

Name _____ Test Date: _____

Early Explorers Study Guide

Early Explorers from ITALY:

Columbus--1492

Planned Destination: Asia

His attempt to find a western route to Asia led the Europeans to the Americas.

Spain paid for his expedition to the Americas

Caboto--1497

Planned Destination: Cathay

The King of England sent him to find great riches.

Vespucci -- 1499

Planned Destination: Asia

He realized that he and other explorers had found an unknown continent.

Early Explorers from SPAIN:

Magellan--1522

Planned Destination: Asia

He was the first explorer to lead an expedition to sail around the world.

Portugal paid for Magellan's expedition to the Americas.

Balboa--1513

Planned Destination: The Isthmus of Panama

He was the first explorer to prove Vespucci's idea.

Early Explorer from PORTUGAL:

Cabral-- 1500

Planned Destination: Brazil

He claimed Brazil for Portugal.

Other important Information:

- Numerous years before the Europeans even arrived in the Americas, the Native Americans had already established powerful empires
- Magellan was a Portuguese explorer who led the first expedition to sail around the world.
- King Francis I, from France, and many other European Rulers wanted to find the Northwest Passage through North America
- **The Northwest Passage** is a sea route connecting the northern Atlantic and Pacific Oceans through the Arctic Ocean, along the northern coast of North America via waterways through the Canadian Arctic Archipelago.

Important Navigation Tools:

- Astrolabe: an astronomical instrument for taking the altitude of the sun or stars for helping with navigation.
- Compass: an instrument containing a magnetized pointer that shows the direction of magnetic north and bearings from it.