

America's Early European Explorers FloridaHistory.com

Explorer	Country of Origin	Year	Geographic Area Explored
Christopher Columbus	Spain	1492	Sailed westward to find route to China, found the New World
John Cabot	England	1497	Sailed to the Grand Banks while doing the same thing
Amerigo Vespucci	Italy	1498	Sailed South America's coast - later maps called it "America"
Vasco Da Gama	Portugal	1498	Sailed around the tip of Africa and reached the Indies Crossed Panama southward, finding the "South Sea," the Pacific
Vasco de Balboa	Spain	1513	Crossed Panama southward, finding the "South Sea," the Pacific
Ponce de Leon	Spain	1513	Landed in what is now Florida, claimed North America for Spain
Ferdinand Magellan	Spain	1519	First to sail around the world - around South America
Hernando Cortez	Spain	1519	Conquered the Aztec Empire of Mexico City
Giovanni da Verrazzano	France	1524	Explored North America from North Carolina to Newfoundland
Cabeza de Vaca	Spain	1527	Explored Gulf Coast America by land for seven years, record it
Francisco Pizarro	Spain	1531	Conquered the Inca Empire of Peru, claimed it for Spain
Jacque Cartier	France	1534	Sailed the St. Lawrence River, claimed it for France
Herando De Soto	Spain	1539	Explored deep into North America, claimed it for Spain
Francisco Vasquez de Coronado	Spain	1540	Explored North America's West to Kansas, claimed it for Spain
Tristan De Luna	Spain	1559	Short settlement in Mobile where his people explored Alabama
Pedro Menendez	Spain	1565	Founded St. Augustine, oldest lasting city in North America
Sir Francis Drake	Engalnd	1577	Treasure ship pirate, chased Spanish ships all over the world
Sir Walter Raleigh	Engalnd	1585	Founded and lost the first English colony in North America
The Pilgrims	England	1620	Sailed the Mayflower to Plymouth to attain religious freedom

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