel called the BERRIO. He also traveled with a storage ship. He had 170 shipmates: some experienced sailors, a few Catholic priests, and some criminals for menial jobs.

In July of 1497, Da Gama and his crew left Lisbon, Portugal, for the Canary Islands. Then they sailed to the Cape Verde Islands. Explorer Bartolomeu Dias had already warned of dangerous winds along the African coast. Da Gama decided to sail far out into the Atlantic Ocean to avoid rough seas.

Vasco Da Gama had a long hard voyage. In November, they landed in South Africa. They passed around the Cape of Good Hope, southward up the coast of Africa. They stopped in Mocambique, which is now called Mozambique.

.....READ MORE!!!

There were more difficult times for Vasco Da Gama and his crew. Along the coast there were many skirmishes with Muslims who resented the Christians in their territories. Many men died, some of scurvy.

In April of 1498, Da Gama and his crew left Africa for Calicut, India. They met with Hindus and Muslims but their encounters were unsuccessful. The gifts from King Manuel were considered poor. The Indians thought that the rough seamen were pirates. Because of this, Da Gama could not accomplish his goal of setting up trade agreements.

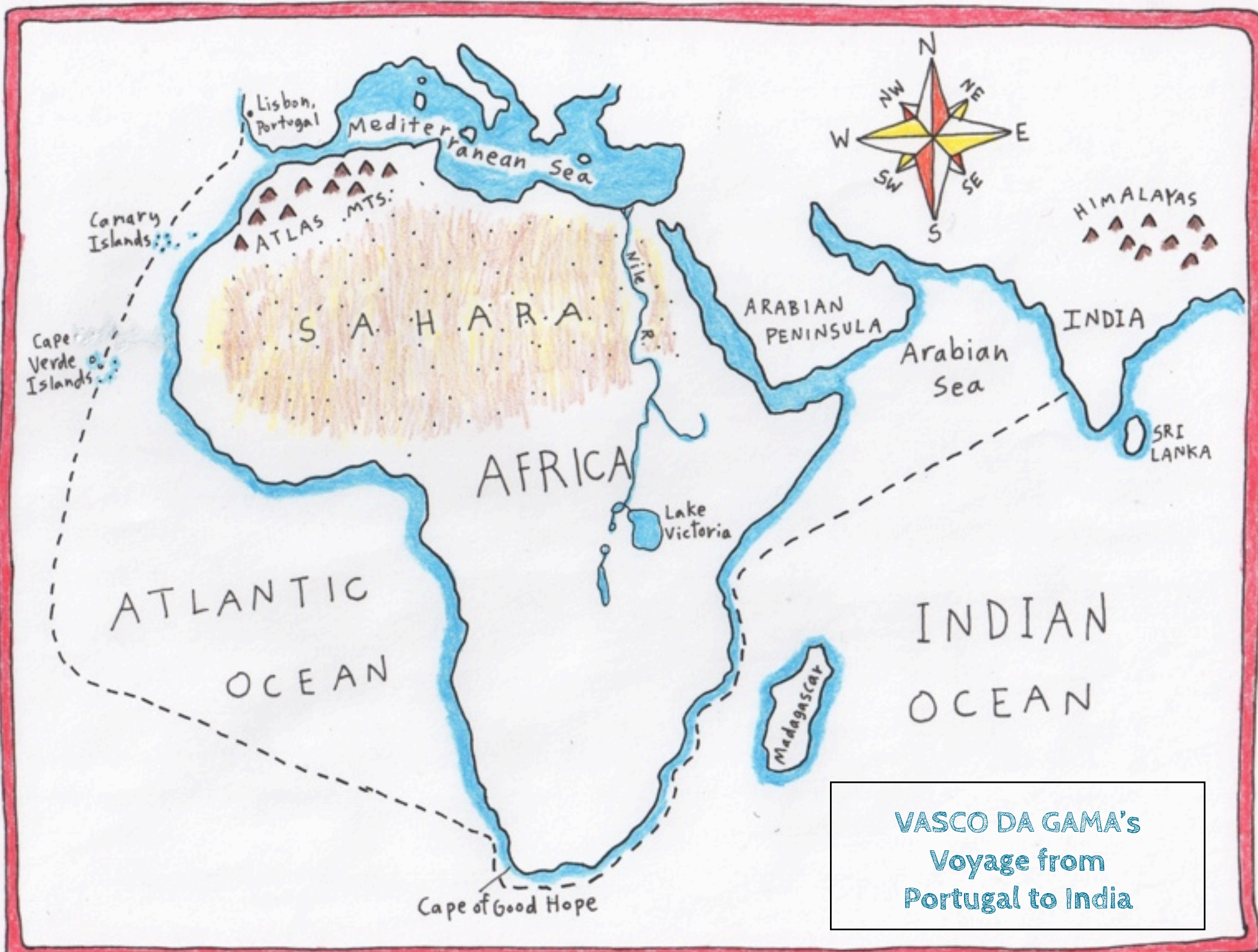
There was a difficult trip home as well. More men died and one of the ships was lost at sea. However, Da Gama was welcomed home as a hero. He had learned a great deal that would make future trips to Asia much easier.

This painting shows Vasco da Gama standing in prow of rowboat, approaching his destination of Calicut, India



Locate the section of your WORLD EXPLORERS map that shows the route that was taken by VASCO DA GAMA.

Be sure to label the bodies of water that he traveled through, and shade the coastlines with blue. Shade the route in a bright color.



VASCO DA GAMA'S
Voyage from
Portugal to India

VOCABULARY for WORLD EXPLORERS

unknown

navigator

courageous

creative

clay tablet

boundary line

exaggerated

island

expedition

cartographer

pirate

postage

commemorate

translated

tarrif

patron

carrack

caravel

scurvy

skirmish

encounter

menial



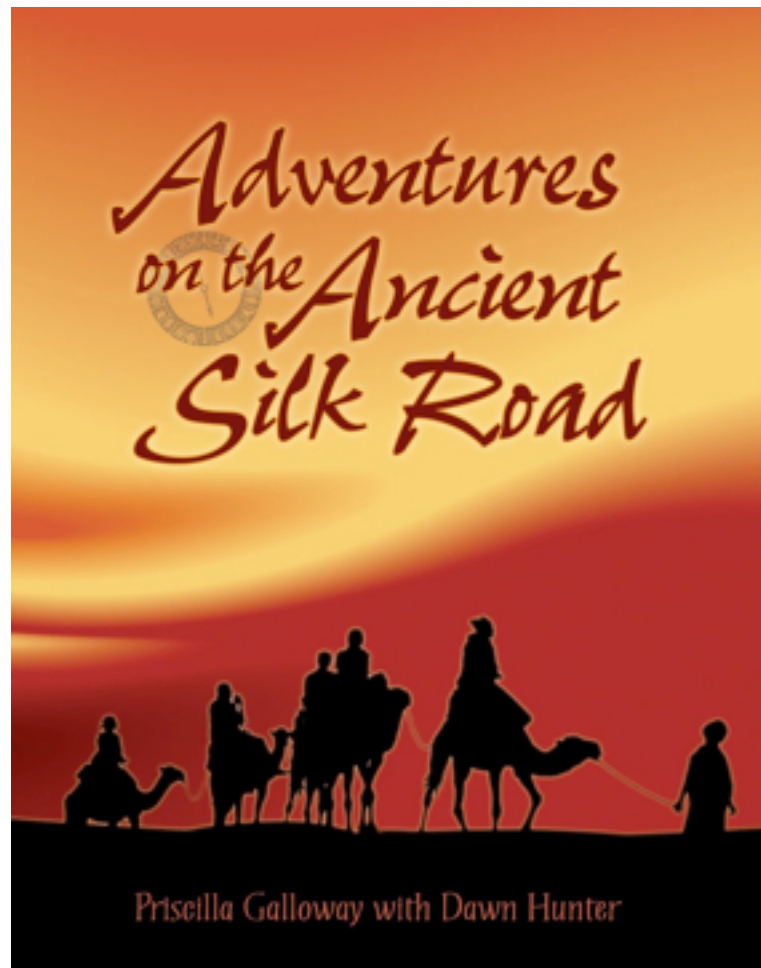
Can you define these words and terms? Use each of them in a sentence!

SUGGESTED READING!

Sometimes a book comes to our attention that is excellent. We know you and your students who are studying World Explorations would especially enjoy **ADVENTURES ON THE ANCIENT SILK ROAD** by Pricilla Galloway and Dawn Hunter.

This book gives a great overview of the 2,000 years of journeys over this important route. And it highlights three famous explorers in-depth: Xuanzana, Genghis Khan, and Marco Polo. The book is full of interesting details, wonderful illustrations- many historical images- as well as maps. We especially liked the sidebars on the animals of the regions along the road.

Those of you who use our **WORLD EXPLORERS** map will find this a wonderful addition to your classroom library!



MORE SUGGESTED READING!

WHO WAS FIRST?

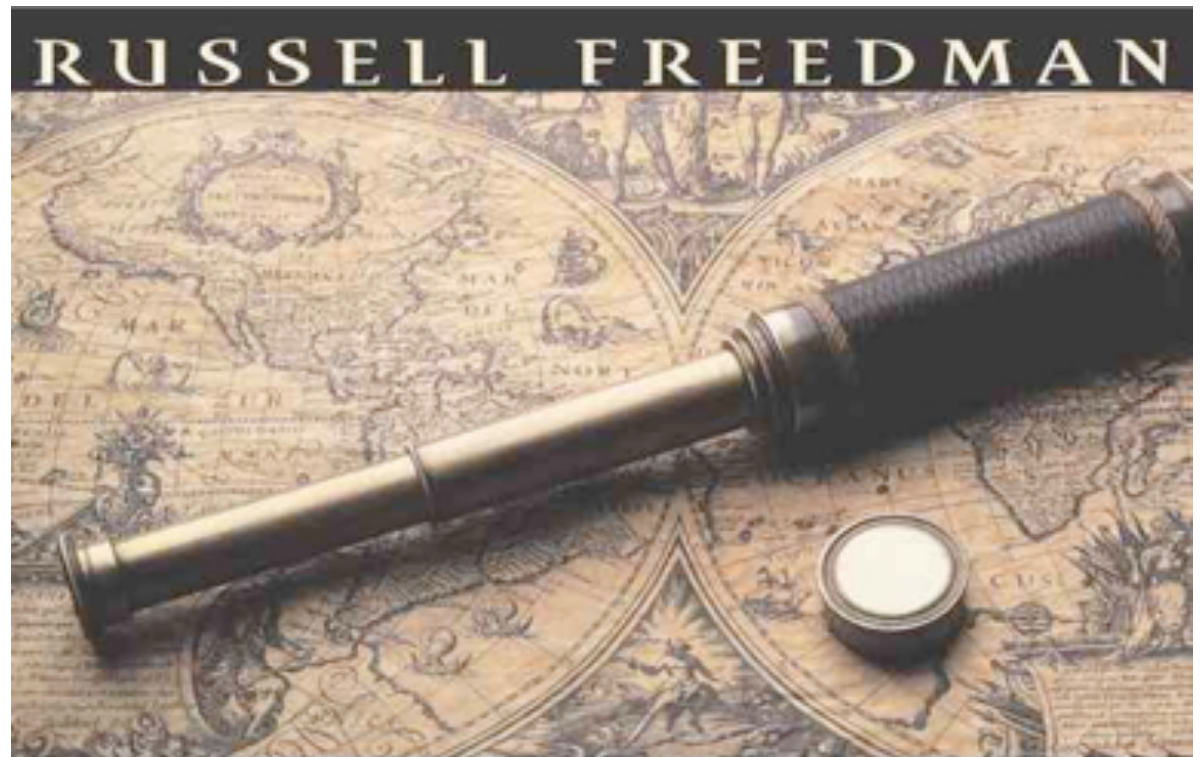
DISCOVERING THE AMERICAS

by Russell Freedman

In recent years scholars have shown us that adventurers, explorers, traders, and nomads from various parts of the globe set foot on American soil long before 1492.

Expeditions that landed in the Americas reported people already living there – indicating that America had been “discovered” before.

Stimulate curiosity with these new theories! Those of you who use our WORLD EXPLORERS map will find this another great addition to your classroom library!



WHO WAS FIRST? — *Discovering the Americas* —

