

Explorer Test Study Guide - TEST FRIDAY 10/25

Vasco Nunez de Balboa

- **Discovery:** Credited with discovering the **Pacific Ocean** from the New World in 1513.
- **Significance:** Crossed the Isthmus of Panama, becoming the first European to see the Pacific from the New World.

Juan Ponce de Leon

- **Exploration:** Explored **Florida** in search of the legendary **Fountain of Youth**.
- **Claim:** Claimed Florida for Spain in 1513.
- **Significance:** His expeditions made him one of the first Europeans to explore what is now the United States.

Jacques Cartier

- **Exploration:** Explored the **St. Lawrence River**.
- **Claim:** Claimed **Canada** for **France** during his voyages.
- **Significance:** His expeditions laid the foundation for French exploration and settlement in North America.

John Cabot

— For England

- **Exploration:** Sailed under the **English flag** and explored the coast of **North America** in 1497.
- **Claim:** One of the first Europeans to explore the coast of what is now Canada.
- **Significance:** His journey helped England lay claim to territories in North America.

Hernando de Soto

- **Exploration:** Explored parts of the **southeastern United States**.
- **Discovery:** Credited with the discovery of the **Mississippi River**.
- **Significance:** Played a key role in Spain's exploration and eventual colonization of parts of North America.

Samuel de Champlain

- **Exploration:** Explored the **St. Lawrence River** and the **Great Lakes** region.
- **Founding:** Helped establish **Quebec City**, becoming a key figure in French settlement in Canada.
- **Significance:** Known for his detailed maps of the Great Lakes and for strengthening France's presence in North America.

Giovanni da Verrazzano

- **Exploration:** First European to explore the **New York Harbor**.
- **Expedition:** Sailed along the **eastern coast of North America** under the French flag.
- **Significance:** His voyages provided important descriptions of the coastlines, especially the **New England** and **Atlantic coasts**.

Christopher Columbus

- **Exploration:** Made his first voyage to the New World in **1492**.
- **Discovery:** First European to reach the **Bahamas** and several other islands in the Caribbean.
- **Significance:** His expeditions opened the door to the **Spanish colonization of the Americas**, starting an era of European exploration in the New World.

Amerigo Vespucci

- **Realization:** The first to realize that the **Americas** were separate from **Asia**.
- **Naming:** His voyages led to the continents being named **America** in his honor.
- **Significance:** His letters and maps helped Europeans understand the geography of the New World.

Ferdinand Magellan

- **Exploration:** Led the first expedition to **circumnavigate the globe**, even though he died before completing the journey.
- **Significance:** His crew completed the first voyage around the world, proving that the Earth could be circled by sea.

Henry Hudson

- **Exploration:** Explored the **Hudson River** while searching for a northwest passage to **Asia**.
- **Claim:** Explored areas of what is now **New York** and parts of Canada for the English and the Dutch.
- **Significance:** His voyages helped to open up trade routes and exploration in North America