

EXPLORATION

Why Explore?

Explorers came to the New World in the 1400's and 1500's for many different reasons:

- For adventure
- To find an all-water route to the Far East
- To claim lands for European countries
- To get wealth for their countries

Some of these explorers were:

- **Bartholemew Dias**, the Portuguese explorer who sailed around the tip of Africa, then turned around before he reached Asia;
- **Christopher Columbus**, who sailed west across the Atlantic Ocean thinking that he could reach the Far East;



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- **Amerigo Vespucci**, the navigator after whom America was named.

Other Europeans to explore the New World were:

- **Vasco da Gama**, a Portuguese explorer who sailed around the tip of Africa, and then went all the way to India.
- **Pedro Cabral**, the explorer for Portugal who ended up in Brazil. Because of Cabral's discovery, the people of Brazil speak Portuguese rather than Spanish.
- **Estevanico**, the black African explorer who searched in Mexico and the southwest for the Seven Cities of Gold.

Other men known for their exploration of the Americas were:

Ponce de Leon, Balboa, Magellan, Cortez, Pizarro, DeSoto, Coronado, Verrazano, Cartier, Champlain, LaSalle, Hudson, Cabot, and Drake.