Mary Virginia Waycaster

Mr. Johnson

American History

September 12th

**Jacques Cartier**

Jacques Cartier was a French explorer. He was born in Brittany, France on December 31, 1491. His parents were Jamet Cartier (His Father) and Geseline Jansart (His Mother), and he died on September 1, 1557.

Cartier was commissioned by King Francis I of France to lead an expedition westward across the Atlantic Ocean to explore the northern reaches of North America in pursuit of discovering gold, spices, and a passage to Asia. In 1541, he was charged with helping to establish a colony in North America.

Jacques Cartier was the first European to navigate the St. Lawrence River. His explorations of the river and the Atlantic coast of Canada, on three expeditions from 1534 to 1542, laid the basis for later French claims to North America. Cartier is also credited with naming Canada.

Although Jacques Cartier helped France lay claim to North America by journeying far up the St. Lawrence River, he did not proceed beyond the Lachine Rapids. He failed to aid Lord Roberval in establishing a colony in New France and returned to France bearing pyrite and quartz which he thought were gold and diamonds.

Little is known of Jacques Cartier's personal life. He was born (1491) in Saint-Malo on the Brittany coast in France, sailed from there on his first expedition to North America, and returned to the seaport to live out his life after his last voyage, dying in 1557. He is entombed in St. Vincent's Cathedral in Saint-Malo

**Work Cited:**

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