

# THE ROAD TO INDEPENDENCE IN EAST AFRICA

## EUROPEAN EXPLORATION IN EAST AFRICA

### THE PORTUGUESE EXPLORERS

The Portuguese were the first explorers to come to East Africa

The Portuguese explorers came to East Africa to find the sea route to India

**Reasons why the Portuguese explorers were interested in finding a sea route to India**

- They didn't want to pay high taxes through the Ottoman's empire
- They wanted to get silk and spices from India

**Prince Henry the Navigator.**

- He sponsored the journeys of most Portuguese explorers
- He started a school of sailors at Port Sagres which trained sailors

**Portuguese Explorers who came to East Africa**

**Vasco da Gama**

He was sent to continue from where Bartholomew Diaz had reached

He sailed from Lisbon in Portugal in 1497 and reached Calcutta in India on 20th May 1497

Vasco da Gama became the first Portuguese sailor to find a sea route to India

**Reasons why Vasco da Gama was not welcomed at Mombasa?**

- The Arabs hated Christianity which he was spreading
- The Arabs at the coast thought that he was going to interfere in the coastal trade
- Vasco da Gama was later welcomed at Malindi by Sultan Seyyid Ali
- Sultan Seyyid Ali gave Vasco da Gama a guide ( Ahmed Bin Majid ) who directed his ship to India
- Vasco da Gama became the first Portuguese explorer to sail around the coast of Africa and found the sea route to India.

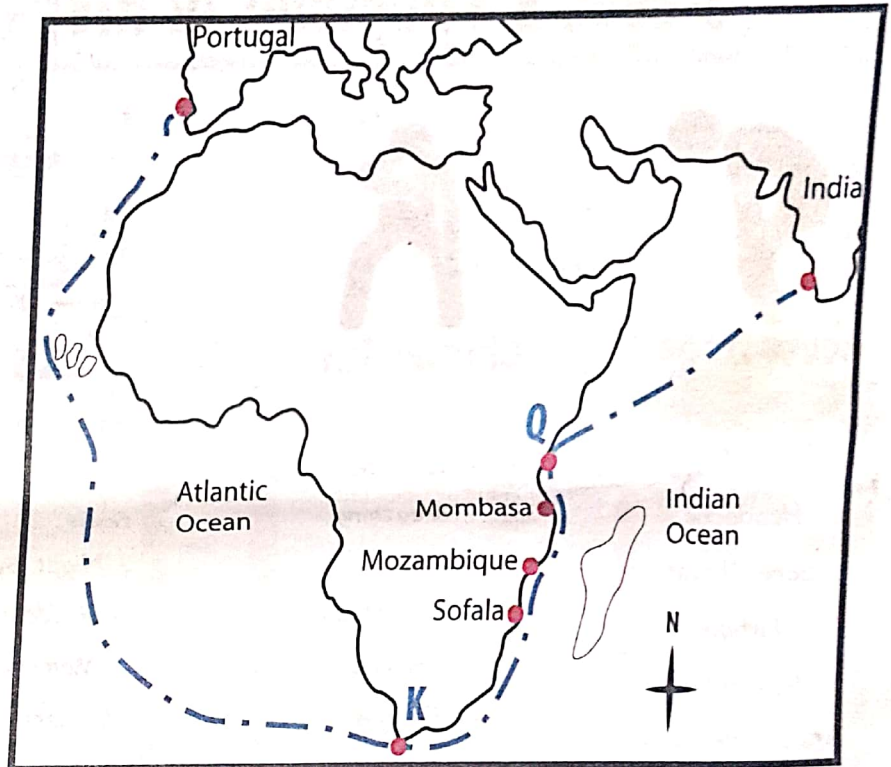
**Effects of Vasco da Gama's sea route to India.**

- It created more trade opportunities for Portugal
- It enabled the Portuguese to set up a trading empire in East Africa
- The Portuguese conquered the East African Coast

**Reasons why the Portuguese conquered/settled around the East African Coast**

- They wanted to spread Christianity at

### VASCO DA GAMA'S EXPLORATION JOURNEY



the coast

- They wanted to control the profitable trade along the coast of East Africa
- They wanted to create a resting base for their ships
- They wanted to break muslim domination at the coast

**Factors that made Portuguese rule a success**

- The Portuguese used surprised night attacks
- They had superior weapons
- They had well trained soldiers
- Disunity of people at the coast of East Africa

**Factors that led to the decline of Portuguese rule in Africa**

- They had corrupt officials
- They had few administrators
- Constant attacks from the Arabs
- Diseases that weakened them
- The Portuguese were far from their home country
- The coming of their rivals the French and the British

**Positive effects of Portuguese rule in Africa**

- The Portuguese spread Christianity at

the coast

- They introduced new crops e.g. paw-paws, pineapples
- They added new words to Kiswahili
- They built fort Jesus. NB. Fort Jesus was used for protection by the Portuguese and today it is used as a tourist attraction in Kenya

- They linked East Africa to Europe and India

**Negative effects of Portuguese settlement in East Africa**

- The Portuguese used harsh administration
- They led to decline in coastal trade
- They imposed heavy taxes on traders at the coast
- They led to destruction of some coastal towns
- They broke Muslim domination at the coast of East Africa

**Problems the Portuguese explorers faced during their exploration journey to India**

- Harsh weather
- Water waves
- Attacks from dangerous marine animals
- Shortage of supplies