

AGE OF DISCOVERY

Key Expeditions & Global Encounters (15th - 17th Century)

YEAR	EXPLORER	SPONSOR	SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENT
1488	Bartolomeu Dias	Portugal	First European to sail around the southern tip of Africa (Cape of Good Hope).
1492	Christopher Columbus	Spain	Reached the Bahamas, initiating permanent European contact with the Americas.
1498	Vasco da Gama	Portugal	Discovered the direct sea route from Europe to India via the Atlantic Ocean.
1519-1522	Ferdinand Magellan	Spain	Led the first expedition to successfully circumnavigate the globe.
1534	Jacques Cartier	France	Explored the St. Lawrence River and claimed what is now Canada for France.
1577-1580	Sir Francis Drake	England	Completed the second circumnavigation of the world and explored the Pacific coast.

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1609	Henry Hudson	Netherlands	Explored the Hudson River and New York Harbor area for the Dutch East India Company.
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