

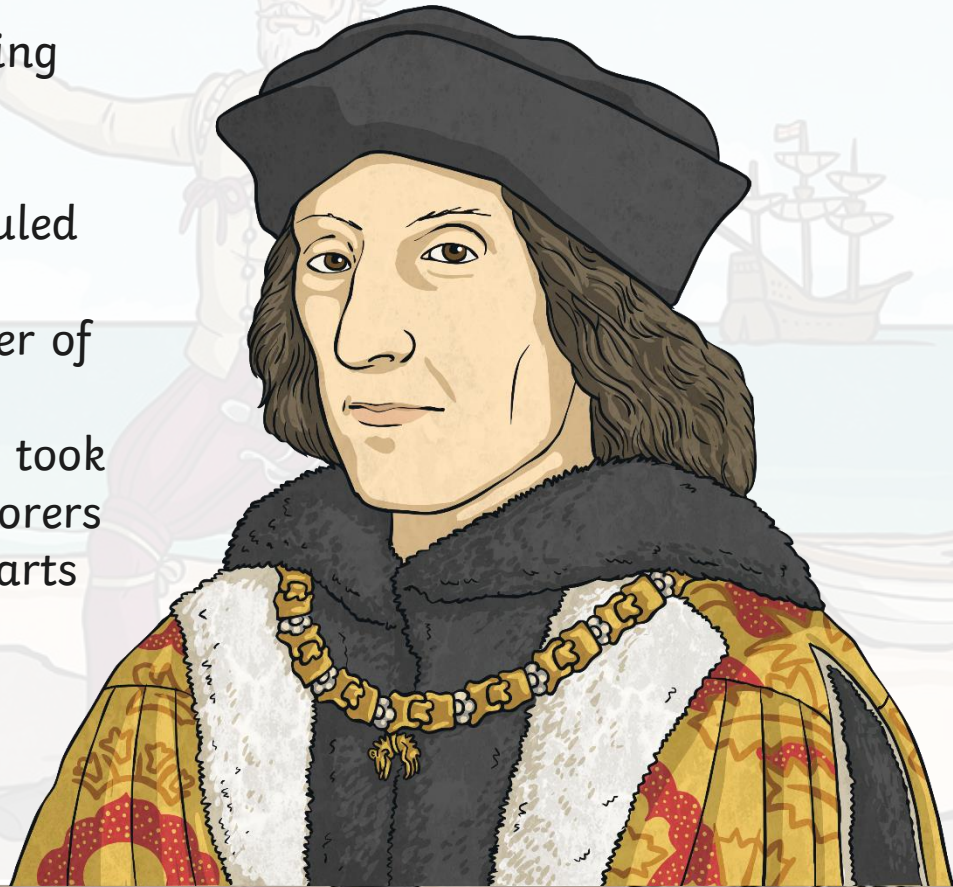
A cartoon illustration of a Tudor explorer standing on a rocky beach. He is wearing a black cap with a red feather, a tan tunic, and puffed purple trousers. He holds a large white flag with a red cross in his right hand. A sword is tucked into a scabbard on his left hip. In the background, a large sailing ship is on the water, and a small rowing boat is on the sand. The sky is blue with white clouds.

Tudor Explorers and Their Discoveries

twinkl

The Reign of King Henry VII

In 1485, Henry VII became King of England after defeating Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth Field. The Tudors ruled England until 1603 when Elizabeth I (the granddaughter of Henry VII) died. During this period, the age of exploration took place as many European explorers came in contact with other parts of the world.

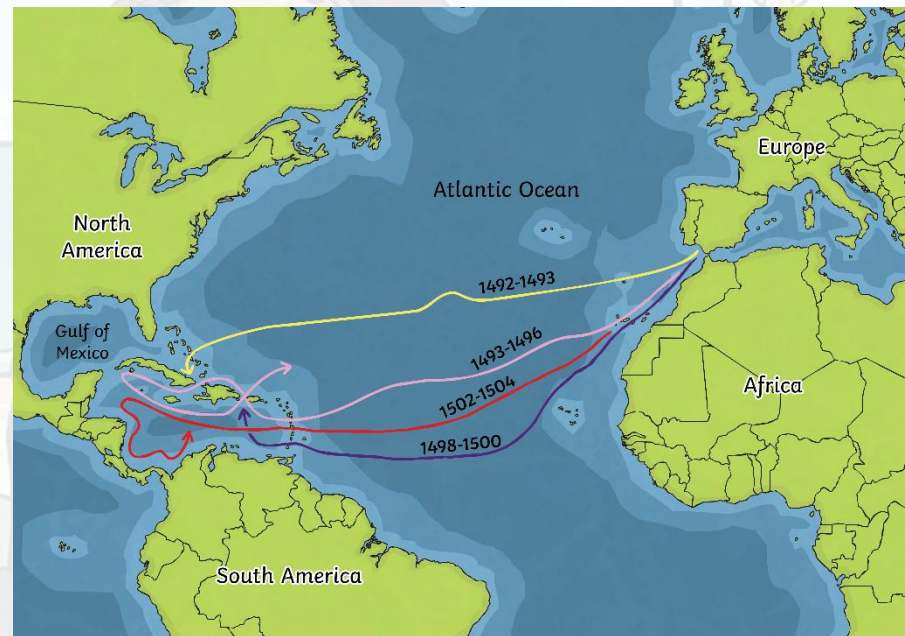


Spanish Exploration

The King and Queen of Spain funded the travels of Italian-born explorer Christopher Columbus, with the intention of finding better trade routes to the East Indies.

In 1492, Columbus landed in Central America; he thought that he had arrived in India. Consequently, he called the people there Indians.

He completed four voyages during his lifetime. He is recognised as the first person to record his journeys in the Americas.

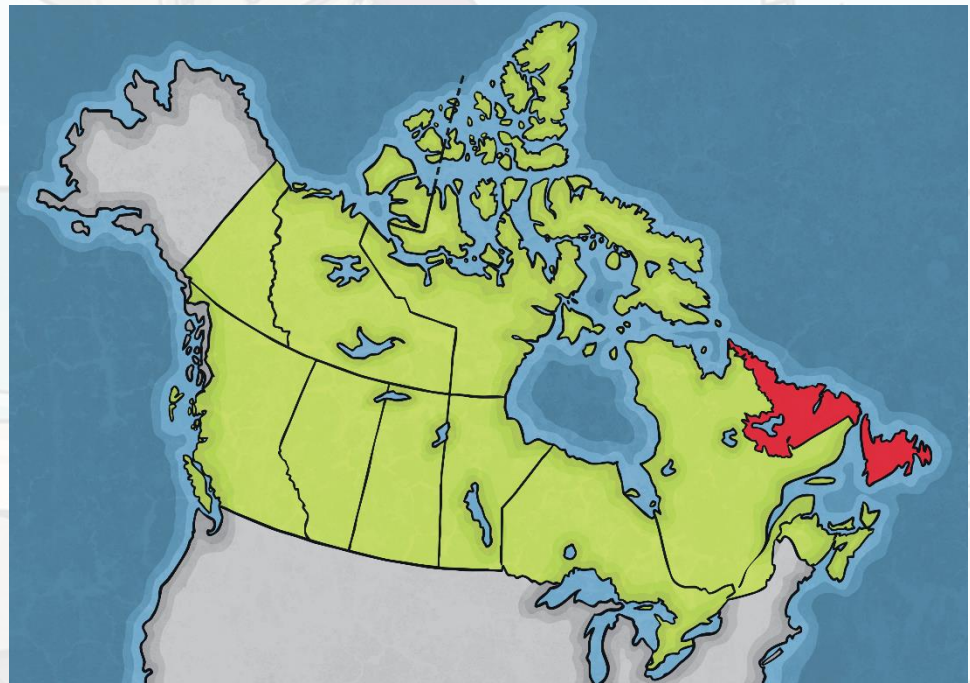


John Cabot 1450 - 1500

John Cabot was an Italian navigator. In 1496, he was given permission by Henry VII to find a route to Asia.

In 1497, Cabot left Bristol on his ship called **The Matthew**.

A month after setting sail, Cabot discovered a 'new found land'. The name stayed and it is known as Newfoundland in Canada.



The Reign of Henry VIII

Henry VIII was not interested in discovering new lands or routes.

His first wife, Catherine of Aragon, was a Spanish princess. This meant that Henry did not want to cause any unrest with the Spanish by interfering with their overseas exploration.

During the reign of Henry VIII, English traders exported cloth to Europe with great success. They concentrated more on this lucrative trade rather than taking part in voyages of discovery to find new markets.



The Reign of Edward VI

After Henry VIII's death in 1547, his son, Edward, was crowned King Edward VI.

He was a lot more interested in exploration and discovery compared to his father, especially as he faced problems with cloth exports. He needed to find another route for trade.

In 1553, three English ships set sail. Unfortunately, bad weather caused two of the ships to be destroyed. One ship finally managed to reach north-east Russia and a trade deal was agreed.



The Reign of Elizabeth I

The Elizabethan era is known as the golden era of exploration.

English merchants were keen to trade their goods around the world; however, they needed money from Queen Elizabeth to fund their trips.

MINI TASK

Look at the painting opposite.
What does the painting tell us about exploration in Elizabethan times?
What could be happening in the picture behind her?



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The Reign of Elizabeth I

The Elizabethan era is known as the golden era of exploration.

English merchants were keen to trade their goods around the world; however, they needed money from Queen Elizabeth to fund their trips.

In this picture, we can see Elizabeth's international power and fame as she rests her hand on the globe and the fleets of Spanish ships are blown by a violent gale towards rocks in the background.



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Sir John Hawkins 1532 - 1595

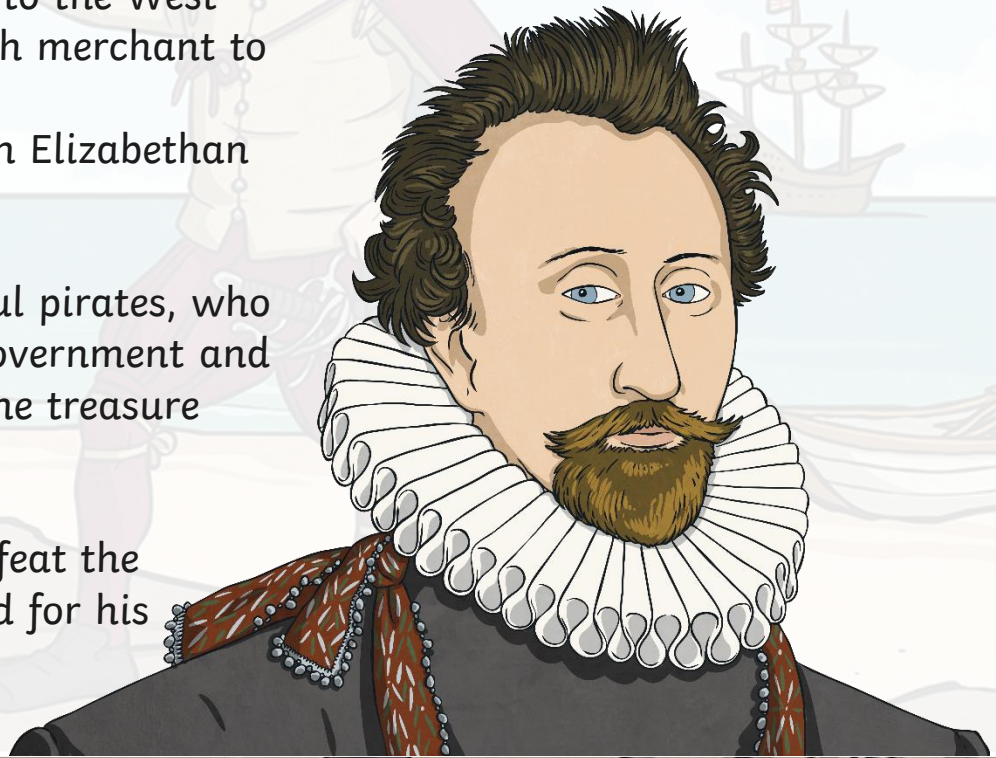
John Hawkins was born in Plymouth and was the cousin of another Elizabethan explorer, Sir Francis Drake.

In 1561, he made his first voyage to the West Indies. He became the first English merchant to be involved in the slave trade.

In 1569, John Hawkins became an Elizabethan privateer.

Elizabethan privateers were lawful pirates, who were given permission by their government and monarch to attack and plunder the treasure ships of enemy nations.

In 1588, John Hawkins helped defeat the Spanish Armada; he was knighted for his services to Elizabeth I.



Sir Francis Drake 1540 - 1596

Francis Drake was a British explorer and naval captain, born in Devon. He was the first Englishman to sail around the world.

He was known for being a brave and brilliant sailor. He led a number of victorious sea battles against the Spanish, which helped England become an important sea power.

Between 1577 and 1580, he became the first Englishman to sail around the world. During this voyage, he landed near modern-day San Francisco and named it **Nova Albion**. He claimed this area for the Queen.

He returned from explorations in the Indies with ships full of spices and treasures plundered from the Spanish.

Sir Francis Drake was also praised for defeating the Spanish Armada in 1588.

Francis Drake's last voyage was with John Hawkins to the West Indies. Having attacked many Spanish ships in his time, and stolen their treasures, the Spanish were ready for him this time. Drake died of dysentery on 28th January 1596 off the coast of Panama.

Sir Walter Raleigh 1552 - 1618

Walter Raleigh was an adventurer and an explorer, born in Devon. He was also a particular favourite of the Queen.

He led an expedition to the New World, where he claimed North Carolina and Virginia for her and England.

Raleigh tried, unsuccessfully, to start a British colony on Roanoke Island but settlers left the colony a year after it was set up.

As a favourite of the Queen, he was knighted in 1587. However, Elizabeth was a very jealous person. When she heard of his secret marriage, she was furious and she had him imprisoned in the Tower of London.

He was charged with defying King James I and attacking the Spanish during his last voyage. As a result, he was executed in 1618.

Raleigh is often recognised for bringing tobacco and potatoes to England, but they were already known through the Spanish. He did make smoking popular though.

The term the 'New World' refers to areas of America.

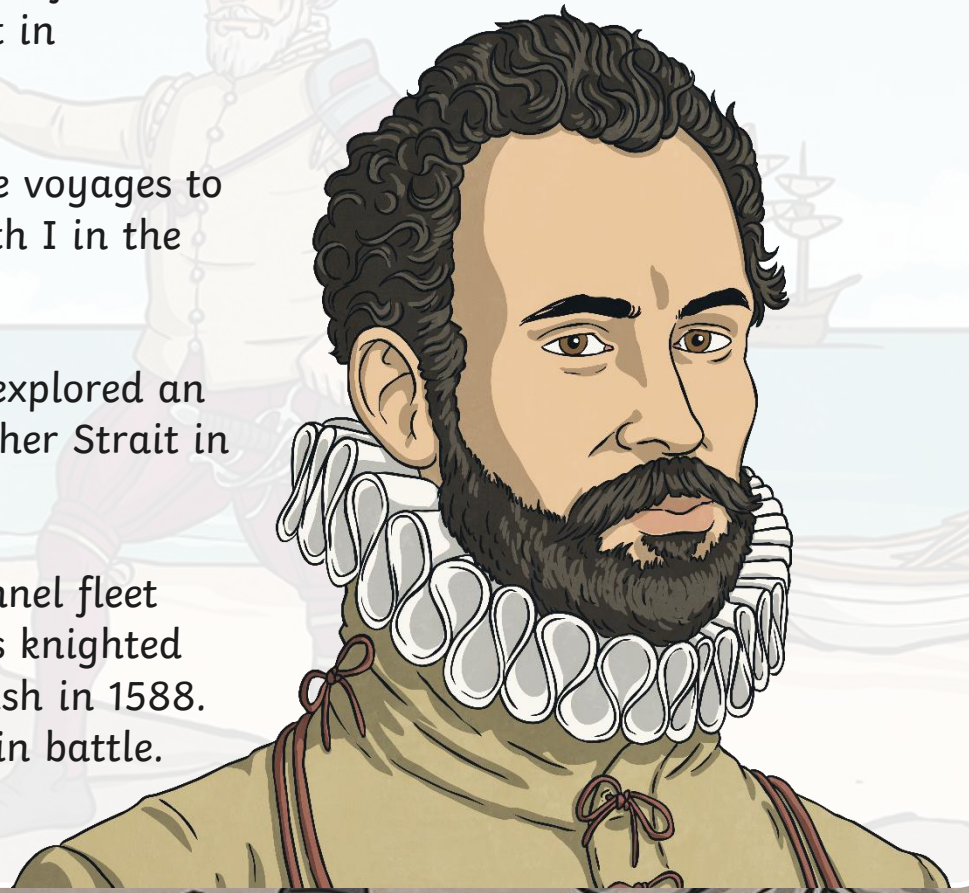
Sir Martin Frobisher 1539 - 1594

Martin Frobisher was born in Yorkshire but grew up in London. He was involved with the trading industry and it wasn't long before he was going to sea, originally to fight in sea battles.

However, he also embarked on three voyages to the New World financed by Elizabeth I in the search for a North-West Passage.

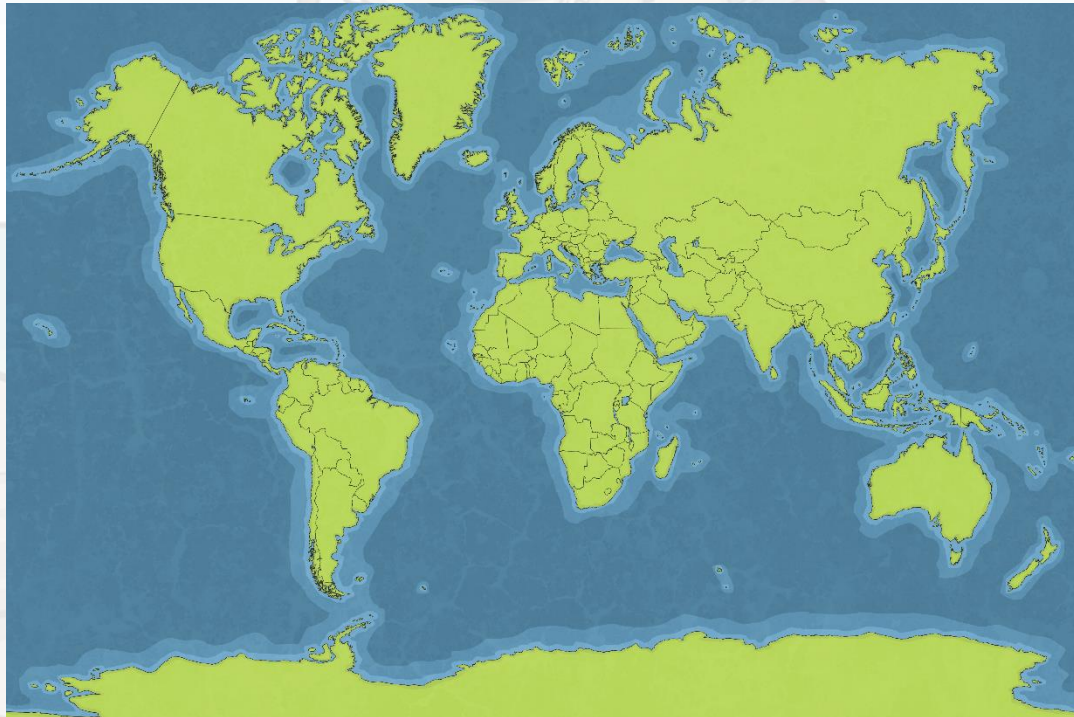
During his first voyage in 1576, he explored an area which is now called the Frobisher Strait in northern Canada.

He was given command over a channel fleet during the Spanish Armada; he was knighted after the English defeated the Spanish in 1588. He died in 1594 after being injured in battle.



Was This Period a Golden Era?

Through their courage and daring, the Tudor explorers made England a wealthy nation. However, these explorers were also very controversial. They have often been criticised for causing many wars and battles and they used violence to achieve their aims.



TASK

What legacy did Tudor exploration leave?

Use the information above and research your own facts and present your findings in any form you like - a poster, powerpoint, leaflet etc..