

Map Zone Teaching Notes

European Exploration, 1487–1580

Interpreting Maps Use the following strategies to help students interpret the map:

1. Ask for volunteers to name the explorers from Portugal and describe their journeys (by naming the countries sailed to and around and what oceans they sailed through). *Dinis Dias sailed south through the Atlantic Ocean, past the Cape of Good Hope to the eastern tip of southern Africa. Vasco Da Gama sailed south through the Atlantic Ocean and then northeast through the Indian Ocean off Africa’s coastline to southern India.*
2. Ask for volunteers to name the explorers from Spain and describe their journeys. *Christopher Columbus sailed south and west across the Atlantic Ocean and discovered the West Indies, which are between North and South America. Ferdinand Magellan and his crew sailed south through the Atlantic Ocean and around South America, northwest through the Pacific Ocean and the East Indies, through the Indian Ocean, and then around the southern tip of Africa and north through the Atlantic Ocean back to Spain.*
3. Ask for a volunteer to name the explorers who circumnavigated the Earth, what country each explorer was from and the year they each returned. *Ferdinand Magellan (his crew), Spain, 1522; Sir Francis Drake, England, 1580.*
4. Ask for a volunteer to name the explorer from France and describe his journey and destination. *Jacques Cartier sailed west through the Atlantic Ocean to North America (Canada) arriving in 1535.*
5. **Writing Activity** Have students choose one of the ocean voyages on the map and write a summary of it, using the map and their textbook as resources.

English-Language Learners Use the following strategies to help English-Language Learners interpret the map:

1. Use the same strategies to help students interpret this map (as listed in the questions, discussion points, and activity above).
2. Have student volunteers use a dry-erase or transparency marker to outline or highlight the following on the transparency:
 - Europe
 - where your school is located
 - the area or place where they were born.

As a class, discuss places on Earth students would like to “explore” and why.

3. On the transparency or board, list words and phrases that could describe what an ocean voyage was like during this time period. *possible answers—long, hard, dangerous, exciting, and thrilling* Ask students for translations of some of these words and phrases in their primary languages and write them on the transparency or board, if possible.
4. **Writing Activity** Have students use the words and phrases you listed on the transparency or board to write about an ocean voyage they would have taken—if they had been a crew member on an explorer’s sailing ship. Encourage students to use a dictionary to check spelling and standard English usage. Ask for volunteers to read their descriptions out loud to the class.

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