

Lesson \$#6 U.S. History Early Voyages

Raiders from the North:

Vikings sailed straight across Atlantic from Europe to Iceland

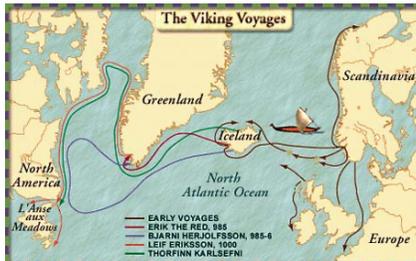
Newfoundland & Skraelings (Dorset people) a part of the Eskimo people that lived below tree line - tacking and new ship with speed – 40 knots

874 Iceland

986 Greenland

1000 Vineland

New Vineland (New World). Climate change in 14th century mini “ice age” caused sail in Atlantic difficult with increased icebergs. This interrupted colonization of Greenland



Europe in transition from Crusades - 1099 TURNING POINT

Shift in power of Kings – standing armies (gun powder)

Reformation: Martin Luther - John Calvin - John Knox - King Henry VIII

Renaissance - Humanism – wealth - Italian City-States controlled Mediterranean

Islam controlled Middle East trade with Italian City-States

Atlantic nations looked west to bypass Mediterranean and City-States

Europe was exposed to the Luxuries, new ideals, and, inventions of the East

1. Sugar
2. Spices
3. Plate around 1538 – used bread before
4. Fork around 1600
5. Glass windows around 1700
6. Handkerchief for nose not sleeve
7. Chair position of superiority – poor had bench
8. Straw bed –
9. Poor barefoot
10. Privacy did not develop until Black Death
11. Took a wealthy woman 5-6 hours to dress and changed 25-30 times a day – high heels to protect dress from puddles in street
12. Water not safe – Paris needed 22,000 gals per day
13. Brandy used as a medical treatment – Charles the Bald was wrapped in sheet soaked in it for a cure – servant held candle to close – opps!
14. Arabs introduced coffee as a medicine
15. Tea by Chinese
16. Chocolate by Mexico
17. Tobacco as a cure for migraine, reduce pain in child birth, hunger – smoke was seen as a medical treatment – 170 chemicals in tobacco

Conquest Period

1415 Portugal set off National exploration under Prince Henry to find a way to China by way around Africa

1443 Reached Cape Bojador (The Bulge) was the end of the earth and a mental barrier from 1424 to 1434.

1444 Introduce slaves in– made exploration profitable - Slavery – Islam & European West African Empires disrupted by Europeans entering the slave trade

1492 Spain enter conquest with unification of) Castile (Castilian grammar 1st modern language) and Aragon

Economic control demanded that secrecy be kept of all voyages. Open the way to the East by Africa and out of control of Italian city-states and the Arabs.

Portugal was the first nation State to finance exploration in Europe. Portugal is not on the Mediterranean Sea (Sea in the midst of land) and facing away from center of European civilization. Prince Henry (The Navigator) started the exploration of the “Sea of Darkness” the coast of Africa. Ships stayed close to the coast because they did not have the means of finding longitude.

The wealth of the East was in spices, perfumes, gold and jewels. Marco Polo had given an image of the East to the West. The spices were important because it covered the taste of food and stimulated salvation with production of gastric juices.

Money for the exploration after 1441 came from the sale of African slaves. Cape Verde was passed in 1445 and Bartolomeu Dias reach the Cape of Good Hope in 1488.

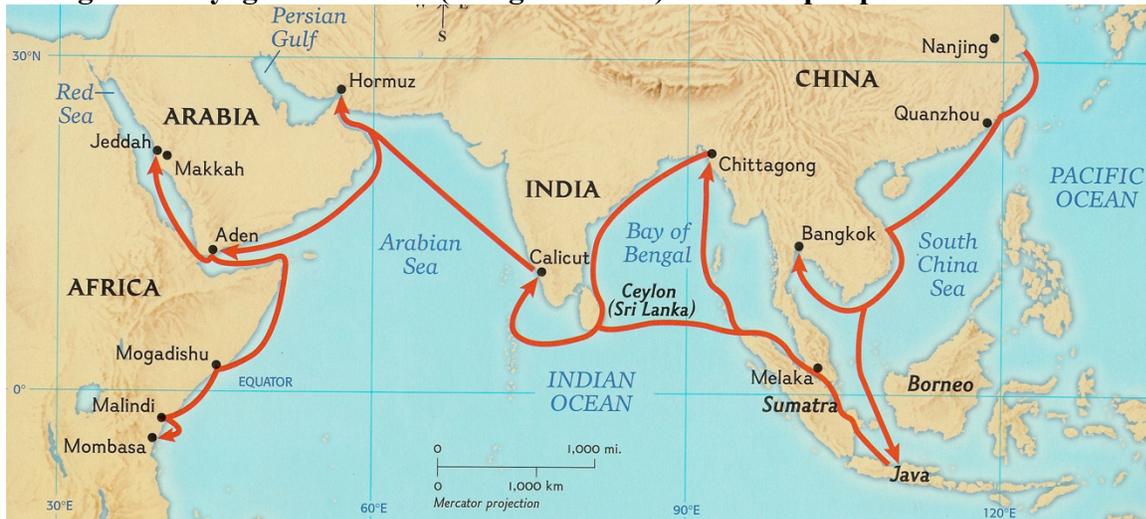
Vasco da Gama reached India in 1497. He had sailed with 170 men and reached India with 100 and of these only 55 men returned home with him. Scurvy was the main reason. It is the depletion of vitamin “C” which causes lethargic feeling with anemia, bleeding of the gums, loss of teeth, stiffness in joints and slow healing of wounds. Scurvy will be a problem until Capt. Cook introduce vitamin “C” with limes (giving English seamen a nickname) and punish sailors for being dirty in 1768 (his ship was 98 feet long and 29 feet wide).

Africa is by-passed because of bacteriological obstacles of dysentery, phthisis, dropsy, parasites, and other illnesses.

In 1502 Da Gama attack a pilgrim ship and looted it of \$23,000 and kill some 380 people onboard. Then in October he cut off the hands and feet of fishermen and traders sending them to shore with a message to make “curry” of them. Establishing the first permanent European naval force in the Indian Ocean. The price of pepper dropped 1/5 the price by 1503.

Ming Dynasty of China

Zheng He's Voyages 1405-1433 (In sight of land) China stop exploration in 1440's



Ma He claimed to be a descendant of Mongol prince and a Chinese Muslim taken captive by the Ming when they took back control of the territory. Ma He as was the practice He was made a eunuch to serve royal homes and was renamed Zheng He. In time He became an admiral for the Ming Dynasty. China was a leader in naval skills and built massive fleets with masted ships that were 400 feet long. The Santa Maria was 85 feet long.



He made seven voyages between 1412 and 1433. The largest fleet had 63 (9) masted ships with some 200 smaller ships and 27,000 men to impress those that the encounter on voyage. On one voyage He brought back exotic animals and flora. He died in 1433 and China cut off all explorations believing the outside world and became isolated since that world nothing to offer China.

There is some evidence that China seamen had reached North America before 1492. There is a map of the world with the oceans and seven continents. North America is identified as the land of Fu Sang.