



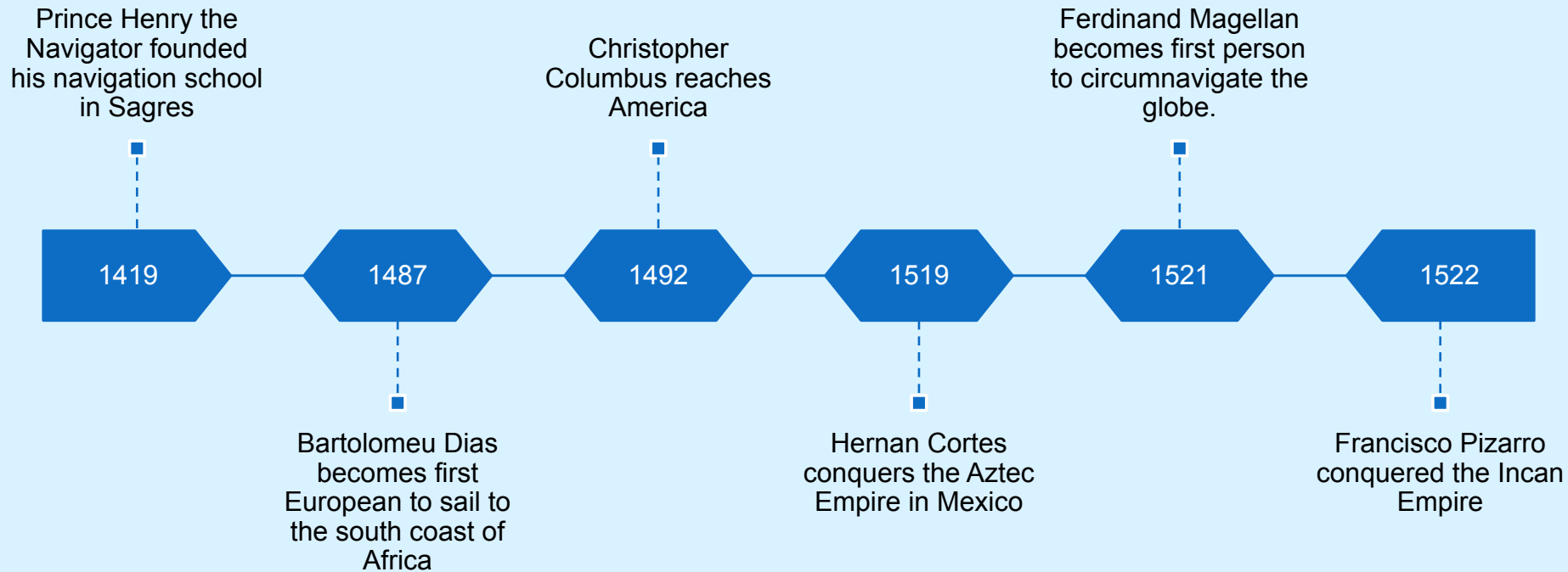
Ch. 9 – The Age of Exploration and Conquest

1400-1750

Learning Outcomes

- 3.2 **EVALUATE** the impact of conquest and colonisation on people, with particular reference to Portuguese and Spanish exploration.
- 3.11 **EXPLORE** the contribution of technological developments and innovation to historical change.
- 1.2 **CONSIDER** contentious or controversial issues in history from more than one perspective and discuss the historical roots of a contentious or controversial issue or theme in the contemporary world
- 1.7 **DEVELOP** historical judgements based on evidence about personalities, issues and events in the past, showing awareness of historical significance

Timeline – The Age of Exploration and Conquest



Introduction

- In the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, many European countries began to explore the wider world by sea, for various reasons.
- New technology made long voyages possible for the first time.
- Thus began a period of several hundred years when Europeans first explored, then took over, much of the rest of the world.
- In this chapter, we will focus on South America – how civilisations there were conquered and how this had a lasting impact on both sides of the Atlantic.

9.1 The Reasons for European Exploration

Problems of sea travel

- Travel by sea was limited and difficult in the early 1400s.
- Ships could not navigate accurately, often ending up further from where they had planned to go.
- Many sailors were afraid of the unknown.
- In the early 1400s, it was believed that the Earth was flat.
 - If they sailed too far they would end up falling over the edge.
 - Others believed the earth was full of monsters

Reasons to explore

- Europeans began to explore the wider world from the mid 1400s onwards for several reasons
 - **The influence of the Renaissance:** People were eager to learn and questioned previous teachings.
 - The rediscovery of *Geographia* by the Roman writer **Ptolemy** changed how people understood the world.
- **The stories of Marco Polo:** Polo was a fourteenth-century Italian who had travelled to China.
 - He brought back many ideas and wonders that people wanted to see for themselves.

Reasons to explore

- **New trade routes:** The trade in **silks and spices** (needed for the preservation and flavouring of food) from the East was very popular.
 - After the Black Death, Europe's population grew rapidly and wealthier.
 - The Renaissance proved the merchants could become very wealthy if they could get goods into Europe quicker.
- **The fall of Constantinople:** The Great Silk Road was the main route to get spices and other goods from the East.
 - After Constantinople was conquered by the Turks, this route was cut off from Europe so new routes were needed.

Reasons to explore

- **Desire for empire:** Many European rulers sponsored voyages of exploration so that they could expand their territory.
 - Western European countries (France, England, Portugal and Spain) wanted to undermine Italy's power by bypassing the Mediterranean trade route.
- **Spreading Christianity:** The Pope encouraged Christian rulers to defeat Muslims who had gained control of the Middle East during the Crusades.

Questions Pg. 116 (Artefact Textbook)

1. What problems did sailors face on long voyages in the 1400s?
2. What role did the following factors have in the voyages of discovering:
 - a. The Renaissance
 - b. Trade routes
 - c. The desire for empire
 - d. Religion
3. Which of the causes of the voyages do you think was most important?
Give a reason for your answer.

9.2 Technological Change: Advances in Exploration

Before the Age of Exploration

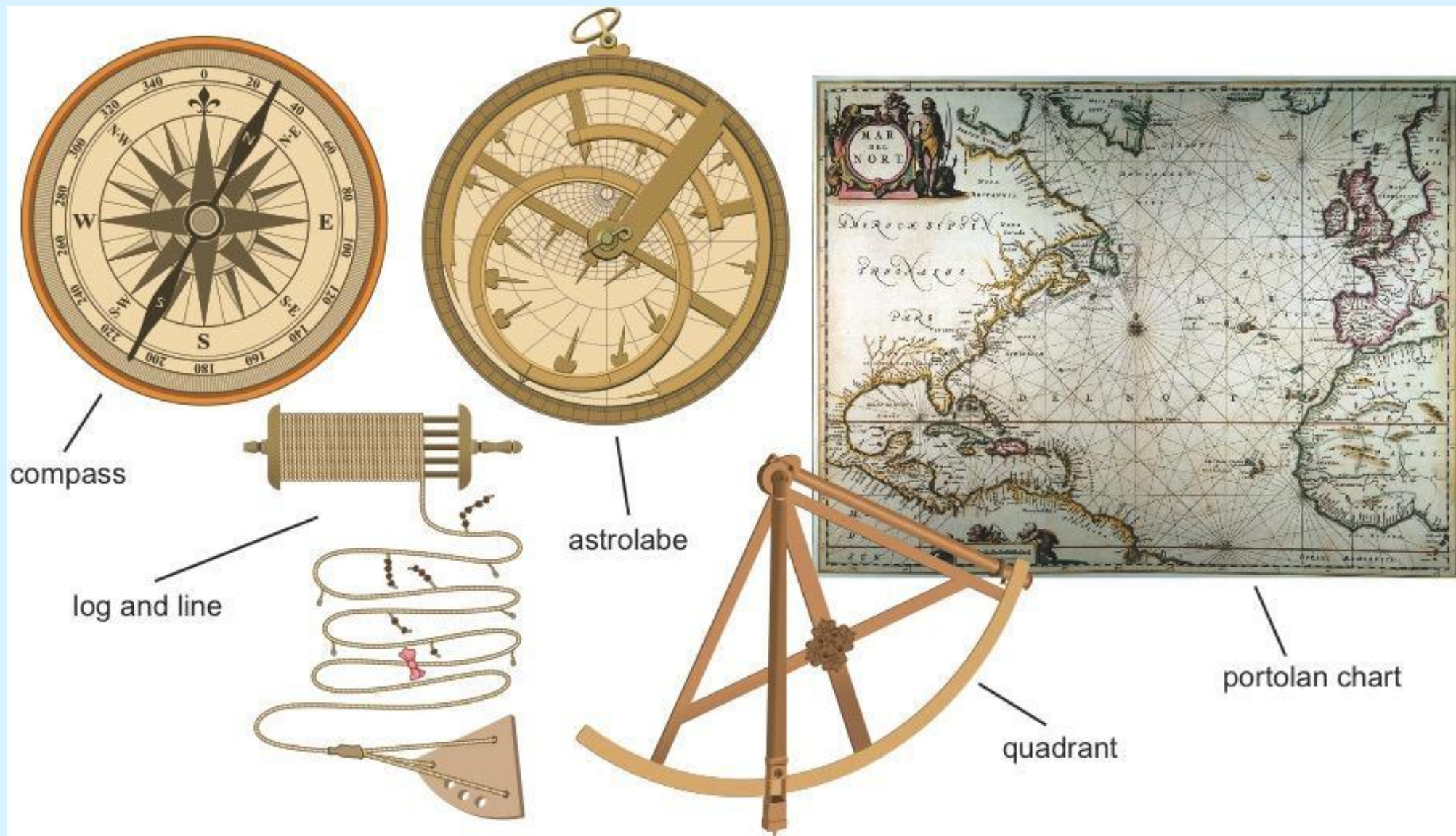
- Before this period, European sailors usually stayed quite close to the coastlines (with exception of the Vikings)
- For ships to sail straight out into oceans like the Atlantic with hope of safe return voyages, better navigation was needed.
- Several advances in technology made this possible.

New Maps

- To navigate properly, new and more accurate maps were needed.
- **Cartographers** (people who draw maps) started using maps from Constantinople (far more advanced than anything that Europe had)
- The Portuguese developed **portolan charts**
 - New details included; harbours, coastlines, currents, tides, depth.
- As explorers returned from their voyages, they brought more information back with them.

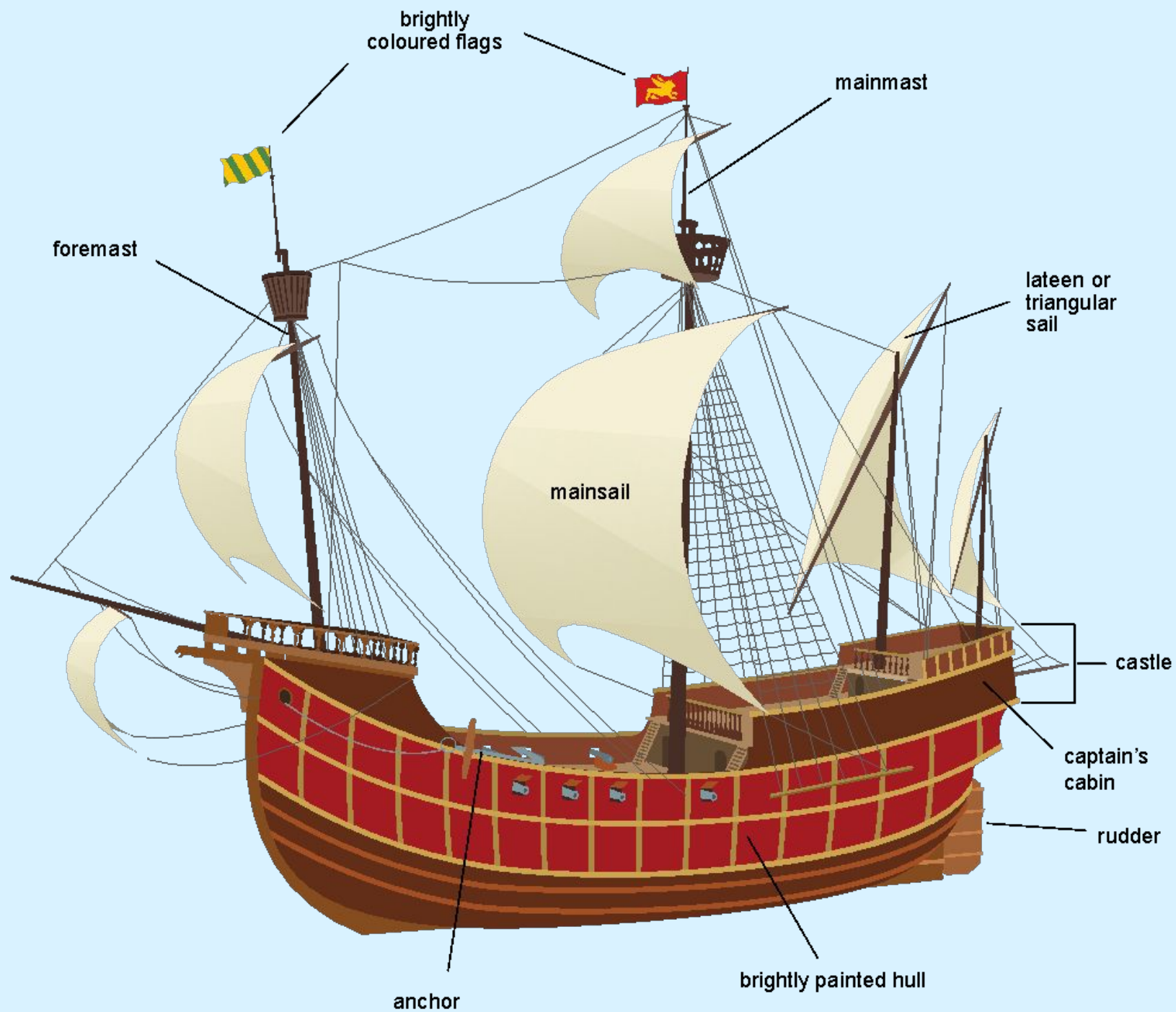
New Equipment

- New inventions allowed a ship to calculate its position and speed more accurately.
- A **quadrant** and an **astrolabe** helped *determine a ship's latitude (distance from the equator) by using the position of the stars and the sun.*
- A **compass** was *used to identify north.*
- A **log and line** was *used to measure a ship's speed in knots.*
- A **line and lead weight** was *used to measure the depth of water, especially around a coast.*



New Ships

- The fifteenth century saw a new design of ship; the **caravel**.
- This ship was large and sturdy enough to make long voyages and able to sail in all winds.
- The caravel's features were made up of a combination of the best Atlantic and Mediterranean ships.



Features of the Caravel

- **Triangular lateen sails** allowed ships to sail into the wind and made them easier to manoeuvre in bays and along the coast.
- **Carvel-built hulls** with planks fitted edge-to-edge (rather than overlapping panels like the Vikings) were far lighter.
 - Also made the ships bigger for more men and supplies.
- **Rudders** made the caravel easier to steer
- A **castle** at the back of the deck provided crew quarters
 - Also easier to look out for attackers and to defend.

The caravel were improved upon:

A **naos** were bigger versions, more suited for Atlantic crossings.

Life on board ships

- Shipwreck was common due to lack of knowledge about sea currents, winds and location of countries
- “Sea monsters” were believed to be dangerous and many voyagers returned home at the sight of a whale or other “new” creature.
- Falling off the edge of the earth was feared as they believed the earth was flat.
- Starvation: They had no idea how long the journey would be so they couldn't plan for food. They brought pigs, chickens and dried biscuits.
- Mutiny: Crews often got scared and overthrew the captain to return home.
- SCURVY was a disease caused by lack of vitamin C. Fresh fruit ran out during long voyages so the crew got scurvy. It gave swollen gums, teeth fell out and the sailors died of hunger because they couldn't eat anything.



The crew of Ferdinand de Magellan swearing loyalty to him following an unsuccessful mutiny

Questions Pg 119 (Artefact Textbook)

1. What information did a portolan chart give to sailors?
2. What instruments were invent to
 - a) Calculate latitude
 - b) Show direction
 - c) Measure speed
3. What sort of sails did a caravel have and what were they used for?
4. What was a caravel-built hull?
5. Describe life on a ship under the following headings:
 - a) Discipline
 - b) Food
 - c) Disease

9.3 The Voyages of Exploration



Early Portuguese voyages around Africa

The early Portuguese voyages of exploration

- The first major voyages of discovery set out from Portugal in the 1400s.
- It was influenced by Portuguese Kings wanting to outdo their Spanish and Muslim neighbours to the East and South.
- **Prince Henry the Navigator set up a school of navigation at Sagres**
 - Here he brought cartographers, instrument makers, astronomers and experienced sailors together.
- The Portuguese focused on exploring the African coast to find a way to Asia around Africa.

The early Portuguese voyages of exploration

- Over the following decades they discovered the following where they set up trade and slave bases.
 - Azores, the Canary Islands and the Cape Verde Islands
 - They also rounded the Gold Coast (modern day Sierra Leone)
- In 1487, Bartolomeu rounded the southern tip of Africa, the **Cape of Good Hope**.
- 1497 saw **Vasco da Gama** continuing around the coast until he reached **Calicut** in **India** – the round trip took two years.

Results of Portuguese Exploration

- Da Gama proved that it was possible to successfully sail around Africa and reach India (and later China).
- The results included:
 - Trade made Portugal **wealthy**.
 - Portugal established a **large empire in Africa and Asia** (existed up until 1910)
 - Portugal gained **control of the spice trade** by defeating various Arab and Muslim kingdoms
 - Increased **European spice imports**.
 - **Other European rulers** copied Portugal by engaging in **voyages of their own**.



Monument to Henry the Navigator, Lisbon

Questions Pg. 121 (Artefact Textbook)

1. Why were the earliest voyages of exploration begun by Portugal?
2. What did Prince Henry do to support these voyages?
3. What voyages did (a) Bartolomeu Dias and (b) Vasco da Gama undertake?
4. What were the results of the Portuguese voyages of exploration?

The Discovery of the 'New World'

- Portugal's neighbours and closest rival **Spain** had to look west to the Atlantic Ocean for their own opportunities to expand their Empire.
- The most famous explorer of the Atlantic was **Christopher Columbus**, who reached the **Americas** in 1492.

Christopher Columbus (1451-1506)

A life in time: An European Explorer



Early Life

- Christopher Columbus was born in Genoa, Italy in 1451.
- As a young man, he sailed on merchant ships throughout the Mediterranean along the African and European Atlantic coasts.
- Shipwrecked off the Portuguese coast, he made his way to Sagres where he learned his sailing trade for nine years.

Proof of a round world

- Life in the rising height of the Renaissance, Columbus was convinced that our planet was round rather than flat.
- He also believed the Far East (China and Japan) could be reached by sailing west
- He read the works of Marco Polo and Ptolemy, and studied a map by Toscanelli.
- This map led Columbus to believe that Cathay (China) and Cipangu (Japan) were only 4,500km west of Europe.
- There was just one issue; the map was wrong (by about 10,000km) and there was a very large continent in the way.



◀ The real location of the Americas (in green) overlaid on Toscanelli's map of the Atlantic Ocean

Preparing for the voyage

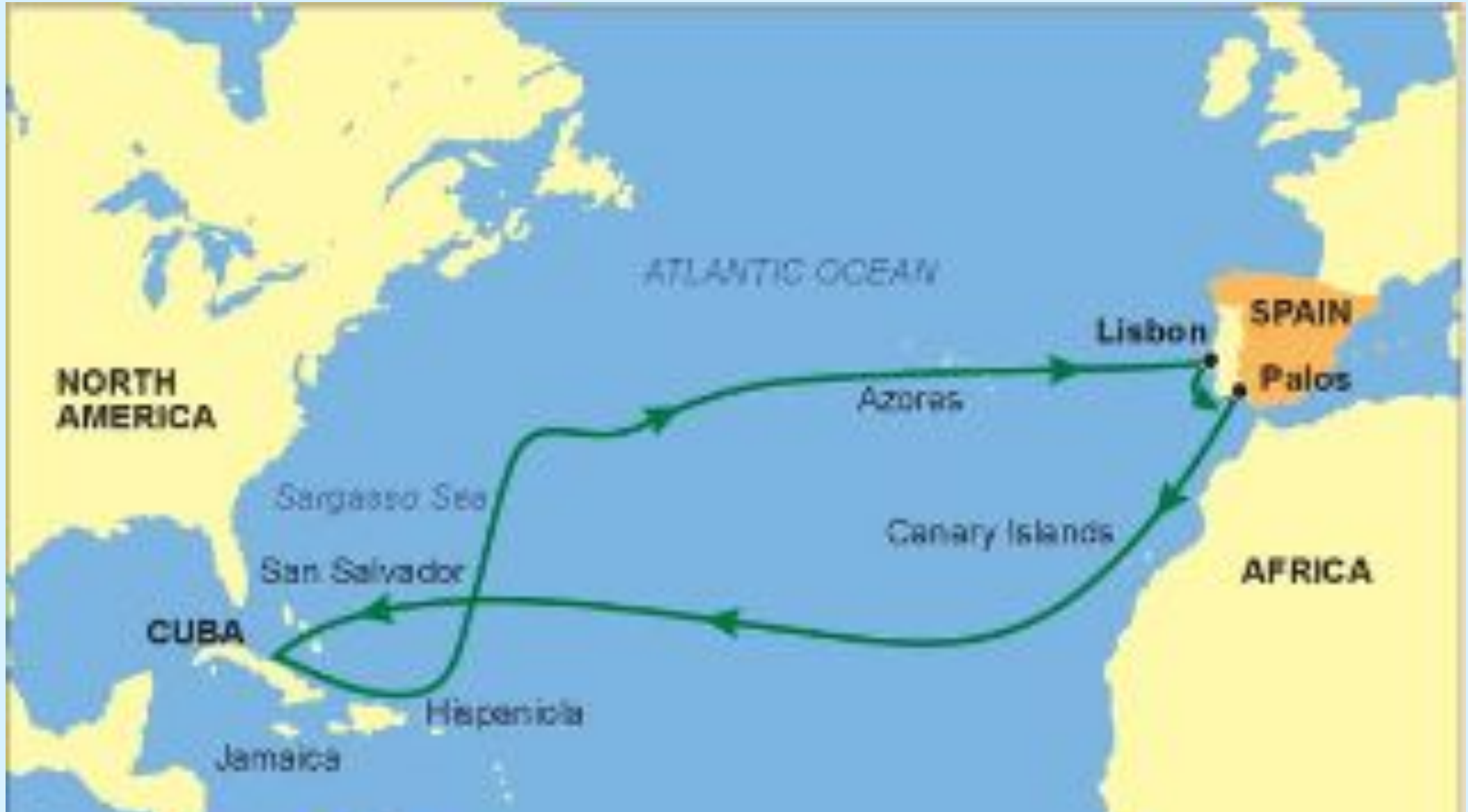
- Columbus first approached the rulers of France, England and Portugal to sponsor his voyage west – they all turned him down.
- He eventually convinced **King Ferdinand** and **Queen Isabella** of Spain.
- They gave him two caravels – the **Nina** and the **Pinta** – and a naos – the **Santa Maria**.
 - He was also given permission to recruit a crew of 80 men from **Palos**.
- All three ships were stocked with hard bread, wine, salted meat, dried fish, beans, rice and fresh water.

The voyage

- The small fleet left Palos on 3rd August 1492.
- The took on fresh supplies in the Canary Islands before setting out across the Atlantic.
- The further they sailed, the more anxious the crew got as they believed they would go too far to have food for the return journey.
- To reassure them, Columbus kept a fake logbook to show them they had sailed shorter distances than they had.
- He also threatened any man who mutinied (rebelled) with **hanging**.

The voyage

- After four weeks with no sight of land, he was forced to promise the crew that they would turn around if land was not spotted within a few days.
- On **12th October 1492**, 69 days after they left Spain, land was sighted.
- Columbus named it **San Salvador** and the inhabitants **Indians** – because he was certain that he had reached India.
 - This is why the Caribbean is still often called '**the West Indies**'.
- Columbus had not discovered India but rather the American continent – often called '**The New World**'



Return to Spain and later life

- Columbus spent two months **exploring the islands** around San Salvador in the Bahamas, looking for the cities and great wealth that he had expected to find in Asia.
- He was given a hero's welcome upon his return to Spain in early 1493.
- He presented Ferdinand and Isabella with some native peoples as **slaves**, **exotic fruits**, **maize** (type of corn), **parrots** and some **gold**. They believed that he had found a sea route to Asia and appointed him governor of their new territory.

Return to Spain and later life

- Columbus returned to the New World three more times to **continue his search for China**.
- Settlers went with him and **began to farm sugar**.
- Columbus mistreated the natives people by **selling them into slavery, torturing them** and **killing them** when they would not tell him where the gold and riches were hidden.
- The Spanish settlers complained to their king and queen about his **poor leadership and brutality**.
- He was removed as governor in 1499.

Return to Spain and later life

- As more people came to the New World, it became increasingly clear that Columbus had not reached Asia but an entirely new continent.
- After word of Indian killings had reached the Spanish monarchs, Columbus and his brother were brought back to Spain in chains.
- They were released after six weeks and Columbus would go on a fourth voyage – again unsuccessful.
- Columbus died in 1506, a broken man who still insisted that he had found his way to the East.

Questions Pg. 123 (Artefact Textbook)

1. Where did Columbus learn to sail?
2. Why was he so sure that he could reach the East by sailing across the Atlantic?
3. What agreement did he reach with the King and Queen of Spain?
4. Why did the crew become concerned during the voyage? How did Columbus respond to their concerns?
5. Where did he land? Where did he believe he had landed?
6. What did he bring back with him to Spain?
7. Why was he removed as governor in 1499?

The Age of Exploration after Columbus

- After Columbus had established settlements in the New World, many others followed him.
- Explorers continued to explore the rest of the world for over 200 years.
- Some of the most important were:
 - 1497: **John Cabot** landed in Newfoundland, Canada and claimed it for the English king, **Henry VII**.
 - 1519-1522: **Ferdinand Magellan** led a fleet on a voyage to finally prove that the world was round by **circumnavigating (sailing around) the globe**.
 - 1642: **Abel Tasman** was the first European to find **Tasmania**, south of Australia, and **New Zealand**.

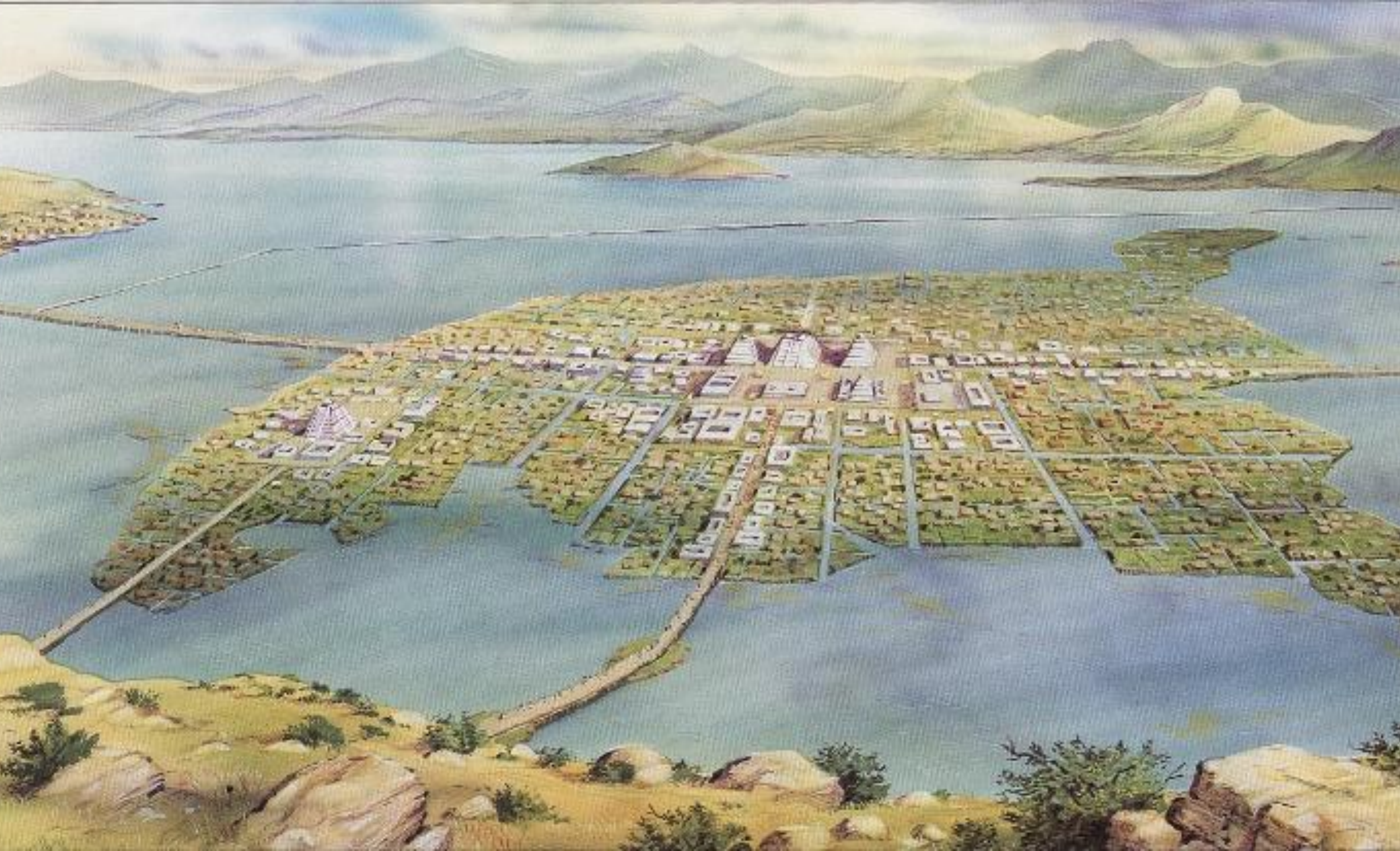
9.4 Conquering the New World: The Conquistadores

The Conquistadors

- Rumours of the wealth of the New World spread quickly around Europe.
- Stories of entire cities made of gold, of untold riches that were simply waiting for Europeans to come and take them from the native peoples.
- These stories prompted men to travel across the sea looking for wealth and adventures.
- These men were known as **conquistadors** (Spanish for 'conqueror').
- These men would **conquer** and **eradicate** major native American civilisations such as **the Aztecs** and **the Incas**.

Who were the Aztecs?

- The **Aztecs** came from the south of modern-day Mexico.
- They conquered rival tribes and by 1420s their empire covered central Mexico.
- By 1519, there were around 489 cities in the Aztec empire.
- Its capital, **Tenochtitlan** (**tech-no-titch-lan**), was a city of over 250,000 people located on an island in the middle of a lake.
- Mexico City stands on the same spot today.



Who were the Aztecs?

- The Aztecs had **a complex society**, with a king and priests at the top, but it was very different from European society or even that in China or Japan.
- They had **no iron or steel**, so most weapons were made from wood, stone or copper.
- Nor were there horses, cattle, sheep, pigs or goats on the continent before the Europeans imported them.
- For meat, the Aztecs ate **Turkey**, **dogs** and **guinea pigs**.



Who were the Aztecs?

- The Aztecs were pagans, meaning they worshipped many gods.
- The most important was the sun god, **Huitzilopochtli (Wit-silo-pocht-li)**
- They believed that if he grew weak the sun would not rise and the universe would end.
- In order to nourish him, they believed that human blood sacrifice was needed.

Hernán Cortés (1485-1547)

A life in time: An
European Explorer



Early Life

- Hernán Cortés was born in Spain in 1485 and trained as a soldier.
- He travelled to the New World and gained experience in the conquest of Cuba in 1511.
- He was ambitious and believed he could earn a fortune in the New World.
- Inspired by the tales of vast amounts of gold, he decided to attack the Aztecs.

Attacking the Aztecs

- In February 1519, Cortés landed with 11 ships, 500 soldiers and 13 horses.
- He had the ships burned to show his men there was no going back.
- He used a local tribe who had been conquered by the Aztecs to help him attack the Aztecs.
- Cortés was given a slave girl called **Malinche** who spoke several local languages, quickly learning Spanish to act as his translator.
- She also bore him a son.



Meeting Montezuma

- With his men and native troops, Cortés marched to **Tenochtitlan**, where he was greeted by the Aztec king, **Montezuma**.
- The Aztecs believed that one of their gods, **Quetzalcoatl**, would one day return from over the sea.
- When Cortés arrived – with his pale skin, and feathered helmet, riding a strange beast – the Aztecs mistook him for his god and worshipped him.
- However, the Spaniards soon began to steal gold.
- When there were protests, the Spaniards captured Montezuma and tried to rule through him.

The destruction of Tenochtitlan

- The **Aztecs revolted** and the Spaniards were driven out of the city but Montezuma was killed in the violence.
- Cortés and his men fled to regroup amongst nearby local allies, but later returned with **100,000 men** and laid siege to **Tenochtitlan** for three months.
- Eventually they constructed a small fleet of ships that could cross the lake. **The city fell and its people were massacred.**
- When the Spanish King **Charles V** appointed him governor of **New Spain**, Cortés built his capital on the site of **Tenochtitlan**.

Questions Pg. 127 (Artefact Textbook)

1. Give three examples of how Aztec and European society differed.
2. Why did Cortés decide to attack the Aztecs?
3. Why did he burn his ships upon landing?
4. Who did the Aztecs believe Cortés was?
5. Why did the Aztecs revolt against the Spaniards?
6. How did Tenochtitlan eventually fall?

Conquering the Incas: Francisco Pizarro

- To the south of the Aztecs lay an even more powerful and rich civilisation.
- The **Incas** controlled a huge amount of territory in the Andes mountains, along the western coast of South America.
- The Incan empire was ruled from its capital in **Cusco** by a god-king.



Conquering the Incas: Francisco Pizarro

- The Incas were sophisticated **engineers and architects** and also very fine artists.
- They used no written script but kept records using a system of knotted string.
- Roads ran to every corner of their empire and they collected **tribute** from their subjects.
- Disney's **Emperor's New Groove** is loosely based on the Incan Empire.

The Fall of the Incas

- **Francisco Pizarro** (1475-1541) was born into poverty in Spain.
- He received no education and found his way to the New World by serving on a ship. There he found work as a soldier on missions to explore Central America.
 - He gained a reputation for toughness and ruthless behaviour.
- He heard rumours of the great wealth of the Incas and was granted a commission by **King Charles V of Spain** in 1519 to conquer them.
- He gathered a small army of 180 men and 27 horses and invaded the Incan Empire in 1532.

The Fall of the Incas

- Pizarro met the Incan king, **Atahualpa**, at the town of **Cajamarca**.
- To give him the excuse to attack the Incas, Pizarro had a priest approach Atahualpa with a bible.
- The king threw it aside, allowing Pizarro to claim that it was an insult to the Christian faith and so Pizarro ordered his men to attack.
- Although vastly outnumbered by the Incas, the Spanish had superior weapons and easily outpowered their enemies before taking Atahualpa as their prisoner.

The Fall of the Incas

- The Incas offered to fill a room with gold and silver in return for their king.
- Pizarro accepted the treasure but had the king executed anyway – this sent the empire into chaos as the king had left no heir.
- Pizarro defeated the remaining Incan armies at Cusco before declaring their empire the Spanish province of New Castile.
- He established a new capital city at Lima.
- Huge deposits of gold and silver were later found in the Andes, making Spain the wealthiest country in Europe.

Questions Pg. 128 (Artefact Textbook)

1. Why did Pizarro want to attack the Incas?
2. Describe what happened at Cajamarca.
3. What did the Incas offer to do for the return of their King?
4. Why was Pizarro able to defeat the Incas so easily?

9.5 The Impact of Colonisation

The Impact of Colonisation

- **Colonisation** is when a country takes over another territory and settles some of its own people there to control it.
- After Europeans discovered lands in the Americas, Africa and Asia, they conquered these areas and set up colonies in each.
- This process of colonisation had a huge impact, both on the peoples native to those areas (the **colonised**) and on the countries who did the colonising (the **colonisers**).

The impact of colonisation on the peoples of South America

- The native population was decimated:
 - In 1519, the native population was roughly 25 million.
 - By 1605, this had fallen to about 3 million.
 - Violence and mistreatment was partly to blame.
 - The main cause was disease (90% died because of disease)
 - Europeans introduced epidemic diseases such as smallpox, measles and influenza to the New World.
 - Unlike Europeans, the Americans had no immune system to these diseases.

The impact of colonisation on the peoples of South America

- **The destruction of cultures:**

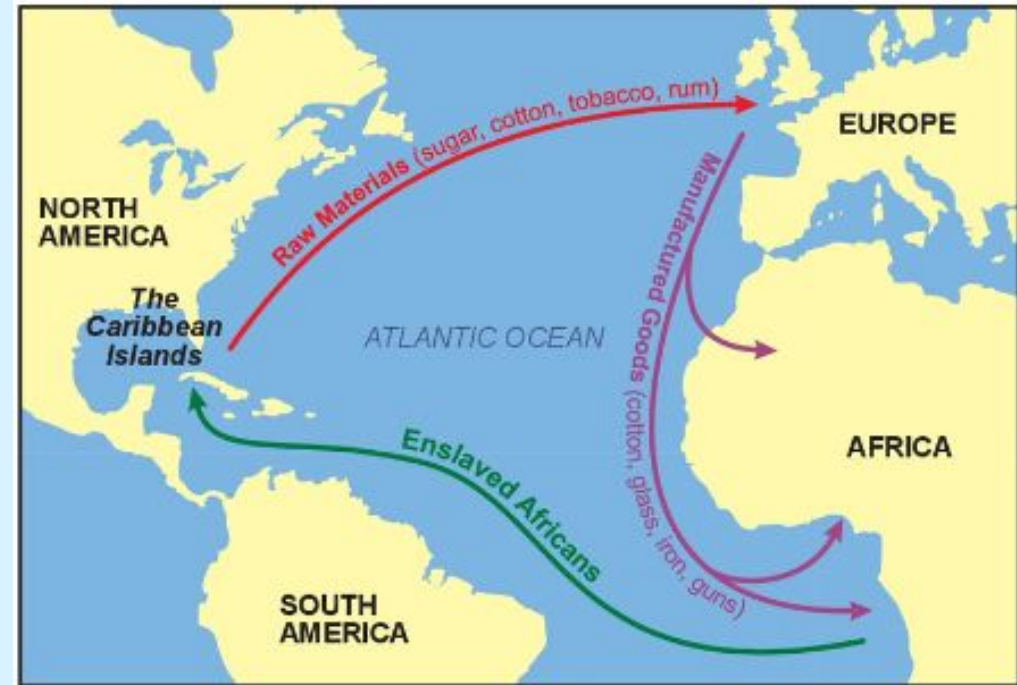
- The decline of native population led to the loss of old and advanced civilisations.
- As Spanish and Portuguese became the languages of the ruling classes, native languages and customs were wiped out.

- **The spread of Christianity:**

- Priests, especially the **Jesuits**, set up the Catholic Church in the New World.
- While the old gods were still worshipped in private, the local populations were severely punished if they were discovered.

The impact of colonisation on the peoples of South America

- Massive growth in the slave trade:
 - As Catholics could not be taken as slaves and a need to replace natives who died, millions of Africans were transported across the Atlantic.
 - The '**Atlantic slavery triangle**' developed; ships sailed to **African slaving ports** and took slaves to the Americas then sailed back to Europe, full of food and precious materials.



The impact of colonisation on European Empires

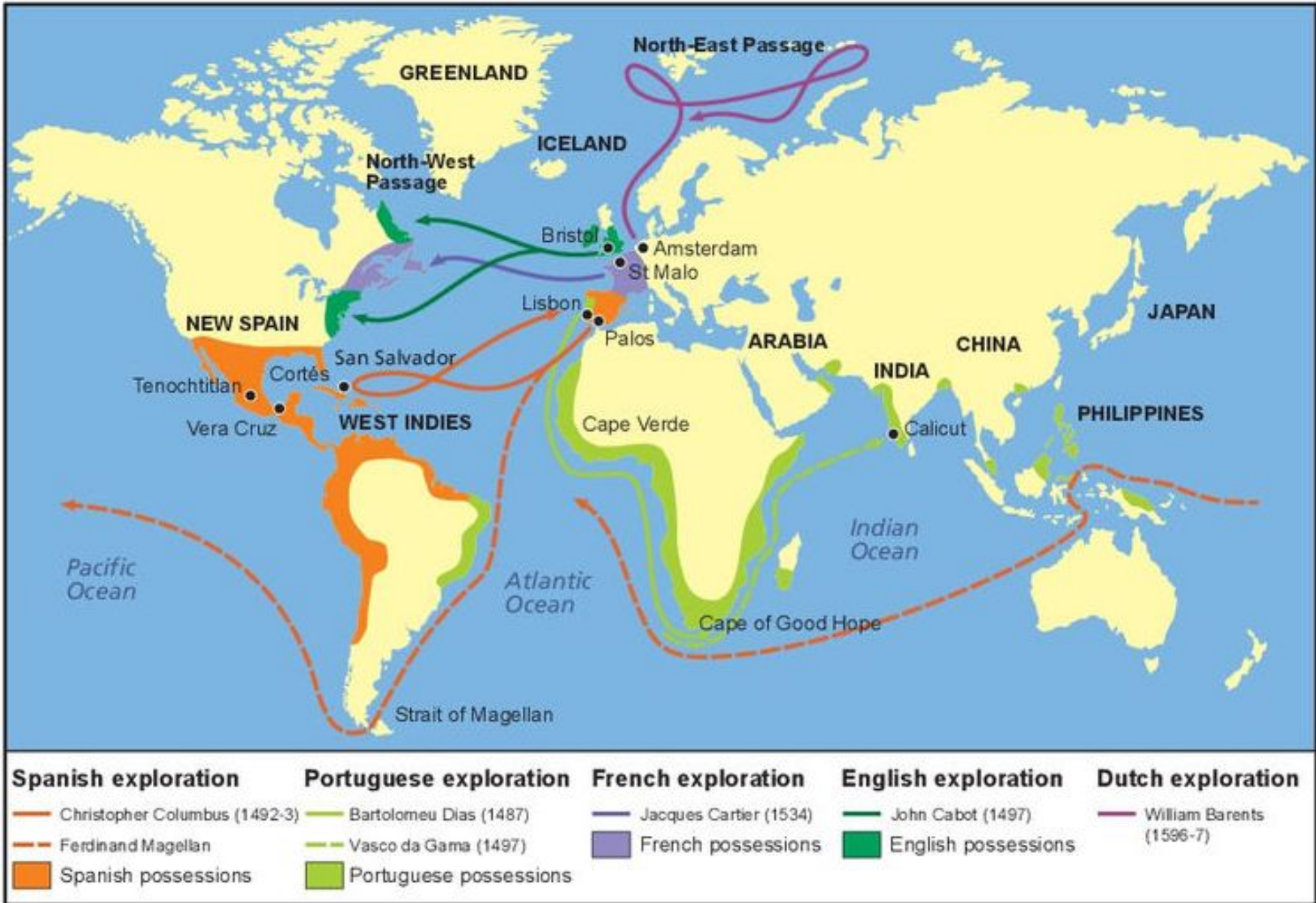
- Other European states saw the wealth and power that Spain was gaining from its conquests in South America and decided to make empires of their own.
 - **Portugal** explored and settled the east coast of South America, **modern-day Brazil**.
 - **Portuguese** is **Brazil's first language** and **Uruguay's second**; the rest of South America speak **Spanish**.
- **England** (**Britain from 1707**) set up colonies in **eastern North America**.
 - **Britain** would later expand its empire to cover **Ireland, India, large sections of Africa, Australia** and **New Zealand**.
 - **Britain** would also become the **strongest and largest empire** in the world, colonising almost **25% of the world's population**.

The impact of colonisation on European Empires

- **France** conquered parts of **North America** (mainly inland and **Canada**) as well as **parts of Africa** and **Asia**.
- **The Netherlands**, founded in 1579, conquered the Spice Islands (**modern-day Indonesia**).
- Countries were scrambling for territory which led to conflicts;
 - **Spain and Portugal** almost went to war over South America until **Pope Alexander VI** forced them to sign the **Treaty of Tordesillas** in 1494.
 - Other conflicts included; Britain and Spain (1585-1604), France and Spain (1595-1598), and Britain and France (1756-1763).

The impact of colonisation on European Empires

- Huge deposits of **gold and silver** from the Andes were shipped back to **Spain**, making it the most powerful country in Europe throughout the 1500s and 1600s.
 - **Italy's power declined** as the focus for trade shifted away from its city states and to the Atlantic coast.
- The '**Columbian exchange**' was **the exchange of foods and animals between Europe and the Americas**, changing the two continents forever.
 - Horses, cattle, sheep, new farming methods and new technologies were introduced to the Americas.
 - Potatoes, chillies, avocado, cocoa (chocolate), coffee, tomatoes and tobacco were introduced to Europe.



▲ European empires c.1650

Questions Pg. 130 (Artefact Textbook)

1. What is colonisation? Give an example of a coloniser and a country they colonised.
2. How were the people of South America affected by European diseases?
3. What was the 'Atlantic slavery triangle'?
4. Name two European countries that established empires and detail where.
5. Why did colonisation lead to conflict between European powers? Give an example.
6. What was the 'Columbian exchange'?

9.6 Summary

Summary

- In this chapter, we have learned:
 - Causes of the voyages of exploration
 - The influence of the Renaissance
 - Marco Polo's stories of the wonders of the East
 - A need for new trade routes
 - Competing European states wanting to expand, build empires and spread Christianity.
 - New technology
 - New portolan maps
 - New equipment: the astrolabe, quadrant, compass, log and line

Summary

- New ships: caravels with lateen sails and new carvel-built hulls.
- These innovations allowed Portuguese explorers (like da Gama) to sail around Africa and Spanish explorers (like Columbus) to sail across the Atlantic.
- Impact of European conquest on the New World
 - South America's major native civilisations fell to Spanish conquistadores: the Aztecs to Cortés and the Incas to Pizarro.
 - The native population was decimated, both by violence and by European diseases.
 - Native culture was destroyed.
 - Christianity spread in the New World as the native people converted in large numbers.

Summary

- The slave trade between Africa, the Americas and Europe became established.
- New animals (horses, cattle, sheep), farming methods and technology reached the New World.
- Impact of European conquest on Europe
 - Empires were founded by Spain, Portugal, France, Britain and the Netherlands.
 - Conflicts became more frequent as those empires fought over territory and wealth.
 - Many new goods from the Americas reached Europe (for example, potatoes, tomatoes and tobacco)

Reflection

- The European Age of Exploration and Conquest was an incredibly important period in world history.
- Until quite recently, Western historians treated it as the story of heroic explores and the dangerous voyages they made.
- However, our understanding has since shifted to see the terrible and lasting effects that European colonisation had upon other peoples of the world.

Questions Pg. 132 (Artefact Textbook)

1. How did the Renaissance contribute to the voyages of exploration?
2. What role did the desire for wealth play in the voyages of exploration?
3. Give three examples of technological changes that allowed the voyages to happen.
4. Which technological innovation do you think was the most important? Give your reasons.
5. Describe the Portuguese voyages around Africa to Asia.

Questions Pg. 132 (Artefact Textbook)

6. What were the main obstacles that Christopher Columbus faced in trying to reach Asia by sailing west?
7. How were the conquistadores able to defeat the Aztecs and Incas so easily?
8. Why did the native populations of the Americas drop so dramatically?
9. How was Africa negatively affected by the discovery of the New World?
10. Which European countries established empires after the discovery of the Americas?