Age of Exploration

- European explorers searched for a better trade route to Asia
  - Wanted gold, luxury goods, glory, and to spread Christianity
- Europeans wanted to trade goods directly with Asia, rather than rely on Arab or Italian merchants
  - These merchants taxed the goods heavily
Age of Exploration

Why did they begin exploring by sea?

- Wanted a quicker way to get eastern goods
- Wanted to spread Christianity
- Wanted Christian allies with whom they could face threatening Muslim powers
- Learning and imagination
Age of Exploration

Technology and Exploration

- New technology allowed explorers to venture away from the sight of land
  - Magnetic compass
  - More accurate maps
    - Before this, most maps were inaccurate
    - Cartographers put lands on maps that were only rumors
    - By the time of the Renaissance, maps were better and used latitude and longitude
Age of Exploration

- Ships that used several masts & sails
- Allowed them to sail faster and with less human labor
- These ships were called caravels
Portugal Leads the Way

- Portugal was the 1st country to venture into the Atlantic Ocean looking for a route to Asia
- Prince Henry the Navigator
  - Brought together mapmakers, mathematicians, and astronomers to study navigation
  - Paid for explorers’ expeditions
  - 1st one to suggest sailing to India by going around Africa
Bartholomew Diaz (1488)

- Discovered the southern tip of Africa (Cape of Good Hope)
- Proved that ships could reach Asia by sailing around Africa
Vasco da Gama (1497)

First to find a water route to Asia -- first to round the tip of Africa to India
Spain’s Quest for Riches

Ferdinand & Isabella backed the voyages of Christopher Columbus
Spain’s Quest for Riches

- Columbus sailed from Spain in 1492
  - Planned to reach India by heading west across the Atlantic
  - Landed on the Bahamas, but thought he found India
  - Explored the islands in the area
  - Returned to Spain as a hero
  - Made 3 more voyages before he died
Spain’s Quest for Riches

- Line of Demarcation = a line drawn by the Pope down the middle of the Atlantic Ocean
  - Spain had control of lands west of the line
  - Portugal had control of lands east of it
  - Line moved much further west with the signing of the Treaty of Tordesillas (1494) = gave Portugal control of Brazil & Spain got the rest of South America
Voyage of Magellan

- Ferdinand Magellan (1519)
- Headed west from Spain
- Reached a narrow passageway at the southern tip of South America
  - Named the Strait of Magellan
Voyage of Magellan

- After 4 months, he reached the Philippines
- Magellan was killed during the journey
- After 3 years at sea, his crew returned to Spain
Voyage of Magellan

- Magellan’s ships had **circumnavigated** = circled the globe
- Proved the world was round and larger than anyone thought
- Also proved the oceans were connected
Differences Between European and Chinese Exploration

- Size
- Motivation
- European continuation of exploration versus Chinese ending of it