

Global Interactions

*The Emergence of the First
Global Age (1450–1750)*



Eastern exploration

Europeans in the Americas

Global trade

Thematic Icons



Economics and business



Geography and environment



Historical concepts and questions



Politics, government and citizenship



Religion and thought



Society and culture



War, diplomacy and foreign policy

Icons: For more detailed instructions, see the *User Guide*



Flash activity (these activities are not editable)



Teacher notes included in the Notes page



By the end of this section, you will have learned about the European exploration of the East, and be able to answer the following key questions:

- Why did Europeans want to explore the East?
- What developments were necessary before exploration could take place?
- How and why did Portugal lead the way in Eastern exploration?
- How did other nations become involved?





In order to contextualize the age of exploration, use this timeline to recap previous key historical events. Either press on a date or drag the pointer along the timeline to find out information about what happened in each year.

Press **start** to begin.

start





Reasons for exploration

During the Crusades, Europeans had developed a taste for Asian luxury items like silks and spices, including cinnamon, ginger and pepper.

However, these goods were difficult to get. They had to pass through the Muslim empires and Italy to reach Western Europe.

The long journey and low supply made Eastern goods very expensive. Western merchants wanted to find an ocean route to Asia to cut out the Muslim and Italian middle men.



Can you think of any other reasons for exploration?



Before Europeans could attempt long ocean expeditions, certain developments were necessary to make such voyages possible. Press on the items to learn how new technology and economic systems allowed Europe to enter an age of exploration.
Press **start** to begin.

start



What kinds of problems did explorers continue to face?



The Portuguese Prince Henry was eager to spread Christianity and find an alternate trade route to Asia.

In 1419, he founded a school of navigation for geographers and sea captains. Over the course of his life, Henry sponsored 14 expeditions along the West African coast. He became known as **Henry the Navigator**.



It took Portugal's government 60 years to pay off the debt from these voyages. However, Henry's expeditions put Portugal at the forefront of European exploration in the East.

How might other nations react to Portugal's voyages?



Europeans claim the East



As European nations competed to find new trade routes to the East, they came into conflict with one another and with the people they encountered. Watch this animation to learn more about European exploration and trade in the East.

Press **start** to begin.

start





True or false?



Read the following statements
about European exploration
and decide whether each one
is true or false.

Press **start** to begin.

start

