

Age of Exploration

Essential Question: Why did Europeans take great risk to explore unknown territory? Explain the outcomes of the Age of Exploration.



Trade Routes

- In the 1400s, major trade routes from Asia went through two major cities, Venice and Genoa.
- Italian merchants marked up the prices on goods and sold them throughout Europe.
- Other European countries, like Spain and France, resented the huge profits made by Italians.

Inventions

- Caravel – Sailing ship invented by the Portuguese that allowed trade to happen faster.
- Printing Press
 - Invented by Johannes Gutenberg
 - Allowed Europeans to learn to read and write which allowed the standard of living to increase, but also informed Europeans about different theories of what the world was really like (flat vs. round)

Causes for European Exploration

- Gold – Europeans wanted more natural resources and the different trade routes opened up more opportunities for wealth.
- God – Missionaries wanted to spread Christianity
- Glory - Once the land was explored, Europeans claimed it as their own! The more land your country had, the more powerful your empire became!
- **Although some explorers wanted to become famous, their fame was often not recognized until after their death.

Portugal's Role

- In the 15th century, Portugal led the world in sea exploration.
- Prince Henry the Navigator
 - School of navigation and ship building
 - Never sailed on any of his voyages but sponsored many voyages down the African coast in hopes of finding a new route to Asia.
 - Also impacted other country's exploration process because of his school of navigation and inventions like the caravel.
- Vasco de Gama
 - Portuguese explorer who was the first explorer to sail from Europe (Portugal) to India.



Spain's Role

- Spanish explorers also wanted to find new trade routes to Asia.
- Christopher Columbus decided if he sailed west, he would get to Asia, however he was wrong.
 - He actually discovered the Bahamas
 - He also made detailed maps of the Caribbean and Central America.
- Ferdinand Magellan – Spanish explorer who named the Pacific Ocean and sailed completely around the world (although he died)
- Hernan Cortes & Francisco Pizarro – conquistadors (Spanish soldiers) who conquered New World civilizations like the Aztecs and Incas.

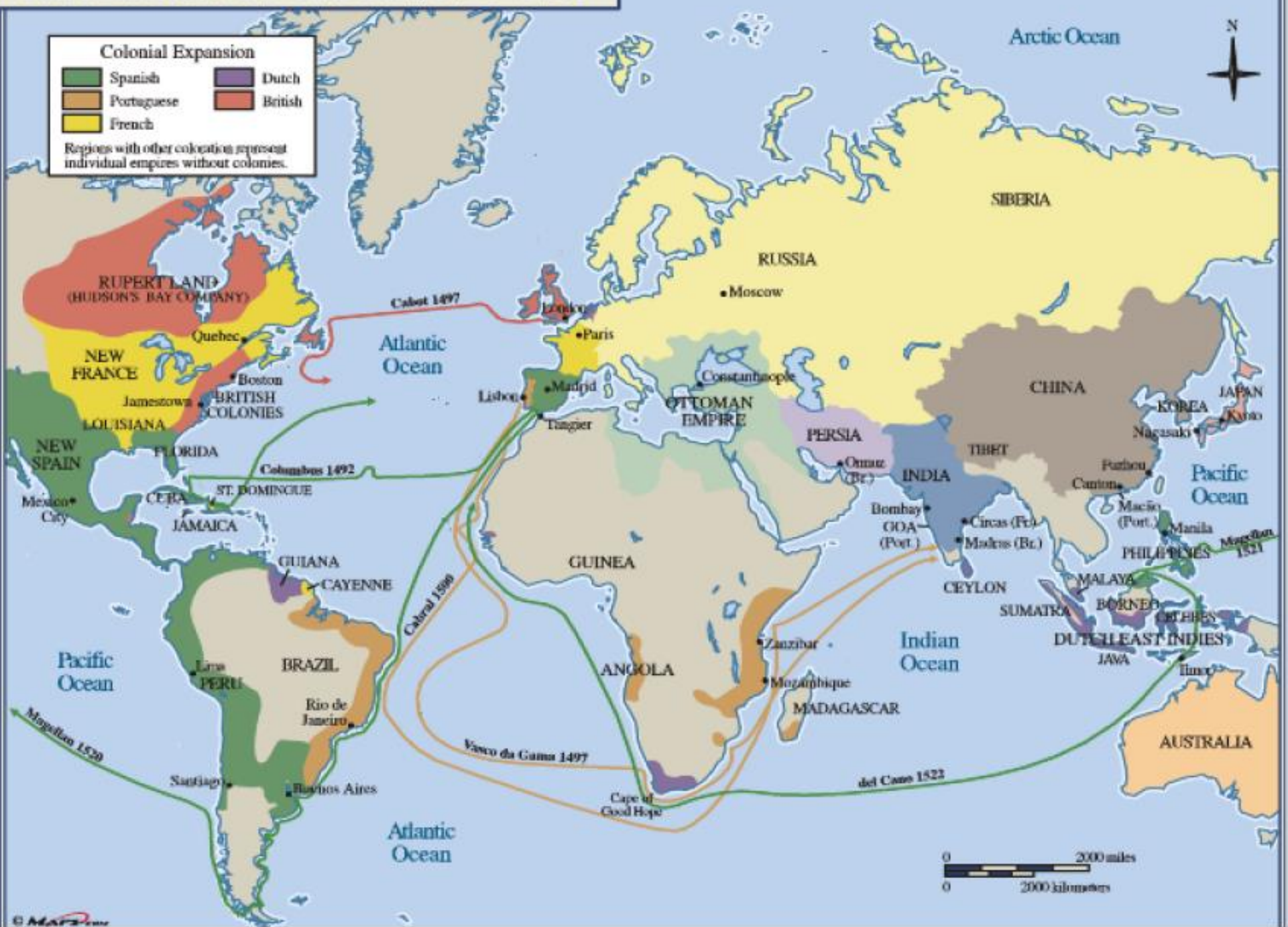
British Role

- John Cabot was an English explorer who sailed from Great Britain to present-day Canada.
- Prior to the 1700s, England, Wales, and Scotland were three different countries.
- In the 1700s, the three countries became Great Britain.
- We often think that the British played the most important impact because their culture can be seen in a lot of places all around the world (at one time they had colonies in all of the 6 major continents – No one lives in Antarctica so that doesn't count), but the British did not start really exploring until after the Reformation.

French Role

- Jacques Cartier was a famous French explorer who explored the St. Lawrence Seaway (Present-day Quebec) and claimed that land for France.

EXPLORATION AND EMPIRES, 1400-1700



Outcomes of Exploration

Once the new lands were discovered, Europeans became very greedy and wanted more. Europeans began to take over their newly found lands and set up colonies. They also took the natural resources from these lands and brought them back to Europe which made European nations very wealthy. Their economies were flourishing and European countries were becoming world powers.