GUIDED READING  Europeans Explore the East

Section 1

A. Following Chronological Order  As you read about the age of exploration, take notes to answer questions about events listed in the time line.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Questions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1400</td>
<td>Prince Henry starts a navigation school.</td>
<td>1. What technological advances made possible the age of exploration?</td>
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<td>1419</td>
<td>Bartolomeu Dias rounds the southern tip of Africa.</td>
<td>2. What were some immediate and some long-term outcomes of Columbus’ voyage?</td>
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<td>1487</td>
<td>Christopher Columbus reaches the Caribbean.</td>
<td>3. What was the most important result of this agreement?</td>
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<td>1492</td>
<td>Spain and Portugal sign the Treaty of Tordesillas.</td>
<td>4. How did Portugal benefit from his voyage?</td>
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<td>1494</td>
<td>Vasco da Gama reaches the port of Calicut on the Indian Ocean.</td>
<td>5. Why did Spain set up trading posts in Asia?</td>
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<td>1500</td>
<td>Ferdinand Magellan leads a Spanish expedition to the Philippines.</td>
<td>6. How did the Dutch gain control of much of the Indian Ocean trade?</td>
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<tr>
<td>1565</td>
<td>Spain begins settlements in the Philippines.</td>
<td>7. How did the European battles for Indian Ocean trade affect the peoples of Asia before the nineteenth century?</td>
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<td>1600</td>
<td>The Dutch establish a trading center on Java.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1619</td>
<td>France sets up its own East India Company.</td>
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B. Drawing Conclusions  On the back of this paper, explain the role played by the Dutch East India Company in European exploration.
In 1455, the Venetian explorer Alvise da Cadamosto, traveling in the service of Portugal’s Prince Henry the Navigator, sailed south along the coast of West Africa as far as the Gambia River. In the following excerpt from his travelogue, he describes Cape Verde and nearby islands. As you read his description, think about different features that he observed during the course of his explorations.

This Capo Verde is so called because the first to discover it (who were Portuguese) about a year before I was in these parts found it all green with great trees [mangrove swamps], which remained in leaf throughout the year. For this reason they gave it the name of Capo Bianco, of which we have already spoken, was found entirely sandy and white and was therefore called “Cabo Bianco.” This Cabo Verde is very beautiful and lofty; on the point there are two hillocks. It runs far into the sea, and on the cape and in its vicinity there are many dwellings of negro peasants, huts of straw, close to the sea, and visible to those who pass. These negroes belong to the said Kingdom of Senega.

Off [the cape] we found three small islands, not very far from the land, uninhabited and covered with tall green trees. Being in need of water, we anchored off one of them [Gorée], which appeared the largest and most fruitful, to ascertain if any springs were to be found there. On landing we found no water, except in one spot where there was a little water, but which was of no use to us. We found many nests on the island, and eggs of various birds [un]known to us. While we remained here we all fished with lines and large hooks and caught a great number of fish: among them shell fish and very large mature dories, weighing from twelve to fifteen pounds each. This was in the month of June.

Thence, the following day, we continued to sail on our voyage, always within sight of land. Beyond Cabo Verde there is a gulf inland. All the coast is low, covered with very fine, tall, green trees, which never shed their leaves throughout the year [that is they never wither, as do ours], for new leaves appear before the old fall. These trees come right down to within a bowshot of the beach, so that it appears as though they flourished in the sea—a very beautiful sight. In my opinion, who have sailed to many places in the Levant and in the west, I have never seen a more beautiful coast than this appeared to me—watered by many rivers. . . .

Running with the wind along this coast, still voyaging southwards, we discovered the mouth of a river, perhaps a bowshot wide, and of no great depth. To this river we gave the name of Rio di Barbazini [the Joal], and thus it is named on the “carta da navigar” of this country made by me. It is distant sixty miles from the Cabo Verde. We always navigated this coast and beyond by day, anchoring each evening at a deserted spot in ten or twelve passa [two passa equal roughly one fathom] of water, and four or five miles from the shore. At dawn we made sail, always stationing one man aloft and two men in the bows of the caravel to watch for breakers which would disclose the presence of shoals.

Sailing thus we reached the mouth of another large river, which appeared to be no smaller than the Rio de Senega. When we saw this fine river [the estuary of the Solum and Jumbas rivers], and the beautiful country, we cast anchor. . . .


Activity Options
1. **Determining Main Ideas**  Create a chart to illustrate what Cadamosto found when he explored Cape Verde and nearby islands. Use the following headings—Geography, Plants, Animals, Peoples.

2. **Interpreting Maps**  Use a map of Africa to find Cape Verde on the western coast. Then determine the distance that Cadamosto and his crew sailed from Portugal to Cape Verde.

Excerpt from The Voyage of Cadamosto and Other Documents on Western Africa, edited and translated by Gerald Crone. Used by permission of David Higham Associates Limited on behalf of The Hakluyt Society.
PRIMARY SOURCE  The Treaty of Tordesillas

In 1493, Pope Alexander VI tried to end the Portuguese and Spanish dispute over land claims. He drew an imaginary dividing line, the Line of Demarcation, from north to south through the Atlantic Ocean. Lands west of the line would belong to Spain; lands east of the line would belong to Portugal. King John of Portugal, however, was dissatisfied with this arrangement. To appease him, the line was moved further west, eventually giving Portugal a claim to Brazil. In 1494, Spain and Portugal signed the Treaty of Tordesillas, which settled the controversy once and for all. What did Portugal and Spain agree to in this portion of the treaty?

Section 1

Whereas a certain controversy exists between the said lords, their constituents, as to what lands, of all those discovered in the ocean sea up to the present day, the date of this treaty, pertain to each one of the said parts respectively; therefore, for the sake of peace and concord, and for the preservation of the relationship and love of the said King of Portugal for the said King and Queen of Castile, Aragon, etc. it being the pleasure of their Highnesses, they... covenanted and agreed that a boundary or straight line be determined and drawn north and south from pole to pole, on the said ocean sea, from the Arctic to the Antarctic pole. This boundary or line shall be drawn straight, as aforesaid at a distant of three hundred and seventy leagues west of the Cape Verde Islands, being calculated by degrees. . . . And all lands, both islands and mainlands, found and discovered already, or to be found and discovered hereafter, by the said King of Portugal and by his vessels on this side of the said line and bound . . . in either north or south latitude, on the eastern side of the said bound . . . shall belong to and remain in the possession of and pertain forever to, the said King of Portugal and his successors. And all other lands, both islands and mainlands, found or to be found hereafter . . . by the said King and Queen of Castile, Aragon, etc. and by their vessels, on the western side of the said bound . . . in either its north or south latitude, shall belong to . . . the said King and Queen of Castile, Leon, etc. and to their successors.

Item: the said representatives promise and affirm . . . that from this date no ships shall be dispatched—namely as follows: the said King and Queen of Castile, Leon, Aragon, etc. for this part of the bound . . . which pertains to the said King of Portugal . . . nor the said King of Portugal to the other side of the said bound which pertains to the said King and Queen of Castile, Aragon, etc.—for the purpose of discovering and seeking any mainlands or islands, or for the purpose of trade, barter, or conquest of any kind. But should it come to pass that the said ships of the said King and Queen of Castile . . . on sailing thus on this side of the said bound, should discover any mainlands or islands in the region pertaining, as aforesaid, to the said King of Portugal, such mainlands or islands shall belong forever to the said King of Portugal. . . . And if the said ships of the said King of Portugal discover any islands or mainlands in the regions of the said King and Queen of Castile . . . all such lands shall belong to and remain forever in the possession of the said King and Queen of Castile. . . .

And by this present agreement, they . . . entreat our most Holy Father that his Holiness be pleased to confirm and approve this said agreement, according to what is set forth therein; and that he order his bulls in regard to it to be issued to the parties . . . and that he lay his censures upon those who shall violate or oppose it at any time whatsoever . . . .


Discussion Questions

Determining Main Ideas

1. Where was the imaginary Line of Demarcation drawn?
2. According to the terms of the treaty, what would happen if Portuguese ships sailing on the Spanish side of the boundary line discovered land, and vice versa?
3. Clarifying  What purpose did this treaty serve?
The tiny kingdom of Portugal had made a major seafaring breakthrough in 1488, when Bartolomeu Dias sailed to the Cape of Good Hope at the southern tip of Africa. However, it was not until the mid-1490s that King Manuel of Portugal decided to send another voyage south. He chose a little-known sailor named Vasco da Gama, and he took the first step in creating a Portuguese trading empire in Asia.

Born around 1460, much of da Gama’s early life is unknown. It is believed that he was born to poor but noble parents and that his father served as governor of Sines, the town where da Gama was born. He had two older brothers, who both later joined him on his trips. He remained an obscure figure until 1492. That year he captured some French ships in a Portuguese port during a period of hostility between the two European powers.

In 1495, King Manuel was making preparations to send an expedition around Africa to reach the valuable spice markets of India. He had named da Gama’s father to head the voyage, but the old man died that year. As a result, Manuel chose da Gama. In July 1497, da Gama departed with four ships. Rather than follow the West African coast, he swung far out into the Atlantic Ocean, hoping to avoid the areas of little wind called the doldrums. It was not until late November that the group passed the Cape of Good Hope. It took them another five months to work their way up the eastern coast of Africa, stopping at several ports along the way.

These ports were largely controlled by Muslim merchants. Though many of these merchants welcomed the Portuguese, some Muslim ships attacked the Portuguese explorers in Mombasa, located in modern Tanzania. In da Gama’s next stop in modern Kenya, the ruler there gave the Portuguese an expert guide. He led them across the Indian Ocean to Calicut, the center of the Indian spice trade. They landed there on May 20, 1498, more than ten months after they had left Portugal.

Da Gama was unable to meet the leader of Calicut for ten days, however. Furthermore, when the two men did meet, the conference went badly. The Portuguese had brought few goods of value to India, and the ruler expected gold in return for the spices that da Gama desired. Relations soured, and the Indians and the Portuguese both took prisoners. Later, the captured people were exchanged, but in August of 1498, da Gama and his crew left for home after hearing rumors of plots against them. They only had a small cargo of spices, but they had shown that the route could work.

The return voyage was more difficult than the journey there. Thirty men died of disease, including da Gama’s brother Paulo, who had commanded one of the ships. Da Gama finally reached Portugal on September 9, 1499, two years after having left. He was given a hero’s welcome.

A second voyage to Asia, commanded by another man, produced poor relations with the Indians, and the king called on da Gama again. In 1502, he set out with a much larger fleet of 20 ships that were armed for hostilities. When he reached the Indian coast, da Gama captured a ship loaded with Muslims making a pilgrimage, then killed them and burned the ship. When the ruler of Calicut refused to cooperate with da Gama, da Gama had his sailors shell the city. After picking up a cargo of spices in more friendly cities, he returned to Portugal.

Da Gama’s actions raised alarms among the Muslims. They formed an alliance with the rulers of Egypt and other Indian cities to resist the Portuguese. From then on, the Portuguese built their trading empire by force, not by peaceful commerce. Da Gama made one more trip to Asia. Named Viceroy of India by the king, he was supposed to restore order but died shortly after arriving there.

Questions

1. **Determining Main Ideas** What hardships did da Gama and his crew suffer during the first voyage?

2. **Drawing Conclusions** Why didn’t the Portuguese enjoy more success in their first voyage?

3. **Making Inferences** Why did the Muslims oppose the Portuguese arrival?
Two developments in Europe during the 15th century led to significant advances in cartography, the science of making maps. First, Geography, a book written by the Greco-Egyptian astronomer Claudius Ptolemy around A.D. 150, was translated into Latin so that it could be read by scholars. This eight-volume work included maps and the latitude and longitude of approximately 8,000 places in the world. Ptolemy also provided instructions for making various types of maps, or projections.

Second, the invention of the printing press in the mid-15th century also contributed to progress in cartography. Previously, if an explorer needed a map, it had to be slowly copied by hand. Now, the printing press enabled many identical copies to be made quickly. The first printing plates were made of wood. Soon, maps were etched on copper plates that allow lines to be drawn more accurately.

By the end of the 1400s, most educated Europeans understood that the world was round. The first globe, made by a German navigator named Martin Behaim, appeared in 1492. However, cartographers still wrestled with the problem of how to accurately draw a globe on a flat piece of paper.

As exploration increased European knowledge of geography, navigation charts for sailors began covering huge areas of the globe. Larger charts meant that maps became more distorted when trying to account for the curved surface of the earth. Lines of latitude were rounded, making it difficult for sailors to draw straight-line compass courses.

A revolutionary breakthrough in mapmaking occurred in 1569. A Flemish cartographer named Gerardus Mercator invented a way to draw an accurate flat map. The technique involved drawing a map as if it had been projected onto a cylinder, or tube. Unrolling the cylinder produced a map on which lines of latitude and longitude were next to each other. This allowed compass courses to be plotted in straight lines with far more accuracy than had been possible before.

While Mercator’s map significantly improved navigation, it included some problems. Lines of latitude became farther apart toward the northern and southern areas of the map. This flaw distorts the proportions of the world. It makes lands near the poles (Greenland) appear too large and areas near the equator (India) too small. Nevertheless, Mercator’s invention has been the standard projection for world maps for over 400 years.

Questions
1. **Determining Main Ideas** What two major developments sparked significant advances in mapmaking in the 15th and 16th centuries?

2. **Drawing Conclusions** Why would curved or rounded lines of latitude make it difficult for sailors to accurately draw straight-line compass courses on maps?

3. **Making Inferences** Why do you think the printing press could have such a huge impact on mapmaking and exploration?
RETEACHING ACTIVITY Europeans Explore the East

Clarifying  Write T in the blank if the statement is true. If the statement is false, write F in the blank and then write the corrected statement on the line below it.

___ 1. The desire to spread the faith of Islam was an important reason for an age of European exploration in the 1400s.  

___ 2. The main reason for European exploration was the search for new sources of wealth.  

___ 3. Europeans hoped to expand their trade for spices such as nutmeg, ginger, and pepper.  

___ 4. A direct sea route to North America was needed to help European merchants gain control of East-West trade from the Muslims and Italians.  

___ 5. The invention of the caravel and other improvements in sailing technology made voyages of exploration possible.  

___ 6. Prince Henry “the navigator” used his personal fortune to support a number of Portuguese voyages of exploration along the coast of Africa.  

___ 7. Bartolomeu Dias’s exploration of the east African coast gave Portugal a direct sea route to India.  

___ 8. The Treaty of Tordesillas established an invisible line through the Atlantic Ocean, with lands west of the line belonging to Italy and lands east of the line belonging to Portugal.  

___ 9. An expedition led by Magellan claimed the Philippine Islands for Spain, which began settling them in 1565.  

___ 10. By 1600, the Portuguese had the largest fleet of ships in the world and had become a leading sea power.