

European Explorers

Explorer (s)	Years	Achievements
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For Portugal

Bartholomeu Dias	1487-1488	Sailed around the southern tip of Africa
Vasco da Gama	1497-1498	Sailed around Africa to India

For Spain

Christopher Columbus	1492-1504	Explored the West Indies and the Caribbean
Vasco Nunez de Balboa	1513	Saw the Pacific Ocean from the isthmus of Panama
Juan Ponce de Leon	1508-1509 1513	Explored Puerto Rico Explored Florida
Ferdinand Magellan	1519-1522	Led first expedition to circumnavigate (sail around) the world
Hernando de Soto	1516-1520 1539-1542	Explored Central America Led expedition to the Mississippi River

For England

John Cabot	1497-1501	Explored East Coast of North America
Henry Hudson	1610-1611	Explored Hudson Bay, Canada

For The Netherlands

Henry Hudson	1609	Explored East Coast of North America and sailed up the Hudson River
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For France

Giovanni da Verrazano	1524	Explored East Coast of North America including present day New York harbor
Jacques Cartier	1534-1542	Explored St. Lawrence River
Samuel de Champlain	1603-1615	Explored St. Lawrence River valley and founded Quebec
Jacques Marquette & Louis Joliet	1673	Explored along the Mississippi River
Robert La Salle	1679-1682	Explored Great Lakes and reached the mouth of the Mississippi River