

# THE AGE OF EXPLORATION



## Knowledge Organiser



### Christopher Columbus - A Man to Be Celebrated?

'Christopher Columbus was an Italian explorer who made four trips across the Atlantic Ocean. He was often (wrongly) said to have discovered the Americas and the New World in 1492. Nevertheless he did help Europeans learn more about the Americas and started a wave of exploration and trade. Columbus Day is a public holiday, celebrated by everyone in 1492.'

Christopher Columbus's trips caused a lot of problems for the indigenous people in the Americas. Many were treated badly, betrayed, enslaved, or died from diseases brought by Europeans. Some were even used as food for dogs. His arrival started a period of hardship and suffering for indigenous people.'

Source - Mr. P. Chantler. History Teacher, 2024.

Read the source above.

- 1 - Circle any words you don't understand
- 2 - Evaluate the source for reliability (by circling a score of out 10)

Not at all reliable - 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 - Very Reliable



### Explorers and Wayfinders - Put into chronological order OR rank in terms of significance

<p><b>Leif Erikson - Norse - 1000</b> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Vikings were famed explorers who ventured far and wide. Their most famous discovery was <b>North America</b>, around the year 1000 AD. Led by Leif Erikson, son of Erik the Red, they established a short-lived settlement at Newfoundland, Canada.</p>	<p><b>Sir Francis Drake - English - 1579</b> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>During his circumnavigation voyage, Drake landed on the Pacific coast of what is now California in 1579. He claimed the land for Queen Elizabeth I and named it Nova Albion ( New Albion ).</p>
<p><b>John Cabot - Britain - 1497</b> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>In 1497, John Cabot landed in North America (likely Newfoundland) on an English voyage. Though not the first Europeans in North America (Vikings), Cabot's discovery sparked future British claims in Canada.</p>	<p><b>Vasco Da Gama - Portugal - 1498</b> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>His discovery wasn't finding India itself as it was known to some Europeans but found the sea route. In 1498, he rounded Africa's Cape of Good Hope, finding the passage from Europe to India. This revolutionised trade and exploration.</p>
<p><b>Christopher Columbus - Italian - 1492</b> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>In 1492, Columbus sailed west seeking Asia, but "discovered" the Caribbean and Bahamas (already inhabited). This sparked European exploration and colonization of the Americas, with devastating consequences for indigenous people.</p>	<p><b>Marco Polo - Venetian : Italy - 1271</b> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Marco Polo, unlike explorers who found new lands, documented wonders of Asia. His writings introduced Europeans to paper money, gunpowder, and amazing Asian cultures. Lived in China for 17 years.</p>
<p><b>James Cook - English - 1768</b> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Captain Cook's Pacific voyages charted New Zealand, Australia's east coast, and Hawaii for the first time by Europeans.</p>	<p><b>Zheng He - Ming : China - 1405</b> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>In the early 1400s, Zheng He led the largest ships in the world on seven voyages of exploration to the lands around the Indian Ocean, demonstrating Chinese excellence at shipbuilding and navigation.</p>
<p><b>Polynesians - Wayfinders - 900</b> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Pacific Islanders were voyaging masters who navigated open-oceans without instruments e.g. compass, using instead their observations of the stars, the sun, the ocean swells, and other signs of nature for clues. Over centuries, they sailed vast distances across the Pacific, discovered the Cook Islands,</p>	

"Columbus had the spirit of a crusader ... he gave the world another world"

### Timeline

<b>1000 - Leif Erikson</b> Viking explorers - settlements and fishing routes created in North America.	<b>1497 - John Cabot</b> He lands in Newfoundland sparking future British claims in Canada.	<b>1607 - John Smith</b> Established the first English colony in the New World. ( Virginia colony )	<b>1776 - Independence</b> The 13 original American colonies break away from Britain.	<b>1803 - Into Asia</b> Sri Lanka (Ceylon) taken by Britain after war with the Kingdom of Kandy.	<b>17888 - Convicts</b> 800 convicts sent to the first penal colony in New South Wales.	<b>1841 - Waitangi</b> A treaty between Maori and British in New Zealand.	<b>1885 - Scramble</b> Countries such as Britain, France, Italy, Germany and Belgium all take Africa lands.	<b>End of WW1 - 1919</b> The Treaty of Versailles. Britain given mandates over Germany's African colonies.	<b>India - 1947</b> Gains independence from Britain. Pakistan formed as a result of the settlement.
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### Countries and Territories in the British Empire

Countries and Territories in the British Empire		Vocabulary
<p><b>North America</b></p>	<p>Known as the 'New World' - the British set up the original 13 colonies on the east coast. From 1775 the colonies fought against 'Mother Britain' during the War of Independence - USA formed on 4th July, 1776. Heavily involved in the trans Atlantic slave trade (cotton crop for Industrial Revolution) before and after independence.</p>	<p>Write a similar - simpler word</p> <p><b>Charted</b></p>
<p><b>Caribbean + Bermuda</b></p>	<p>Britain claimed Caribbean islands during the 17th and 18th centuries. The climate was perfect for the growth of important crops such as cotton and tobacco and many plantations were created. Helped grow British wealth. Bermuda, in the Atlantic Ocean - important island for the British navy during several wars including WW1.</p>	<p><b>Indigenous</b></p> <p><b>Colony</b></p>
<p><b>Africa</b></p>	<p>From 1881 many European countries competed in the 'Scramble for Africa'. This was a race to exploit the continent for land, resources such as gold and even to enslave people. By 1900 Egypt, Nigeria and South Africa were under British rule.</p>	<p><b>Planation</b></p> <p><b>Establish</b></p>
<p><b>Asia</b></p>	<p>After losing most of its territory in the New World - Britain turned towards parts of Asia in the 18th and 19th centuries.</p> <p>Sri Lanka (Ceylon), Hong Kong and Singapore taken over.</p>	<p><b>Documented</b></p> <p><b>Convict</b></p>
<p><b>India</b></p>	<p>India fell under British control; largely through the tea trade and the English East India Company. This developed and by 1858 India became officially under control of the British Raj. In 1876, Queen Victoria was titled the 'Empress of India.'</p>	<p><b>Imperialism</b></p> <p><b>Scramble</b></p>
<p><b>Australia</b></p>	<p>The first colonies were set up in New South Wales in 1788 when British convicts were sent there as a punishment for their crimes. 850 sent to Botany Bay in Sydney. Later, free settlers set up home such as the Swan River colony in Western Australia in 1829.</p>	<p><b>Sovereignty</b></p> <p><b>Mandate</b></p>
<p><b>New Zealand</b></p>	<p>Originally part of the colony in Australia, New Zealand became its own colony in 1841 when the indigenous Māori signed the Treaty of Waitangi. The treaty gave British authority over New Zealand. However, disagreements arose over the Treaty's interpretation. By 1870, only a few Māori leaders, including Te Whiri were left to resist.</p>	<p><b>Circum</b></p>

### Significance - Impact

Find out more the explorer that interest you the most.

Using the significance chart and information from this page, and explain which explorer was the most significant.

"Those who fled were hunted down with dogs." - ( Natives captured by Columbus)



# SIGNIFICANCE IMPACT ANALYSIS

**Area of Impact - focused or broad?**  
Household - local - state - regional - national - global - international - urban - rural?

**Response**  
From the media - newspapers.  
Increased publicity - awareness  
BIG reaction or counter - reaction  
backlash? Apathy?  
Pendulum swing?

**Group Impact - narrow or wide?**  
Women - men - young - old - rivals - grass roots - neutrals - supporters - rich - middle classes - workers - farmers - poor - minorities - other?

**Time - Longer Term**  
Sowed seeds - symbolic - historic - iconic - irreversible - ground breaking - stepping stone - domino effect - left a legacy.

**Time - Short Term**  
Spark - trigger - immediate - catalyst - spontaneous - short lived - turning point or false dawn?

**Power Dynamic - Balance**  
Changed or added / removed - laws, institutions, religion (secular v church), political systems, a move towards or away from democracy / dictatorship?

**People, Attitudes, Behaviour**  
Deep personal impact - inspired other people + events - changed zeitgeist, culture, norms, trends, behavior - reaction - counter reaction - backlash?

**Useful Terms**  
**Significant** - change that is important, widespread + long term  
**Impact** - effect on a person / situation - creates change. Can be short term  
**Analysis** - study of information and form a judgement about it  
**Domino Effect** - one event leading to another  
**Legacy** - remembered through the ages  
**Secular** - separate / away from religion  
**Zeitgeist** - general belief system of a time period  
**Institution** - established system ( e.g. government )  
**Catalyst** - something that speeds up a process