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**Main reasons for exploring: Water route to Asia. Later looking for: gold, glory, and to spread Christianity.**

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| **EXPLORER & DATE OF EXPLORATION** | **SPONSORING**  **COUNTRY** | **REASONS FOR VOYAGE** | **OBSTACLES** | **ACCOMPLISHMENTS** |
| **Christopher Columbus**  **1492** | **Spain** | **Open trade routes for Spain and bring the word of** [**Jesus Christ**](http://www.answers.com/main/ntq-dsid-1648-dekey-jesuschrist) **to the non-Christians he expected to meet, Sail to India.** | **Poor maps and navigation equipment. Thought he made it to Asia.** | **Made 4 voyages to the “new land.” Explored Caribbean Islands including Hispaniola.** |
| **John Cabot**  **1497** | **England** | **Searching for a northwest passage (seaway) to Asia. To claim land for England in what is now Canada.** | **Weather.** | **Discovered Greenland, Labrador, and Newfoundland.**  **Died in England.** |
| **Vasco Nunez Balboa**  **1513** | **Spain** | **Searching for treasures in South America and wanted to conquer natives.** | **Trouble raising money for explorations.**  **Found guilty of treason to Spain and beheaded in 1519.** | **First European to see the Pacific Ocean.** |
| **Juan Ponce de Leon**  **1513** | **Spain** | **Searching for Fountain of Youth and other riches.** | **Very cruel to natives. Killed by Native Americans in 1521,** | **First European to reach Florida. Named Florida for the Spanish name for flower. Established oldest European settlement in Puerto Rico.** |
| **Jacques Cartier**  **1534** | **France** | **Searching for a northwest passage (seaway) to Asia, gold & spices.** |  | **First European to sail St. Lawrence River. Paved the way for French exploration of North America. Led 3 expeditions to Canada. Died in France.** |
| **Henry Hudson**  **1607** | **England** | **Searching for a waterway, northwest passage, from Europe to Asia.** | **Died in 1611 when his crew mutinied and left him and his son adrift in a small boat in the Hudson Bay.** | **Explored the areas of present day New York. Credited with discovering area that is now New York. Hudson Bay and Hudson River are named for him.** |