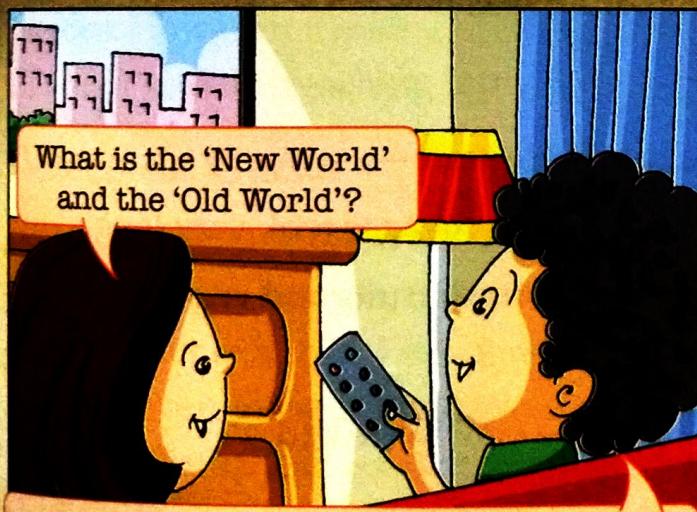


CHAPTER 12

PEOPLE SAIL TO DISTANT LANDS



Spot Portugal and India in the world map above. Can you draw a sea route from Portugal to South India?



We know that civilizations existed in Asia, Europe and Africa. Trade and travel were happening between these continents which are known as the 'Old World'. The Americas and Australia were discovered much later. These are the 'New World'.

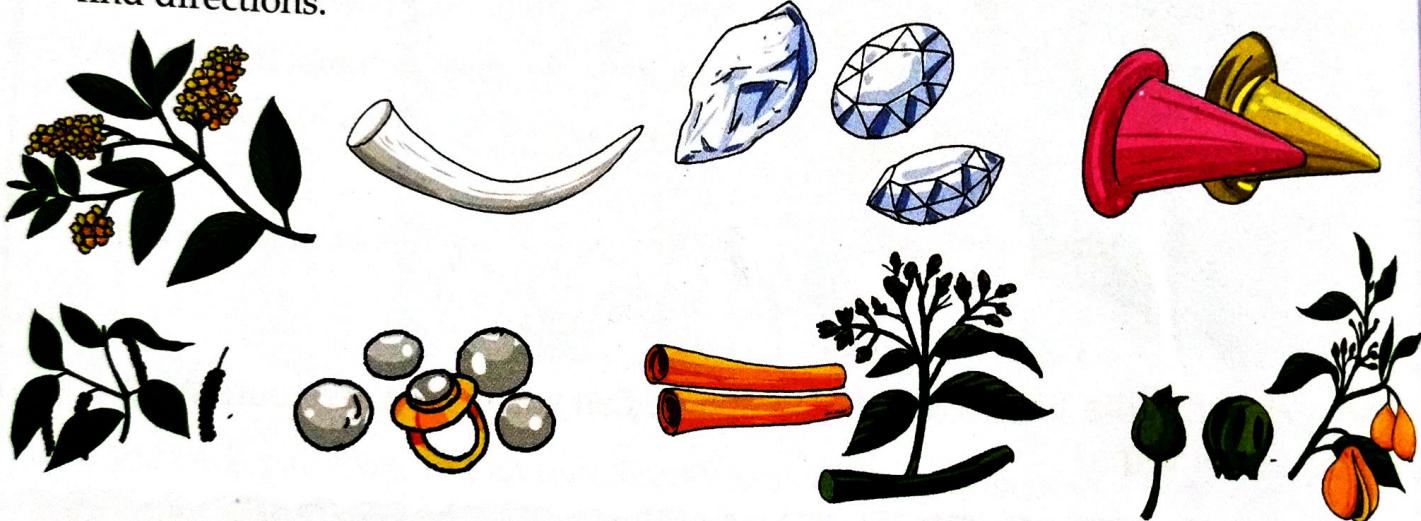


While the explorers were trying to find sea routes to trade with the east, they discovered these new lands. They were voyages of exploration. Let me tell you what I know about some great voyages.

explorer - a person who explores new or unfamiliar areas.
The late 15th century can be termed as the Age of Discovery. Many voyages were undertaken and new discoveries were made.
Voyage - a long journey traveling through big sea or in space.

Why Were Voyages Undertaken?

- Kings hoped to find new lands to expand their empires and also obtain more gold, silver and other resources.
- Most of the trade between the east and the west was happening through the land routes which were becoming difficult to use.
- The kings in Europe wanted to spread Christianity to distant lands.
- Europeans wanted to trade in spices from the east. Spices were used to flavour the food, to preserve meats, to make perfumes and medicines.
- Europeans were building better ships. Also, they learnt the use of the compass to find directions.



Different objects the Europeans traded in

The Difficult Lives of the Sailors

The sailors faced many difficulties on their voyages. These were—

- The ships sailed in the direction of the winds. Thus, the voyages took very long.
- Sailors suffered from *scurvy* because ships ran out of fresh fruits and vegetables.
- There was danger of being attacked by pirates.
- The ships were small and the living conditions of the *crew* were bad.
- Ships often sunk due to storms in the sea.
- When ships reached new lands, there was danger of being attacked by the *hostile* natives of the place.

conducts acts of piracy - pirates - dedicated ship

Bartolomeu Dias

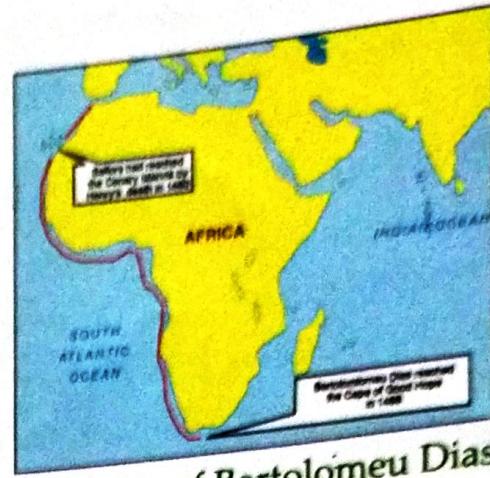
Bartolomeu Dias, a Portuguese sailor, set sail around the southern tip of Africa. The king of Portugal appointed him to search for a sea route to India. He set out with three ships in 1487.

They sailed along the western coast of Africa. Dias gave gifts to many African tribal chiefs to express his goodwill. As they sailed along, they encountered storms and ocean currents and were lost in the huge ocean. The sailors panicked and wanted to turn back, but Dias did not give in. He insisted on carrying on with the voyage and followed the strong winds and currents and in the process sailed away from the land.

Finally, they spotted land and were surprised to find out that the coastline ran eastward. They followed the coastline and found themselves travelling northwards. They had sailed around the southern tip of Africa.

By then, the sailors were tired and homesick and refused to sail onward. Dias had to turn back and head home towards Portugal. During the return, they spotted the tip of Africa which Dias named as 'Cape of Storms' because they had faced storms there.

After a 15 month voyage, Dias and his crew reached Lisbon and were welcomed as heroes. However, the king of Portugal was not happy because Dias had returned without actually reaching India.



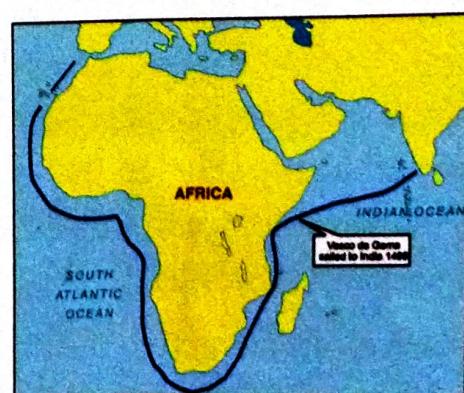
Sea route of Bartolomeu Dias

Fun FACT

The King of Portugal renamed the Cape of Storms as the 'Cape of Good Hope' because sailing around it would lead to India from where his empire could earn wealth.

Vasco da Gama

Vasco da Gama studied astronomy and navigation. Like his father, he enjoyed sailing and later, became commander of a ship. Da Gama heard from his father that the Portuguese king Manuel I desperately wanted an expert sailor to lead an expedition to find a sea route to India. Since ancient times, Indian spices and textiles were in great demand in Europe. The king knew if he could find a sea route to India, he would become rich trading spices in Europe.



The sea route taken by Vasco da Gama from Portugal to India.

Let's ANSWER

The painting shows Vasco da Gama meeting the Zamorin in Calicut, Kerala. Why did Vasco da Gama come to Kerala?



Confidence

Da Gama approached the king, who agreed to finance this expedition. His aim was to establish a trade route to India by sailing around the southern tip of Africa. However, many people thought that the Indian Ocean did not connect with the Atlantic Ocean, but Vasco da Gama was optimistic and believed it was possible.

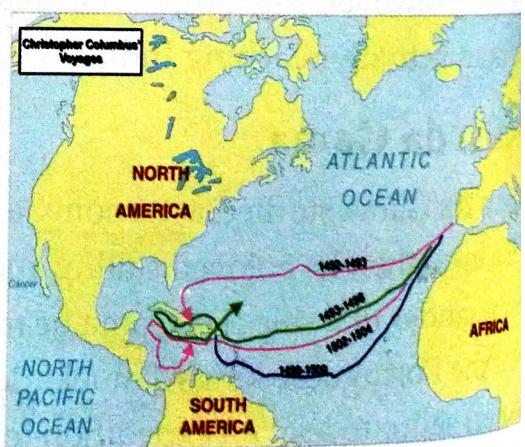
He left Lisbon (Portugal) on 8 July, 1497 with 170 men and 4 ships. It took them 5 months to reach the Cape of Good Hope at the tip of South Africa. They then headed north along the eastern coast of Africa. Many of his sailors died due to scurvy. Moreover, Muslim traders were hostile as they did not want Vasco to succeed in his mission.

Vasco da Gama was lucky. When he stopped at Malindi to stock supplies, he met an Arab guide who was familiar with the route to India. He guided Vasco da Gama who again set sail and landed at Calicut in India on 20 May 1498. Vasco da Gama became the first explorer to discover the sea route to India. His discovery allowed the Portuguese to increase their trade, wealth and form an empire in Asia.

Christopher Columbus

Christopher Columbus is credited with the discovery of the New World—America. He was an Italian explorer who lived in Portugal and later Spain. He learnt how to make maps and sail a ship. He led the expedition funded by the King of Spain in 1492 and accidentally discovered America.

Asia was an attractive destination for European explorers. They hoped to find riches, fabled gold and spices.

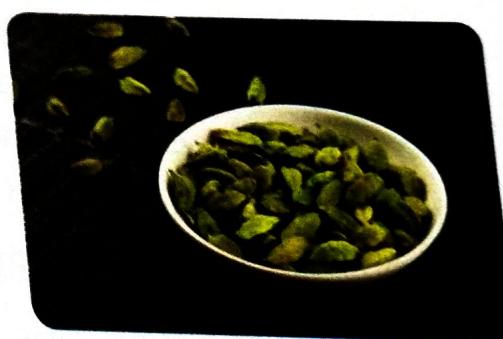
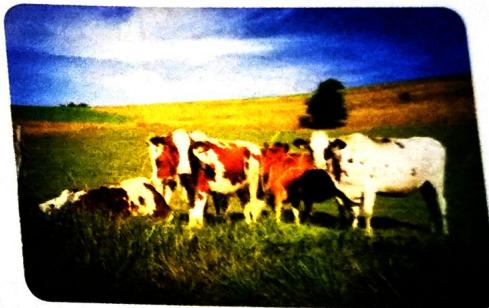


The route Christopher Columbus took in search of India.

Columbus believed that the Earth was a sphere and if they sailed westward from Europe across the Atlantic Ocean, they would reach Asia. He thought this route would be safer and quicker as he did not know about the huge continent that lay in between. Columbus approached the King of Portugal to finance his expedition but was refused. He was finally sponsored by King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain. He set out with three ships, Santa Maria, Pinta and Niña, from the Port of Spain in August 1492.



Look at the pictures. Circle the things the Europeans traded with the countries of the East.



The voyage was tough, his men threatened to revolt and demanded that they return, but Columbus had no intention of turning back and continued the voyage. At last, on 12 October they sighted land, a small island in the Bahamas. There were natives living there, whom he called Indians because he thought that he had landed on an island off the coast of Asia. Later, he sighted Cuba, which he mistook for China and Hispaniola,



The ship Pinta

which Columbus thought was Japan. As a result of his mistake, these islands came to be known as the West Indies. He claimed the land for the King and Queen of Spain. Christopher Columbus is famous for the discovery of America. Though people already lived there, he put America on the world map. Columbus Day is celebrated on 12 October in Spain and the Americas.

Ferdinand Magellan

Magellan was a Portuguese explorer who led the first expedition to sail around the Earth. He believed there was a route to Asia by travelling west and around the Americas.

His expedition was financed by the King of Spain. In September 1519, Magellan set out on the long voyage with five ships and over 270 men.

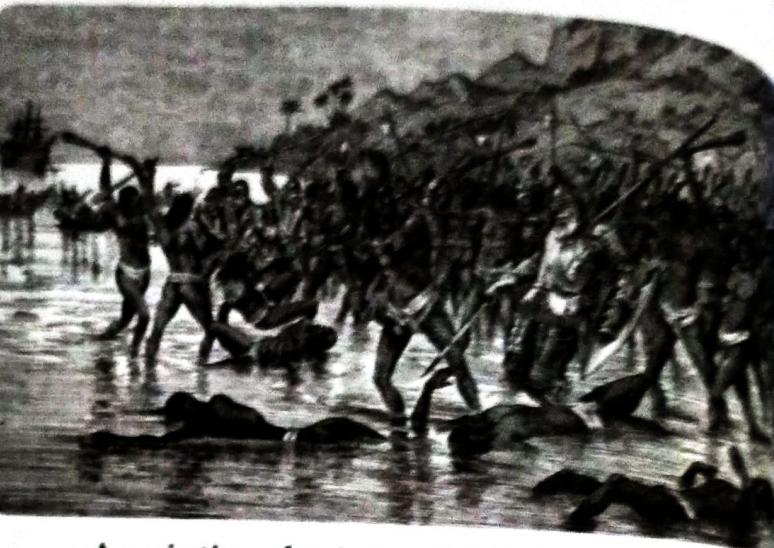
They sailed across the Atlantic. When they reached the coast of America, they faced bad weather and shortage of food. However, Magellan continued the [voyage](#) southwards.

He was lucky and found a passage that led him to the new ocean which he called Pacifico, meaning peaceful. He sailed around the tip of South America, which is now called the Strait of Magellan. It took them months to cross the Pacific Ocean and reach the Philippines. Unfortunately, Magellan and many of his crew were killed by the native tribes in the Philippines.

Only one of the ships and 22 people reached Spain in 1522. It had taken them three years but they had sailed around the world.



Lands found and captured by the explorers were already inhabited by native tribes. Where do you think they went? Do you think capturing their land was a right thing to do?



A painting depicting Magellan's death at the hands of the natives in Philippines.



WE KNOW

The late 15th century can be termed as the 'Age of Discovery'. Many voyages were undertaken and new discoveries were made.

Bartolomeu Dias was the first to sail around the southern tip of Africa.

Vasco da Gama became the first to discover the sea route to India.

Christopher Columbus is credited with the discovery of the New World—America.

Ferdinand Magellan was a Portuguese explorer who led the first expedition to sail around the Earth.

WORD

wise

scurvy: disease from lack of vitamin C

crew: team

navigation: activity of knowing one's position

finance: give money for

expedition: voyage

voyage: journey by sea

Let's CHECK

A. Choose the correct option.

1. Where did Bartolomeu Dias travel?

- a) Cape of Good Hope b) India c) America

2. Where did Vasco da Gama land in India?

- a) Goa b) Bombay c) Calicut

3. Who discovered America?

- a) Christopher Columbus b) Vasco da Gama
c) Ferdinand Magellan

4. Who led the first expedition to sail around the world?

- a) Christopher Columbus b) Vasco da Gama
c) Ferdinand Magellan

5. Who believed that there could be a route to Asia by travelling west and around the Americas?

- a) Christopher Columbus b) Ferdinand Magellan
c) Bartolomeu Dias

B. State whether true or false.

1. The late 19th century can be termed as the 'Age of Discovery'.
2. Bartolomeu Dias proved that the world was round.
3. Vasco da Gama's aim was to establish a trade route to India by sailing around the southern tip of Africa.
4. Da Gama stopped at Malindi to fight with the natives.
5. Columbus returned to Spain with only two ships.

C. Fill in the blanks.

1. Bartolomeu Dias reached the _____ at the tip of Africa.
2. Columbus left the Port of Spain and reached _____.
3. An _____ helped Vasco da Gama reach India.
4. _____ sighted the Pacific Ocean.
5. Ferdinand Magellan was killed by native tribes of _____.

D. Answer the following questions.

1. Give two reasons why voyages in the late 15th century were difficult.
2. Give two reasons why voyages were undertaken.
3. Give a short account of the voyage led by Bartolomeu Dias.
4. What difficulties were faced by Vasco da Gama on his voyage to India?
5. Why did Columbus call the natives 'Indians'?

QUIZ

Time

Word search!

Can you find out some words related to this chapter in the grid?

Write them down!

M	C	O	L	U	M	B	U	S	R
A	Q	D	C	V	B	N	M	P	V
G	G	H	J	X	K	D	I	A	Z
E	R	P	I	N	T	A	T	I	X
L	S	H	I	P	N	G	U	N	M
L	S	H	E	J	X	A	G	I	N
A	V	M	F	B	A	M	N	M	F
N	B	M	V	O	Y	A	G	E	S