

## THE AGE OF DISCOVERY

The Age of **Discovery**, or the Age of **Exploration** (approximately from the beginning of the 15th century until the middle of the 17th century), refers to the period in European history in which **extensive** overseas exploration emerged as a powerful **factor** in European culture and which was the beginning of **globalization**. It also marks the rise of the period of **widespread adoption** in Europe of **colonialism** and **mercantilism** as national policies. Many lands previously unknown to Europeans were discovered by them during this period, though most were already **inhabited**. From the perspective of many non-Europeans, the Age of Discovery marked the arrival of **invaders** from previously unknown **continents**.

**Global** exploration started with the Portuguese discoveries of the Atlantic archipelagos of Madeira and the Azores in 1419 and 1427, the coast of Africa after 1434 and the sea route to India in 1498; and from the Crown of Castile (Spain), the trans-Atlantic voyages of Christopher Columbus to the Americas between 1492 and 1502 and the first **circumnavigation** of the globe in 1519–1522. These discoveries led to numerous **naval** expeditions across the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific oceans, and land **expeditions** in the Americas, Asia, Africa and Australia that continued into the late 19th century, and ended with the exploration of the polar regions in the 20th century.

European overseas exploration led to the rise of global **trade** and the European colonial empires, with the **contact** between the Old World (Europe, Asia and Africa) and the New World (the Americas and Australia) producing the Columbian Exchange, a wide **transfer** of plants, animals, food, human populations (including slaves), **communicable diseases** and culture between the Eastern and Western Hemispheres. This represented one of the most significant global events concerning ecology, agriculture and culture in history. The Age of Discovery and later European exploration allowed for the global mapping of the world, resulting in a new worldview and **distant** civilizations coming into contact, but also led to the **propagation of diseases** that **decimated** populations not previously in contact with Eurasia and Africa and to the **enslavement, exploitation, military conquest** and economic **dominance** by Europe and its colonies over native populations. It also allowed for the expansion of Christianity throughout the world: with the spread of **missionary activity**, it eventually became the world's largest religion.

European overseas exploration was based on

1. the rise of European **trade**,
2. technological advancements such as new ship design (the caravel, which could sail farther and faster much nearer the wind, or into the wind) and the **compass**,
3. Geography and maps (By 1400 a Latin translation of Ptolemy's Geographia reached Italy coming from Constantinople. The rediscovery of Roman geographical knowledge was a **revelation**, both for mapmaking and worldview),
4. **Medieval** travel (1241–1438) and Chinese missions (1405–1433)

- CAN YOU NAME SOME OF THE EXPLORERS OF THE TIME? FIND INFORMATION ABOUT 2 OF THEM.

- DO YOU KNOW THE GREEK EQUIVALENT FOR THE WORDS AND PHRASES IN BOLD?

<b>Discovery (n)</b>	the act of finding something that had not been known before
<b>Exploration (n)</b>	the act of traveling to a place or searching a place in order to learn about it
<b>Extensive (adj)</b>	covering a large area; having a great range
<b>Factor (n)</b>	a fact or situation that influences a result
<b>Globalization (n)</b>	a situation in which available goods and services, or social and cultural influences, gradually become similar in all parts of the world
<b>Widespread (adj)</b>	existing or happening in many places and/or among many people
<b>Adoption (n)</b>	the act of accepting or beginning to use something
<b>colonialism (n)</b>	a policy or system in which a country controls another country or area
<b>Mercantilism (n)</b>	an economic theory developed in the 16th to 18th centuries that says that a government should control the economy and that a nation should increase its wealth by selling more than it buys from other nations
<b>Inhabit (n)</b>	to live in a place
<b>invader (n)</b>	an army or country that uses force to enter and take control of another country
<b>Continent (n)</b>	one of the seven large land masses on the earth's surface, surrounded, or mainly surrounded, by sea and usually consisting of various countries
<b>Global (adj)</b>	relating to the whole world
<b>circumnavigation (n)</b>	The act of travelling all the way around something, esp. the earth
<b>naval (adj)</b>	belonging to a country's navy, or relating to military ships
<b>Expedition (n)</b>	an organized journey for a particular purpose
<b>Trade (n)</b>	the activity of buying and selling, or exchanging, goods and/or services between people or countries; business activity
<b>Contact (n)</b>	communication
<b>transfer (n)</b>	the movement of something or someone from one place, position, etc. to another
<b>communicable disease</b>	A communicable disease is one that is spread from one person to another through a variety of ways that include: contact with blood and bodily fluids; breathing in an airborne virus; or by being bitten by an insect
<b>Distant (adj)</b>	far away
<b>propagation (n)</b>	the act or process of spreading something, such as a harmful message ,an opinion or a disease among a lot of people
<b>Decimate (v)</b>	to destroy large numbers of people, animals, or other creatures, or to harm something severely
<b>Enslavement (n)</b>	The act of making a slave of someone
<b>Exploitation (n)</b>	the act of using someone unfairly for your own advantage
<b>military conquest</b>	
<b>dominance (n)</b>	the situation in which one company, product, etc. has more power, influence, or success than others
<b>missionary activity</b>	
<b>Compass (n)</b>	a device for finding direction with a needle that can move easily and that always points to magnetic north
<b>Medieval (adj)</b>	related to the Middle Ages (= the period in European history from about AD 600 to AD 1500)
<b>Revelation (n)</b>	the act of making something known that was secret, or a fact that is made known