

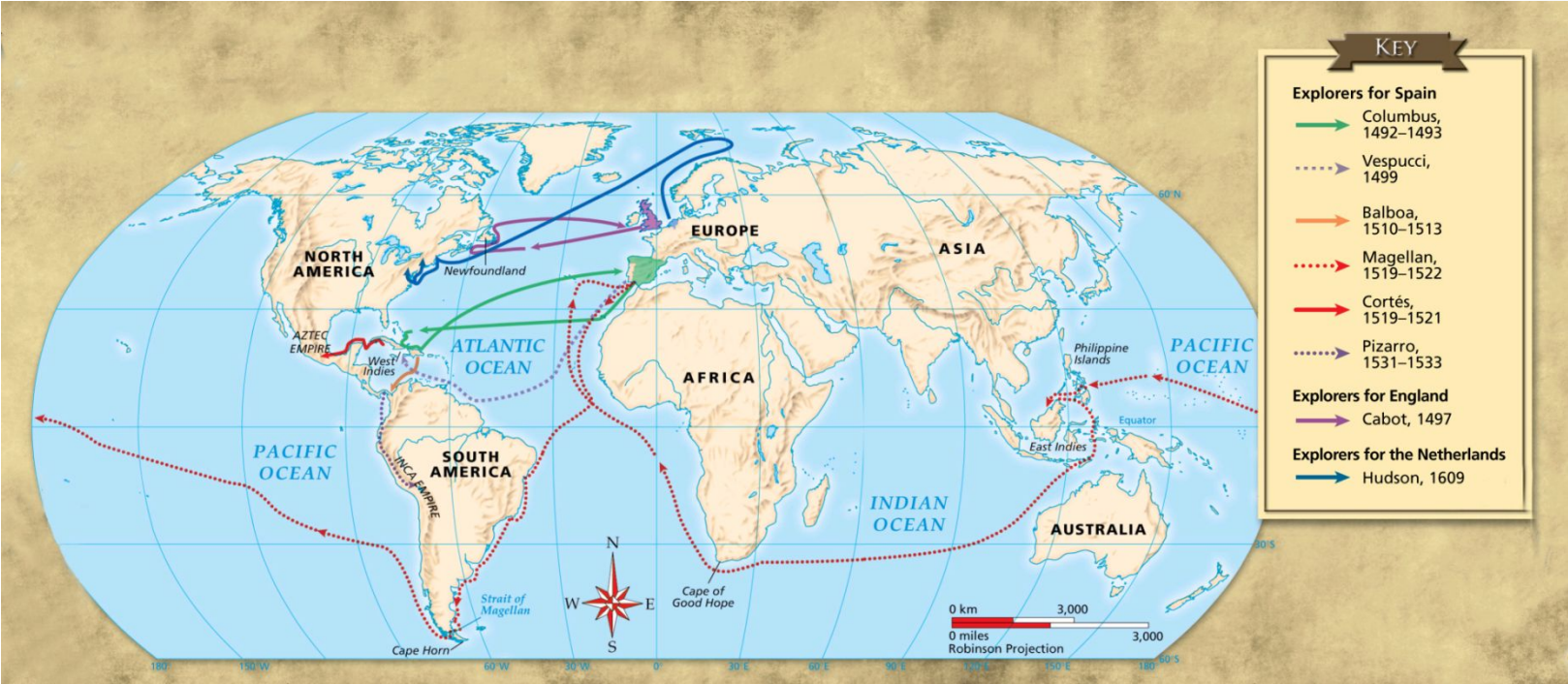
## Terms and People

- **Christopher Columbus** – an Italian explorer who sailed for Spain and landed in the Caribbean islands when looking for a route to Asia
- **Vasco Núñez de Balboa** – a Spanish colonist who was the first European to see the Pacific Ocean

## Terms and People

- **strait** – a narrow passage that connects two large bodies of water
- **circumnavigate** – to travel all the way around the Earth.
- **Ferdinand Magellan** – a Portuguese explorer who found an Atlantic-Pacific passage

# Early European Explorers



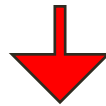
## **Objectives**

- Describe the Viking exploration of Newfoundland.
- Describe the voyages of Christopher Columbus.
- Describe the expeditions of Spanish explorers such as Vasco Núñez de Balboa and Ferdinand Magellan.
- Explain the importance of the Columbian Exchange.



## **How did the search for a water route to Asia affect both Europe and the Americas?**

Both the Crusades and the Renaissance motivated Europeans to look beyond their borders.



As European sailors searched for shorter routes to the riches of Asia, they came into contact with the people of the Americas.

Ancestors of today's Native Americans crossed into the Americas from Asia thousands of years ago.

There are also many theories about how people from Europe, Asia, and Africa might have visited the Americas in the distant past.





In Newfoundland, scientists have found the remains of a settlement of Vikings, a seagoing people who originally lived in Scandinavia.



According to an old Viking story, in 1001, Leif Erickson and 35 other Vikings sailed from a colony in Greenland to Newfoundland. For a short time, the Vikings explored the region, which they called Vinland.

**No one knows if Christopher Columbus heard the Viking stories, but he believed he could reach Asia by sailing west across the Atlantic Ocean.**

Columbus grew up in Italy and, in the 1470s, moved to Portugal, Europe's leading seafaring nation.



There, he studied and developed his idea for a voyage to Asia.





# Question

Columbus grew up in which country?

- A. Spain
- B. Portugal
- C. France
- D. Italy

The king of Portugal refused to finance Columbus's voyage, so Columbus sought help from Spain's King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella.



They eventually agreed, and in August 1492, Columbus set sail with his three ships, the *Niña*, the *Pinta*, and the *Santa Maria*.



On October 12, Columbus landed on a small island and claimed it for Spain.

Columbus then sailed to present-day Cuba and Hispaniola.

**He continued to think that he was in Asia.**



Columbus sailed back to Spain, where the king and queen made him governor of the “West Indies.”

Columbus made three other voyages to the Caribbean islands.



## The Voyages of Columbus

### Second Voyage

- In 1493, Columbus took soldiers, settlers, and priests to the "West Indies" to colonize them and to convert the people who lived there to Christianity.
- He also landed on other islands and enslaved local Native Americans to dig for gold.

### Third Voyage

- In 1498, Columbus reached the northern coast of South America and decided it was the Asian mainland.

### Fourth Voyage

- In 1502, Columbus tried to prove that he had indeed reached the Asian mainland on his third voyage.

# Question

Christopher Columbus believed  
he landed where?

- a.Asia
- b.Africa
- c.A new World
- d.France



In 1506, when Columbus died in Spain, he was still convinced that he had reached Asia.

However, when Italian explorer Amerigo Vespucci made two trips to the new lands, he thought he was in a "new world," not Asia.

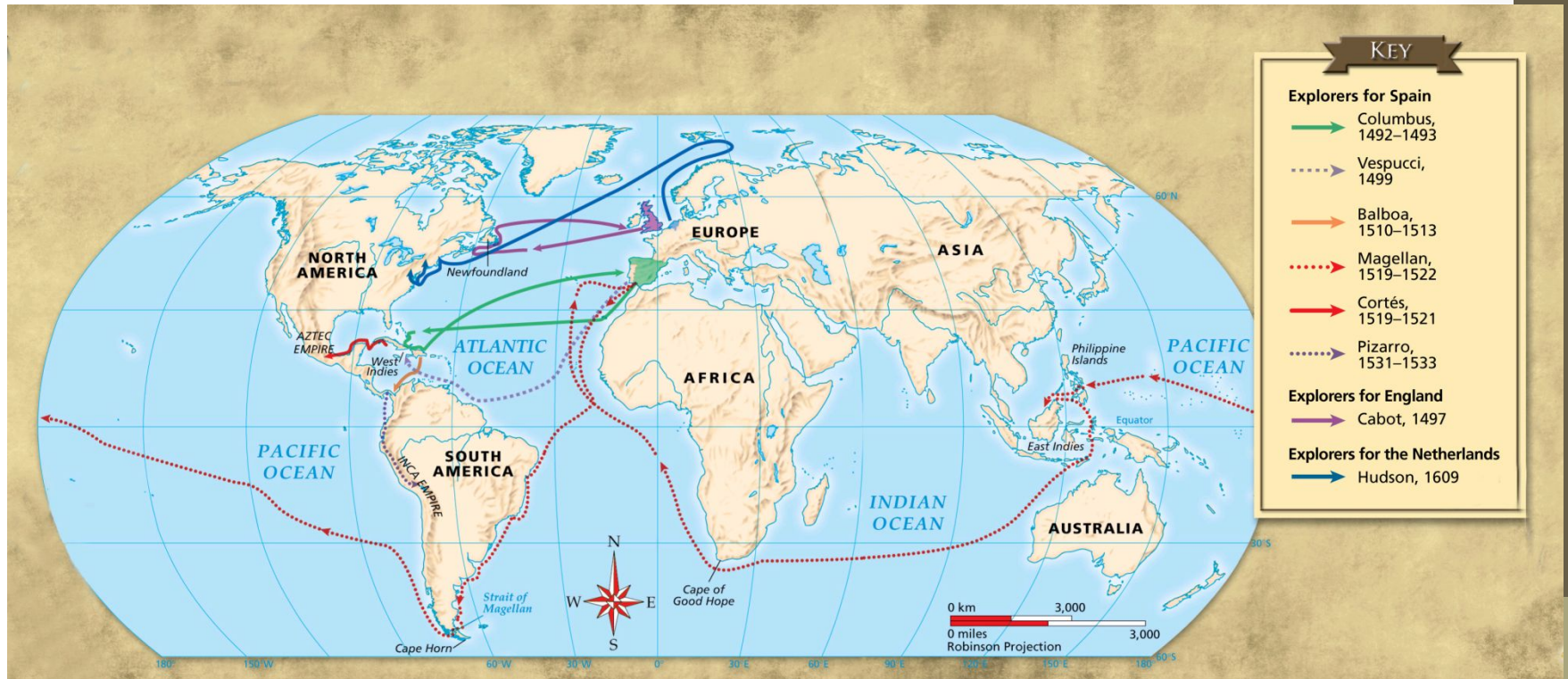
**The word *America* comes from Vespucci's name.**

In 1510, Spanish colonist **Vasco Núñez de Balboa** explored the Caribbean coast of what is now Panama. He hoped to bring back gold and treasures to Spain.

Balboa led his expedition through Panama, becoming the first explorer to reach the Pacific Ocean.



In 1519, Portuguese explorer **Ferdinand Magellan** set out to find an Atlantic-Pacific passage to Asia.



For more than a year, Magellan's small fleet sailed down the South American coast looking for a **strait**.



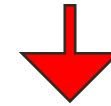
Near the southern tip of present-day Argentina, Magellan found a narrow passage.



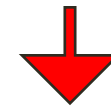
For 38 days, his ships sailed through what is now called the Strait of Magellan into the Pacific Ocean.



However, Asia was still far away. When Magellan's fleet finally reached the Philippine Islands, he and others were killed in a battle with Filipinos.



The survivors of the battle fled and reached Spain in 1522.



**Those men became the first to circumnavigate Earth.**

# Question

The survivors of Magellan's crew who fled, reached Spain in what year?

- a) 1492
- b) 1803
- c) 1522
- d) 1994



# Early Spanish voyages set the stage for the Columbian Exchange, a transfer of people, products, and ideas between the hemispheres.

## From Western Hemisphere to Eastern

Maize (corn)  
Potato  
Sweet potato  
Beans  
Peanut  
Squash  
Pumpkin  
Pineapple  
Tomato  
Cocoa  
Peppers  
Avocado  
Turkey

## From Eastern Hemisphere to Western

Wheat  
Rice  
Banana  
Peach  
Pear  
Sugar cane  
Watermelon  
Lettuce  
Horse  
Cow  
Sheep  
Goat  
Chicken  
Pig  
Disease (smallpox, typhus)



## The Columbian Exchange

### Positive Changes

- The Europeans introduced new food plants and domestic animals to the Western Hemisphere.
- The Americas introduced new food plants and animals to the rest of the world, which now account for nearly one third of the world's food supply.

### Negative Changes

- Europeans enslaved Native Americans as they mined for gold.
- Contagious diseases brought by Europeans killed Native Americans by the thousands.

## Quiz

1. a narrow passage that connects two large bodies of water

2. the first European to see the Pacific Ocean

3. travel completely around

4. Portuguese explorer who discovered an Atlantic-Pacific passage

a. Vasco Nuñez de Balboa

b. Christopher Columbus

c. Leif Erikson

d. Ferdinand Magellan

e. Strait

f. circumnavigate

5. The \_\_\_\_\_ brought new domestic animals, new food plants, and new diseases to the Western Hemisphere.

6. A \_\_\_\_\_ named Leif Erikson is thought to have reached North America around 1001.

7. Believing that he had reached a group of Asian islands called the Indies, Columbus called the inhabitants he encountered \_\_\_\_\_.

8. After Columbus's second voyage, 12 ships carried \_\_\_\_\_ back to Spain

9. What are two examples of the impact the Americas had on Europe during the Columbian Exchange?