European Exploration

The 3 G’s of Exploration

and

The 4 Corners Model
European Exploration

1) Why was Portugal the first to set sail?

2) Why do you think there was a desire to explore? Was there a need?

3) What was Columbus looking for?
European Exploration

The Mentality

**Mercantilism** - Policy by which a nation sought to export more than it imported to build up its supply of gold and silver (wealth). All profits went to the Nation!!!

**Zero-sum gain** - There is a fixed sum of wealth in the world, and for every winner there is a loser…

**Question:** Following the Renaissance and the Rise of Monarchies, why do you think Europeans went exploring?

**Answer:** MONEY and RESOURCES!!! War was a big drain!
European Exploration: Motivations

Motivations (for):

1) Europeans were also looking for new trade routes to India, China, and other places… Why?

2) Europeans were also looking to spread Christianity…

1) The 3 G’s - God, Gold, and Glory
2) Capabilities
European Exploration: Motivations (1)

God: Spread the good word!

1492 - Christopher Columbus sets out to find new Trade routes to India and China to cut out the middle-men (the Ottomans)

The Ottomans were Muslims… bad to Christians…

Every time Europeans wanted to trade with China or India they had to pass through Ottoman trading posts; this meant that they had to give money to the Muslims.

If money = power, who was getting powerful in this deal?
European Exploration: Motivations (1)

God:

By Columbus’ time (1492) the last of the Muslim Strongholds in Spain had been defeated, this led to a Shift in European focus…

*Pre 1517* - The focus of Europe was fighting the Muslims

*After 1517* - Their focus is on spreading Christianity to new lands… you can’t let the heretics get to them first!
Gold: They wanted money of their own!

Originally they got their money by cutting out the Ottomans from trade.

Later, Europeans start looking for resources from the Americas and Africa... not good for either continent!

- Spain = South America for silver and gold.
- England = North America for natural resources Africa for manual labor
- France = Also North America
European Exploration: Motivations (1)

Glory: For the glory of the king!

The way to make the country more powerful was to Increase its wealth. You do this by getting as much as You can.

If you didn’t get the wealth someone else would! They Would win and you would lose!

The more wealth a country had = more power in war! Victory over your enemies was everything!
European Exploration: Motivations (2)

Capabilities: What allowed the Euros to cross oceans?

By the 1400s Portugal is building good ships, and making accurate sea charts.

With the use of the compass “borrowed” from the Chinese, the Portuguese are able to navigate well.

Combining old designs together the Portuguese were able to make a small, fast, and maneuverable ship design…
European Exploration: Motivations (2)

Viking ships had square sails to capture the wind…

Early Chinese ships had triangle sails, allowing them to cut through wind currents…
European Exploration: Motivations (2)

The Portuguese combined the 2 sail designs to come up with their own design.

This design was later modified by the Spanish... The Galleon...
European Exploration: Motivations (2)

Prince Henry the Navigator - 1394 through 1460
For military reasons and trade routes he encourages Sailors to push farther and chart new areas.

The Portuguese sail down the African west coast, as they do so they set up trading stations along the coast… these trading stations would later become the origins of the African slave trade.

1492 - Christopher Columbus lands in San Salvador and calls the locals Indians; thinking that he had arrived in India (he thought the earth was 8,000 miles around)…
1497 - Vasco de Gama, a Portuguese sailor, goes around The cape of good hope (south Africa) en route to India.

Gama finds himself in the Indian Ocean and finds a century-old ocean trade network (Arabs and Africans).

They weren’t too impressed with the Portuguese.
European Exploration: Motivations (2)

The Arab and African ships were not equipped with any sort of weapons... The Portuguese were, they had front mounted canons... They forced the Arabs into moving goods for them.

Now Europeans use naval technology to affect naval trade.
Europe Exploration: Motivations (2)

America Exploration:

American exploration takes place during the 1500s, primarily the teens to 20s.

The Europeans (even with their cannon ships that the Chinese don’t have) don’t have land power, so they can’t conquer the Chinese… yet…

The Americas change all of this!
Europe Exploration: Motivations (2)

America Exploration: The Colonies

Colonies were needed to strengthen the mother country!

A – To produce a valuable commodity, like sugar and tobacco...
B – For raw materials to build items back in the mother country.
C – To produce commodities that the mother country can’t make. This will mean that they don’t have to rely on trade or imports.
   - America has tall trees – LUMBER for ship masts!
   - Now Europeans won’t have to rely on Russian lumber.

ALL goods and materials went to the mother country.
America Exploration: The Caribbean and Slavery

The Spanish and Portuguese have the ability for colonies first, so they are the first to the Caribbean, primarily for sugar.

The Europeans brought diseases with them that the Native Americans did not have immunities against… this resulted in a holocaust…

With no Native Americans to work the sugar fields, where do you find workers?... How about Africa!
America Exploration: The Caribbean and Slavery

Modern slavery focuses in Africa in 1440 (approx.)

By 1550 the Portuguese were sending 15,000 slaves per year to the Americas and Europe.

The English, French, and Dutch see profit in this, so they join in…

The west coast populations of Africa act as capturers, they go inland and get slaves to sell.

The central African nations provided the slaves.
- Wars between tribes resulted in slaves.
- European guns provided more…
Europe Exploration: Motivations (2)

America Exploration: The Caribbean and Slavery

The Africans were packed onto ships. The Europeans knew that “X” number of the slaves were going to die, so that packed them in tighter to compensate…
- They planned on losing 20% en route
- Some of these were suicides.

The slaves were first brought to the West Indies in the Caribbean for “seasoning”. Those that survived the tough sugar plantation life were sent to North America.

The average lifespan for an African in the Caribbean was 3 years…
European Exploration: Motivations (2)

The 4 Corners Model

1. Europe
   - Need Resources
   - Manufacture goods
   - Provide slave ships
   - ALL of the profits went to Europe...

2. North America
   - Provides Resources like lumber, sugar, tobacco...

3. West Africa
   - Provides the human labor (slaves).
   - Provides gold, silver, ivory, cotton, grain...

4. Caribbean
   - Provides sugar, rum, coffee, indigo, cotton.
   - Profits from these products drive the system...
The Columbian Exchange

Christopher Columbus unknowingly set in motion an exchange of goods between Europe and the Americas that would become known as the Columbian Exchange.

The exchange involved:
- Plants (Early Islam 700-1100CE previously)
- Foods (Early Islam 700-1100CE previously)
- Crops (Early Islam 700-1100CE previously)
- Animals (Early Islam 700-1100CE previously)
- Human populations
- DISEASES!!!
  - Smallpox, measles, diphtheria, w. cough
  - 1519 = Smallpox devastates Aztecs (17-1.3m)
  - 1500-1800 = 100m +

Overall, the Columbian Exchange increased world populations...
1500=425m, 1600=545m, 1700=610m, 1800=900m
The Columbian Exchange

From Europe:
- Wheat
- Horses
- Cattle
- Pigs
- Sheep
- Goats
- Chickens

From the Americas:
- Maize
- Potatoes
- Beans
- Tomatoes
- Peppers
- Peanuts
- Pineapples…
Emerging Global Trade

For the first time Africa, Asia, Eurasia, Europe, AND the Americas were connected in global trade.

China, the premier power at this time will use it’s *muscle* to set the conditions of trade by demanding Silver (their basis of currency).

This global market sets the stage for global resource exploitation by the 1600s.