





# Bartholomeu Dias

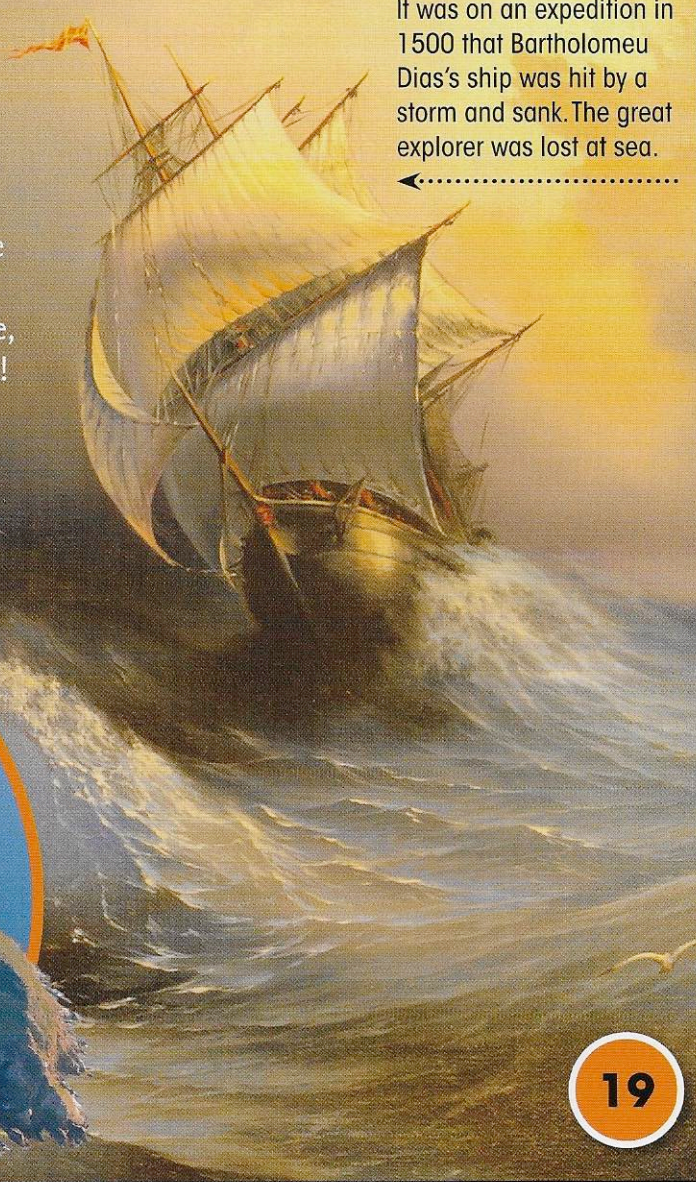
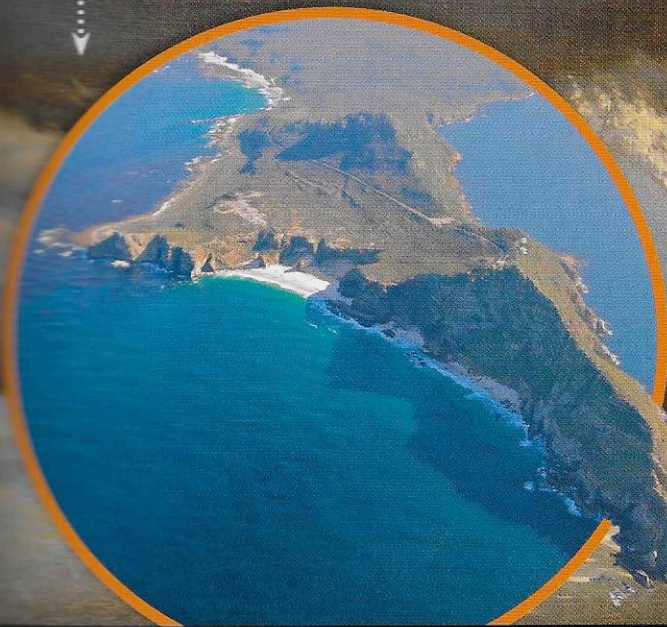
Bartholomeu Dias was a Portuguese explorer in the Great Age of Discovery. In 1487, he was the first European to sail round the Cape of Good Hope at the southern tip of Africa. His success created trading routes between Europe and Asia, the land of spices.

## Challenges at sea

Life at sea was very hard for sailors in the 15th and 16th centuries. Supplies of food and water were limited, which led to starvation. Rats on board ships and a lack of fresh fruit meant that illness and disease were common. Storms at sea caused men to fall overboard and drown. And, of course, there was also the danger of a pirate attack!

.....  
↓  
It is thought that the Cape of Good Hope was originally called the Cape of Storms.

It was on an expedition in 1500 that Bartholomeu Dias's ship was hit by a storm and sank. The great explorer was lost at sea.  
←.....





# John Cabot

Although he was born in Italy, John Cabot (or Giovanni Caboto, as he is known in Italian), came to live in England in 1495. He only stayed for two years; in 1497 he set off in his small boat, the *Matthew*, to find a route to Asia by sea.



←.....  
A statue has been erected to John Cabot in Newfoundland.

.....  
St John's in Newfoundland is the oldest city in North America.  
↓

## The king's money

It cost a lot of money to fit out a ship which could travel across the oceans and to pay the crew to sail it. John Cabot, like many explorers, had to ask for money from the monarch (in this case King Henry VII). Monarchs would fund explorers in the hope that they would get rich when the explorer returned!

## An Englishman in Canada

John Cabot, however, did not find his way to Asia and instead he landed in Newfoundland, off the coast of Canada. He was the first European to

do so since the Viking, Leif Eriksson. Cabot explored the Canadian coastline and claimed that part of Canada as belonging to the British.

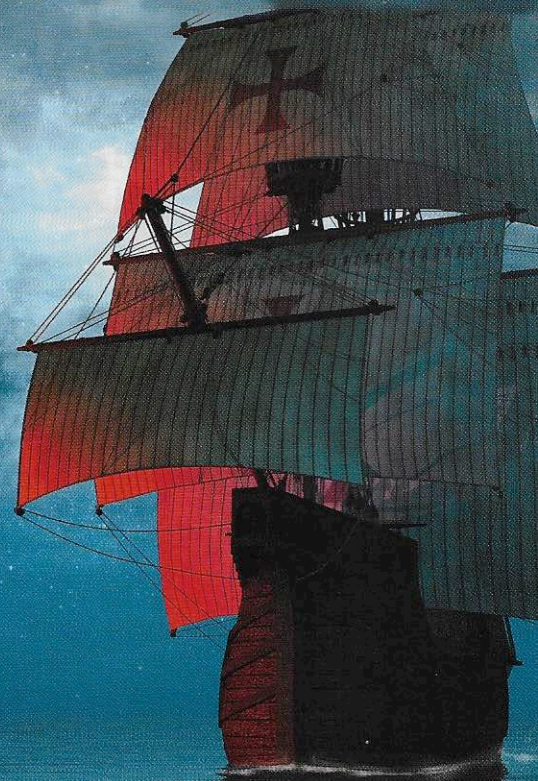


# Vasco de Gama

With the Silk Road across land to Asia becoming more difficult and dangerous, it was important that a trade route was found by sea between Europe and Asia. The Portuguese explorer Vasco de Gama sailed from Portugal (Europe) in 1497 and finally arrived in India (Asia) in May, 1498. He had done it!

## Admiral of the Ocean

As the first European explorer to sail around Africa to Asia, Vasco de Gama then made sure that Portugal controlled all trade with India. When he returned to Portugal he was greeted as a hero and given the title 'Admiral of the Ocean'. On future trips he brought back treasure and spices and in 1519 he was made a Portuguese count.



▲ It is said that Vasco de Gama could be a violent and cruel man. On one of his expeditions he is believed to have destroyed a fleet of Arab ships and killed the crews. This was not a good way for the Europeans to start trading with India.

Spices were what Europeans wanted to trade for.



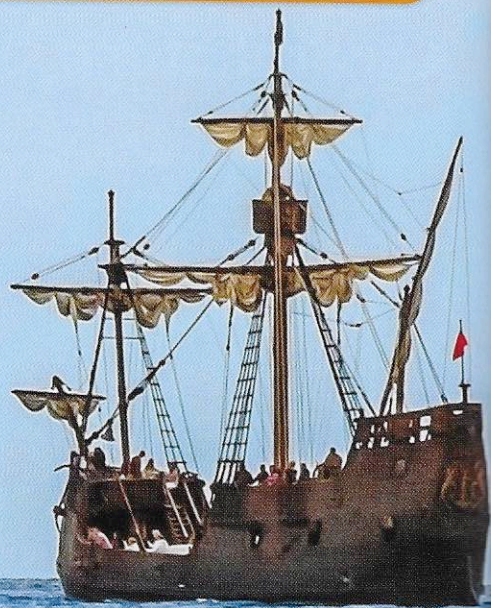


# Christopher Columbus

Born in Italy in 1451, Christopher Columbus was so inspired by Marco Polo's book about his travels to Asia that he decided he also wanted to find a route to Asia by sea. In 1492, using money given by the King and Queen of Spain, he set off on a voyage that would make history.

## Is this Asia?

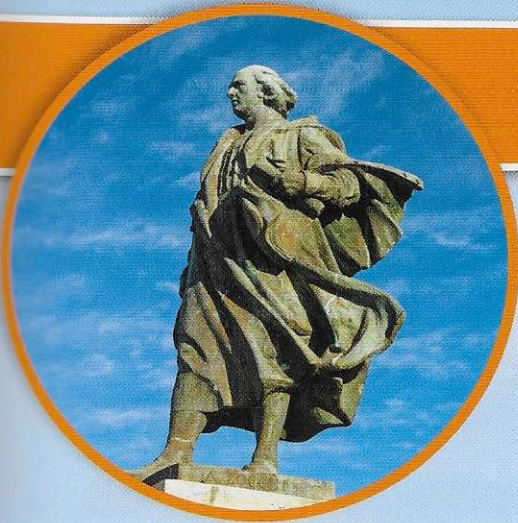
Christopher Columbus and his crew set off with three boats, including the *Santa Maria*, captained by Columbus. On 12th October 1492 they had their first sight of land. Columbus was sure he had reached Asia, but he had in fact sailed as far as the Bahamas. On his next expeditions, he also landed at Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and Venezuela. His discovery of this New World started the rush by Europeans to settle in North America.



When Christopher Columbus first landed at San Salvador (an island in The Bahamas), he called the native peoples 'Indians' as he was so sure he had reached Asia, or 'the Indies' as it was then called.



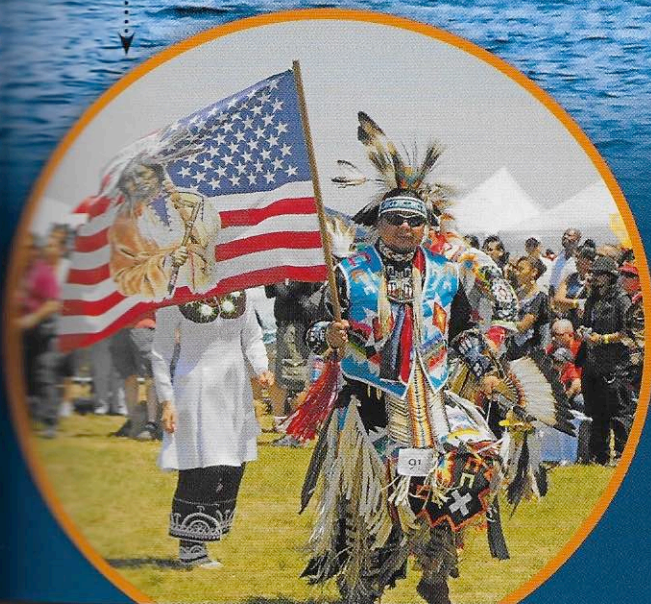




▲ Until he died, Christopher Columbus believed that he had found a new route to Asia.

←.....  
The *Santa Maria* ran aground off the coast of Hispaniola, the second largest island in the Caribbean. Luckily the friendly local chief sent men out to rescue the crew.

.....  
: Many parts of North America celebrate the history and culture of Native Americans.



## Unwelcome guests

Unfortunately the European sailors didn't always behave very well in the places they landed. They got into fights with the local people and were caught looting and stealing gold. In addition, the Europeans brought with them diseases which killed many of the Native American peoples.

.....  
Columbus Day was intended to celebrate the links between North America and Europe.  
.....→



## Celebrations

Many parts of North America celebrate Columbus Day on the second Monday in October. However, a lot of people believe that this is unfair to Native Americans, many of whom suffered and died as a result of the European settlers. It is becoming more common to celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day throughout America.



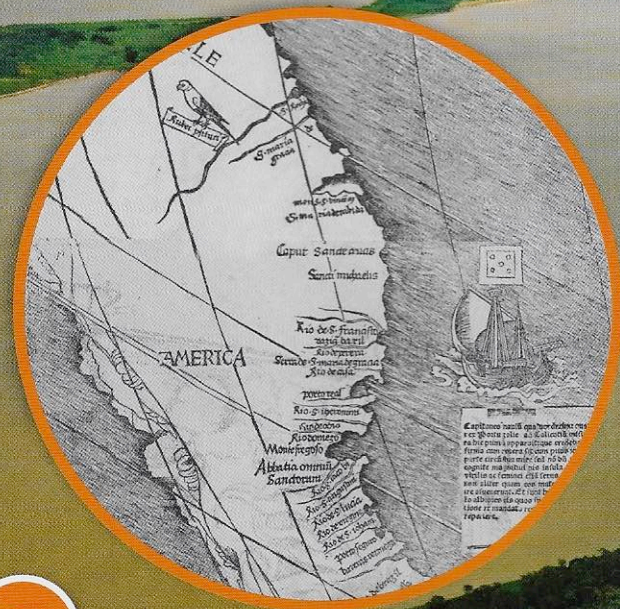
# Amerigo Vespucci

It was another Italian explorer, Amerigo Vespucci, who, while sailing along the coast of South America, realised that the Americas were not part of Asia. In 1507, the first map showing this discovery gave the New World the name of 'America' in his honour.

## Early maps

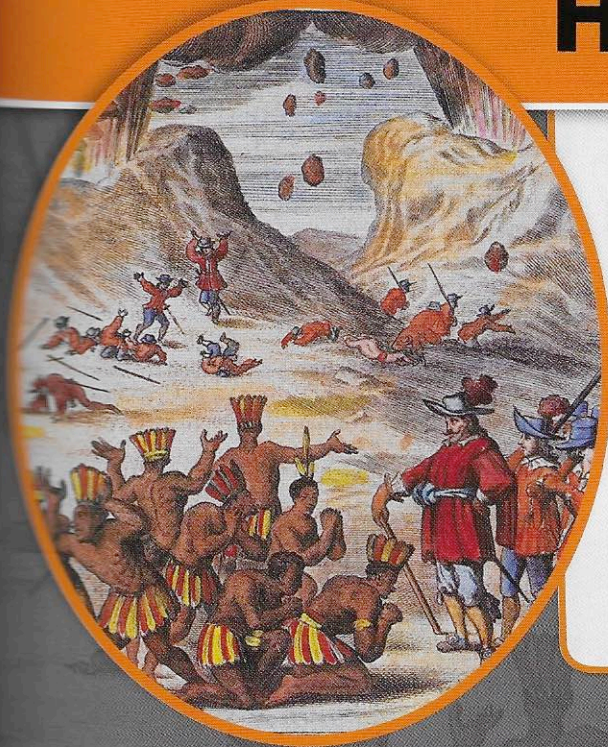
Until this time, European explorers had seen the world as divided into only three continents – Europe, Asia, and Africa. After Amerigo Vespucci's travels, maps showed another continent separated by a large ocean, now called the Pacific Ocean.

⋮ In 1500, Vespucci discovered the mouth of the Orinoco River in Venezuela.





# Hernán Cortés

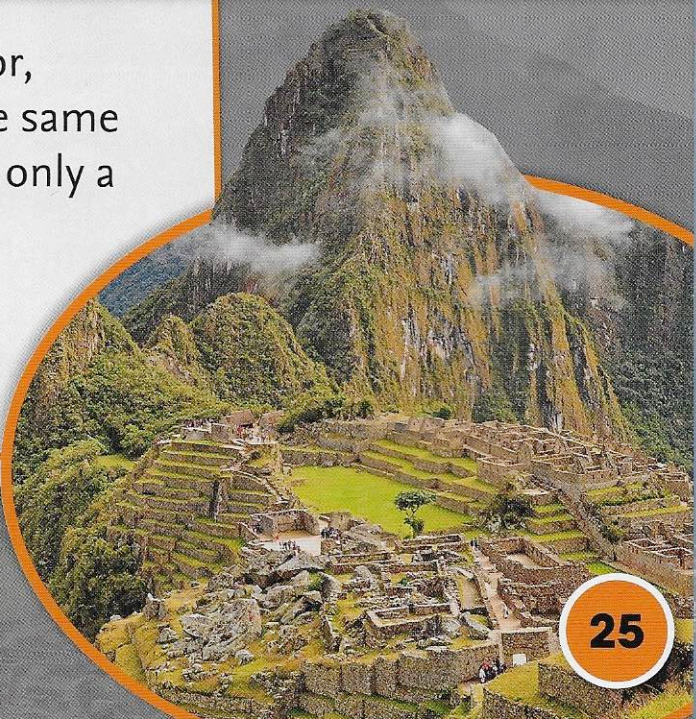


Called a conquistador (conqueror), Hernán Cortés was a cruel and ruthless Spanish explorer who was sent to Mexico in 1521. Over the next two years he killed thousands of Aztec Mexicans, took their land, and robbed them. He became the ruler of Mexico until 1524 when he had to retire.

# Francisco Pizarro

Another Spanish conquistador, Francisco Pizarro, showed the same cruelty in Peru. In 1532, with only a small army, he tricked and then killed the Inca emperor and conquered the Inca empire.

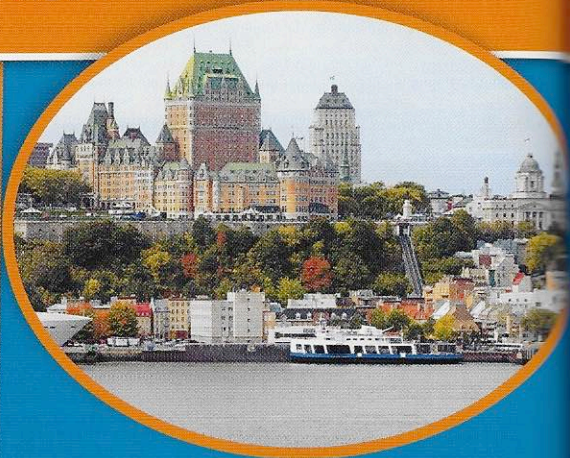
.....>  
The famous Inca city of Machu Picchu in Peru was abandoned after the Spanish invasion, and was only discovered again in 1911.





# Jacques Cartier

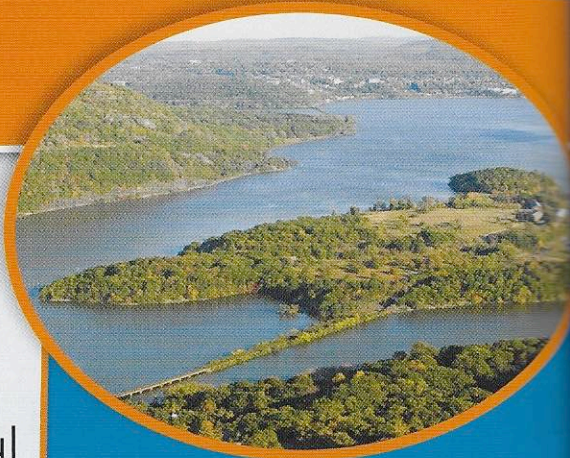
The French explorer Jacques Cartier led expeditions into inland Canada between 1534 and 1541. He was looking for gold, paddling around 1000 km (625 miles) along the St Lawrence River. He named the region he explored 'Kanata', which means Canada in the Huron-Iroquois language. Unfortunately for him, he never did find gold.



▲ Jacques Cartier tried to set up a settlement in Quebec, but it was Samuel de Champlain who succeeded in 1608. Today Quebec is one of Canada's largest and most important cities.

# Henry Hudson

Henry Hudson was an English explorer who carried out a number of voyages around 1600 to try to find a way through the ice in the Arctic Ocean. Although he was not successful in this, he did make some important discoveries, including a harbour which would later become New York City.



▲ Hudson Bay and the Hudson River in Canada were both named after Henry Hudson.



# Samuel de Champlain

Another French explorer, Samuel de Champlain, made several expeditions by canoe up the St Lawrence River. He wanted to explore inland Canada and to set up a fur-trading centre. He made friends with the local Huron Indians, who helped him along the way. Samuel de Champlain became known as the 'Father of Canada'.



## The fur trade

The fur trade was started by local people who swapped furs for tools and weapons. As French and British settlers came to Canada, they started to take control of fur trading. Over the next hundred years or so, thousands of animals were killed for their fur and this had a big impact on the animal population at the time.

▲ In order to move easily across the country, traders travelled along rivers by canoe.

▲ One of the longest rivers in North America, the St Lawrence River stretches from the Atlantic Ocean to the Great Lakes. In winter it can freeze over in parts, which made life difficult for early explorers.



# Ferdinand Magellan

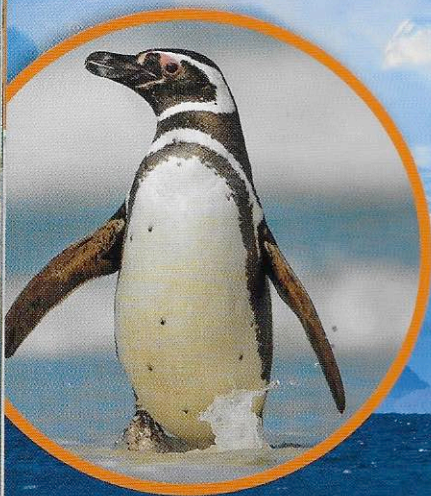
The Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan left Spain in 1519 with five ships and over 250 men. Three years later only 18 of those men returned to Spain, but they had become the first people to sail all the way around the world!

## An epic voyage

Going against what people at the time believed was possible, Ferdinand Magellan and his crews sailed west around South America and then across the 'Sea of the South' or the Pacific Ocean. Apart from the expected difficulties of bad weather and lack of food (at one point the men had to eat sawdust), Ferdinand Magellan also had to deal with a mutiny from two of his ships' captains. He had the captains executed for their lack of loyalty.



The *Victoria* was the only ship from Magellan's fleet to make the full voyage.



Magellanic penguins are named after the explorer, who was the first person to see them.

Unfortunately Ferdinand Magellan himself was killed during a fight in the Philippines and did not actually make the full voyage around the world. However, his voyage proved once and for all that the world was round!

▲ The Strait of Magellan joins the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.



# Circumnavigating the world



The first plane Amelia Earhart bought was a yellow biplane.

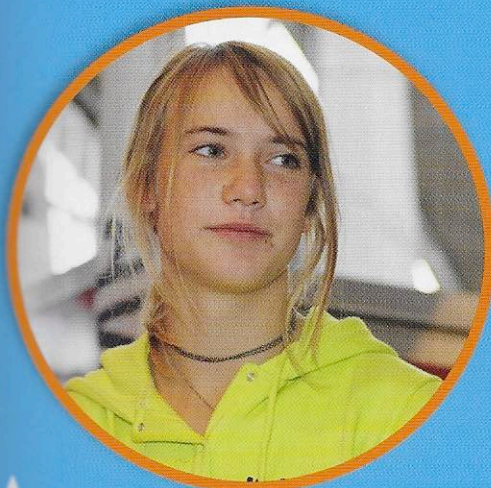
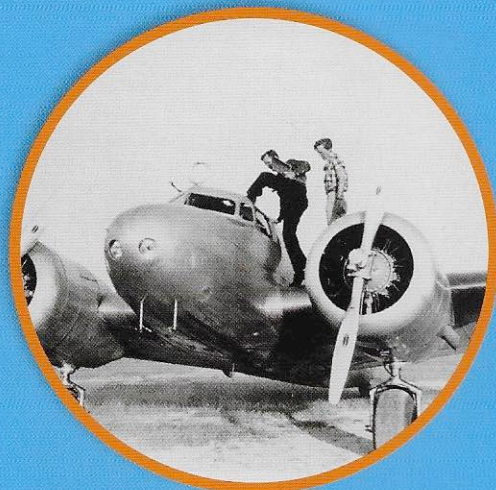


The first woman to sail around the world was Jeanne Baré between 1766 and 1769. As the French at the time did not allow women on their ships, she had to disguise herself as a man and call herself Jean Baret.

## Record solo flight

Having set her first flying record in 1921, Amelia Earhart became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean in 1932. Five years later, Earhart and her companion Fred Noonan attempted to fly around the world. Unfortunately, before they were able to complete their journey, the plane and its pilots mysteriously disappeared.

Amelia Earhart and Fred Noonan in Puerto Rico during their attempt to fly around the world.



At 16 years old, Laura Dekker is the youngest person to sail around the world.

## Around the world by bike

The first woman to cycle around the world was Annie Londonderry (she had changed her name from Kopchovsky). In 1894, she set off from Boston, America, with a change of clothes and a revolver, leaving her husband and three young children. Fifteen months later she returned as a celebrity!



# Francis Drake

Between 1577 and 1580, the Englishman Francis Drake led the second expedition around the world in his ship, the *Golden Hind*. Not really an explorer, Francis Drake was a privateer who had been sent by his country to carry out sea raids. Drake and his crew looted Spanish ships for their silver and gold to bring back to England.

A replica of Francis Drake's ship, the *Golden Hind*, can be seen in London.



## Fame and fortune

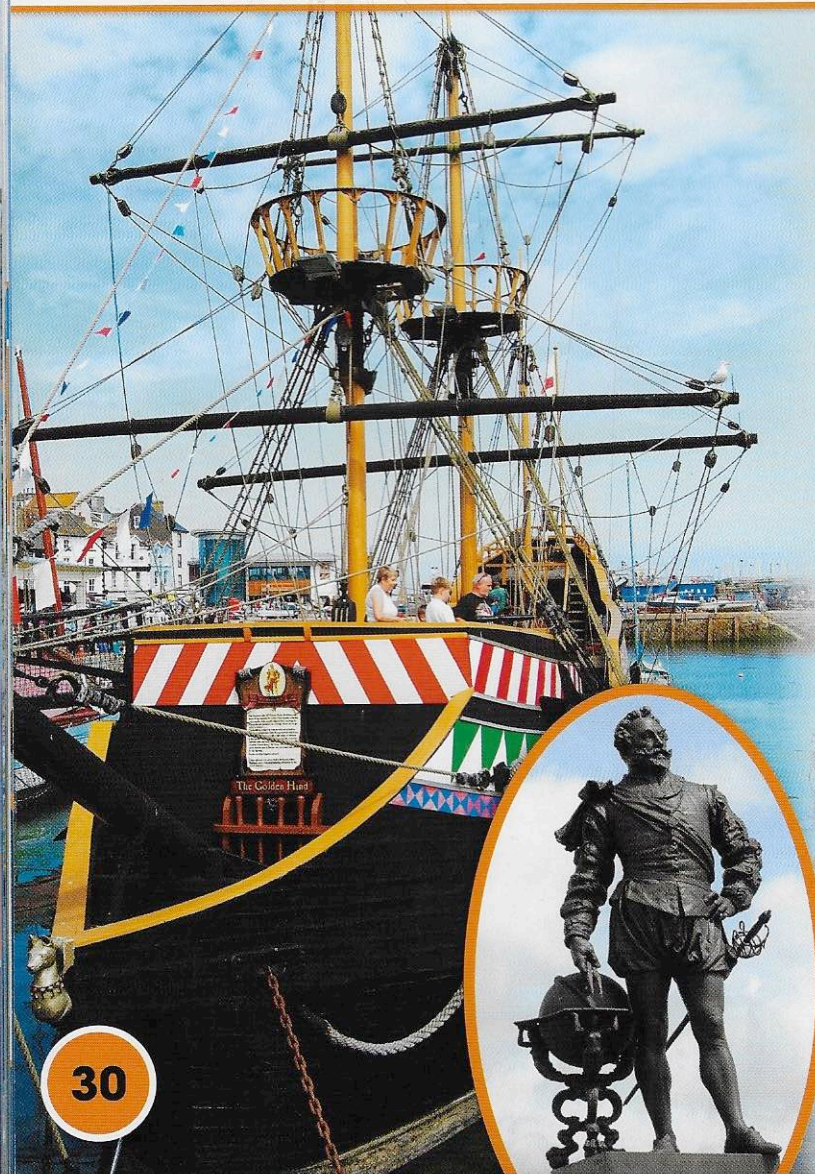
Having brought back a huge amount of treasure for himself and his country, Queen Elizabeth I knighted him and he became Sir Francis Drake. Not only very rich, he also became one of the most famous men of Elizabethan times.

## The Spanish Armada

In 1588 the King of Spain sent a fleet of Spanish ships called the Spanish Armada to fight the English ships. Sir Francis Drake helped to defeat the Spanish and the English navy became the most powerful navy in the world.

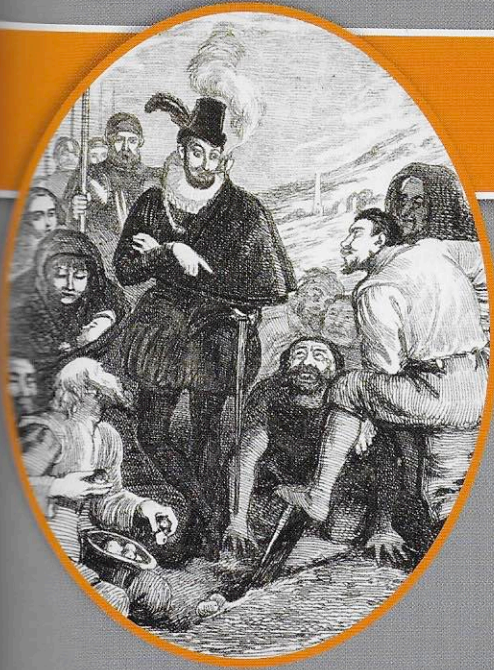


The Spanish called Sir Francis Drake 'El Draque', which means 'The Dragon' in English.





# Walter Raleigh



▲ Walter Raleigh watches as his new discovery, potatoes, are planted in Britain.

Walter Raleigh led expeditions to North and South America to build up trade, found settlements, and search for El Dorado (the land of gold). Between 1584 and 1589 he helped to found a colony in North America, which he called Virginia. Many believe that he first brought the potato to Britain from America!



## A traitor's end

Walter Raleigh was arrested for treason against King James I and held for 13 years in the Tower of London. The day before he was due to die, he was released. But in 1618 he was imprisoned again and this time he was beheaded. It is said that his wife was given his head and that she kept it until she died, 29 years later.

▲ The Tower of London is where Walter Raleigh was held between 1604 and 1617.