

Follow-up Activities

- The artist John White came to Roanoke to draw pictures and capture the true nature of the territory around the first English colony in the New World. Students can produce their versions of pictures and descriptions of animals and plants that John White might have drawn and described. Decorate the room with these works of art and scientific descriptions. (See www.gmu.edu/library/specialcollections/john_white.html for examples of White's works.)
- Have students sketch a Spanish "wanted" poster for Sir Francis Drake. On the poster, students can enumerate the actions of Drake that Spain would have found objectionable. Students can also include geographical references of "sightings" of this explorer/pirate.
- With your class, evaluate the speech that Elizabeth I gave to her countrymen upon learning of Spain's attack. (See www.historyplace.com/speeches/elizabeth.htm for a version of this speech.) Discuss with students how effective the words she used would have been in inspiring her country to fight. Was Queen Elizabeth I a good leader?
- In 1588, the English defeated the Spanish Armada. Encourage students to research this military conquest. Students can sketch a map showing the route that the Spanish Armada took in its attempt to conquer England and the route the Spanish took in their retreat. Encourage students to study the geography of Spain and England and speculate as to why Spain may have had the better ground forces, but England was better prepared to control the seas.
- Break students into research teams and have each team determine what they believe, based upon their research, actually happened to the first English settlers in the New World at Roanoke Island. Students can then write a newspaper article describing the fate of the "Lost Colony."
- John Cabot's son, Sebastian Cabot, followed in his father's footsteps and became a famous explorer in his own right. Encourage students to research the navigational successes and failures of Sebastian Cabot. Students can create a Venn diagram to compare the legacies of these two well-known English explorers.

Suggested Internet Resources

Periodically, Internet Resources are updated on our web site at www.LibraryVideo.com

- www.nps.gov/fora/roanokerev.htm
This "Roanoke Revisited" Web site, sponsored by the National Parks Service, provides a wealth of information about the colony established by Sir Walter Raleigh, including primary source documents like maps and reports. Details are also presented about Elizabethan England, navigational techniques used to reach the Virginia colony and characteristics of the native people encountered by the English colonists.
- www.heritage.nf.ca/exploration/northfall.html
This site provides excerpts from a letters written in 1497 that provide accounts of John Cabot's first voyage to the New World.

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- renaissance.dm.net/compendium/index.html
"Life in Elizabethan England" is a site that offers information about how people lived during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. Features include details about education, food, games and clothing during this time.
- www.mariner.org/educationalad/ageofex
The Mariners' Museum has an online curriculum guide for the Age of Exploration that provides information about Sir Francis Drake and John Cabot, including helpful maps of their voyages.

Suggested Print Resources

- Aronson, Marc. *Sir Walter Raleigh and the Quest for El Dorado*. Clarion Books, New York, NY; 2000.
- Fritz, Jean. *The Lost Colony of Roanoke*. Penguin Group, New York, NY; 2004.
- Gallagher, Jim. *Sir Francis Drake and the Foundation of a World Empire*. Chelsea House Publishers, Broomall, PA; 2000.
- Greenblatt, Miriam. *Elizabeth I & Tudor England*. Benchmark Books, New York, NY; 2001.
- Konstam, Angus. *Historical Atlas of Exploration*. Checkmark Books, New York, NY; 2000.
- Shields, Charles J. *John Cabot and the Rediscovery of North America*. Chelsea House Publishers, Broomall, PA; 2000.

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ENGLISH EXPLORERS

Grades 5–8

This guide is a supplement designed for teachers to use when presenting programs in the video series *Explorers of the World*.

Before Viewing: Give students an introduction to the program by relaying aspects of the historical overview to them. Select pre-viewing discussion questions and vocabulary to provide a focus for students when they view the program.

After Viewing: Review the program and vocabulary, and use the follow-up questions and activities to inspire continued discussion. Encourage students to research the topic further with the Internet and print resources provided.



Historical Overview

The impetus for English exploration was similar to that of other European nations during the 15th, 16th and 17th centuries — the quest for riches, spices and a Northwest Passage. In addition to these goals, the English also wished to establish colonies in North America and fisheries off its coast. However, early in the Age of Exploration, England stood by and watched the successes of Spain and Portugal in the New World, due to its difficulty with maintaining national stability. The eventual stabilization of England and its resources, in addition to the support of the daring Queen Elizabeth I, pushed England into the fray of European nations clamoring for wealth and land claims in North America. Because of religious differences and disputes between the countries' rulers, the rivalry between England and Spain was particularly intense. English ships attacked Spanish vessels routinely during the Age of Exploration, capturing a portion of the gold and silver that Spain had acquired in the Americas.

Time Line

c.1450 — John Cabot is born in Italy.

1497 — John Cabot makes his first voyage to the New World in the Matthew and claims Newfoundland for the English.

1498 — John Cabot makes his second voyage for the English to the New World and disappears.

1541 — Sir Francis Drake is born in England.

c.1552 — Sir Walter Raleigh is born in England.

1577 — Sir Francis Drake departs England on an expedition that sails through the Strait of Magellan to the Pacific Ocean.

1580 — Sir Francis Drake returns to England and completes his sail around the world.

1581 — Queen Elizabeth I knights Drake for his exploits on behalf of England.

1584 — Sir Walter Raleigh finances an expedition that travels to the eastern coast of North America.

1585 — Sir Walter Raleigh establishes a new colony, England's first in the New World, at Roanoke Island.

1587 — Virginia Dare is born in Roanoke. She is considered to be the first English baby born in the New World.

1588 — Sir Francis Drake fights successfully against the Spanish Armada and defends England against Spanish invasion.

1590 — The Roanoke colony is discovered abandoned by returning Englishmen.

1598 — Sir Francis Drake dies off the coast of Panama.

1604 — Sir Walter Raleigh is imprisoned by James I in the English Tower of London.

1618 — Sir Walter Raleigh is executed by the English for attacking Spanish forces at a time when England wished to be an ally of Spain.

Vocabulary

exploration — The process of investigating in search of a goal, such as wealth, information or colonization.

Henry VII — (1457-1509) The king of England from 1485 until his death, he supported John Cabot's expeditions to the New World.

Newfoundland — A Canadian province that is the most easterly part of North America and is located in the Atlantic Ocean. John Cabot arrived in Newfoundland in 1497 and claimed this land for England.

mariner — A person who navigates a ship.

Elizabeth I — (1533-1603) The queen of England from 1558 until her death, she supported England's exploration of the New World.

Strait of Magellan — A channel that connects the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans at the southern tip of South America. Magellan traversed this strait in 1520.

Golden Hind — The name of Drake's ship, which was named after one of his early patrons whose crest of nobility contained a golden deer or hind.

Northwest Passage — A water route connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans through the northern portion of the Americas. Many explorers sought the Northwest Passage as a shorter alternative to Ferdinand Magellan's route through the southern tip of South America.

Virginia Dare — The name of the first English child born in the New World, at Roanoke Island in 1587.

Croatoan — The word found carved in a tree by later Englishmen at the seemingly abandoned Roanoke Colony, which was the name of a local Native American tribe. No trace of the early settlers at Roanoke was ever found. The colony was never reestablished.

The Lost Colony — The English term for the Roanoke settlers who disappeared without a trace, except for the word "Croatoan" carved in a tree.

Pre-viewing Discussion

- England was one of the last European maritime countries to become involved in the exploration and colonization of the New World. Ask students to develop explanations as to why this might have been the case.
- The first significant English explorers included an experienced mariner, a pirate and a colonist (Cabot, Drake and Raleigh). Have students determine how these three types of explorers might have helped England succeed in its goals of gaining colonies, scientific knowledge, fisheries and gold, silver and spices.
- Sir Walter Raleigh established a colony on Roanoke Island and sent colonists to populate the claim. Discuss with students why it would have been difficult for the English colony at Roanoke to survive. What challenges might these colonists have met?
- English colonists from the New World introduced both tobacco and the potato to the Old World. Discuss the impact these two items might have had on England. Think of other cross-cultural sharing that might have occurred from the New World to the Old during the Age of Exploration.

Focus Questions

1. Why did an Italian, John Cabot, go to England to obtain support for his explorations to the Indies and Asia?
2. Why was England interested in discovering a direct trade route to the East?
3. How were John Cabot's voyages funded?
4. How did the name Newfoundland develop?
5. What were the principal results of John Cabot's voyages for the English?
6. Why did the Spanish call Sir Francis Drake "the Dragon"?
7. Who in the English government supported Drake in his efforts against the Spanish?
8. What did Drake do for England on his expedition into the Pacific Ocean?
9. Why did Drake sail across the Pacific Ocean and not retrace his steps through the Strait of Magellan?
10. What colony was Sir Walter Raleigh instrumental in establishing? Why did this colony not become permanent?
11. Who were the Croatoans?
12. What role did Manteo play in the establishment of the first English colony in the New World?
13. Who was Virginia Dare?
14. Why was Sir Walter Raleigh imprisoned and finally executed by the English king?

Follow-up Discussion

- In 1498, John Cabot departed Bristol in southwestern England, never to return again. Encourage students to discuss what could have happened to John Cabot and his men on his second voyage to the New World for the English.
- Discuss with students why Elizabeth I might have been so loyal and supportive towards Sir Francis Drake during her life. What benefits would such support bring to England?
- The conduct of Sir Francis Drake during the Age of Exploration may be considered differently if viewed from the perspective of the English or Spanish. Have students debate whether or not Sir Francis Drake was a pirate or a patriot or both in his actions against Spain for England.
- Spain was a dominant force in Europe during the 16th century. The Spanish acquired the vast wealth of the Americas, but didn't establish many permanent settlements. Describe why you think this strategy may have led to their eventual decline in the New World and the subsequent takeover of the New World by the English.