Camille Daniel

Mr. Johnson

American History

09 September 2024

Report on Francis Drake

Introduction

Francis Drake was born in 1540. At age 13 he first worked as a sailor. In his early 20s he joined a slave-trading fleet. Off the coast of Mexico, the Spanish attacked the fleet. Drake didn’t like the Spanish from then on.

First Expedition

Drake's first expedition was with John Hawkins. He sailed on the ship Judith, one of six ships that made up the fleet. Hawkins first led the fleet to Africa where they captured people to sell into slavery. Then they sailed across the Atlantic to the New World. They sold the slaves at a Spanish port, but they were betrayed. Spanish warships attacked the fleet and destroyed many of the ships. Drake and the Judith were able to escape, but he never forgave the Spanish.

Explorer or Pirate

After returning from the New World, Drake wanted revenge on the Spanish. He took up the life of a pirate. As a pirate he would attack the enemy ships of Britain, mostly the Spanish, and take their supplies. To the Spanish, he was considered a pirate. To the English, he was a hero.

Over the next several years Drake attacked Spanish towns and ships taking much of their gold and silver. He became a rich man. QueenElizabeth 1 noticed his success and gave him a fleet of ships to take to South America and attack the Spanish.

Around the World

Drake and his fleet of five ships left England on November 15, 1577. He lead the largest ship, the Pelican, which he later renamed the Golden Hind. They had many adventures along the way. Many of the sailors died from disease. Drake even had one man beheaded for leading a rebellion against him.

The fleet traveled across the Atlantic and down the coast of South America. After passing through the Strait of Magellan, they entered the Pacific Ocean and went north along the coast of Peru, robbing towns along the way. They also captured a Spanish ship named the Cacafuego. The ship was full of treasure. Drake would arrive home very rich!

Eventually, Drake's fleet was down to a single ship, the Golden Hind. After three years of sailing, on September 26, 1580, the ship arrived back in England. Drake's expedition was only the second in history to sail around the world after Ferdinand Magellan. He also brought back lots of treasure for the queen. The queen was proud of Francis, she knighted him and from then on he was known as Sir Francis Drake.

# CONCLUSION

Drake’s last voyages were less successful. In January 1596, while fighting the Spanish in the West Indies, he became ill and died.

Works Cited

https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/Francis-Drake/353065

https://www.ducksters.com/biography/explorers/sir\_francis\_drake.php