

Around 1000	Leif Ericson	Norse	First European to reach North American Mainland
1271-1295	Marco Polo	Italian	Traveled to the Far East, to what was known then as Cathay or China-Made men want to travel there through his book
1394-1460	Prince Henry	Portuguese	Created navigation school in Sagres, Portugal Explored the western African coastline
1487-1488	Bartholomeu Dias	Portuguese	First European to round the Cape of Good Hope
1492-1504	Christopher Columbus	Italian	Made 4 voyages to West Indies and Caribbean Islands
1497-1503	Amerigo Vespucci	Italian	Sailed to West Indies and South America
1497-1498	John Cabot	Italian	Explored the shores of Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, and Labrador
1498	Vasco Da Gama	Portuguese	First to travel to West Indies around Africa
1513	Vasco de Balboa	Spanish	Led expedition across Panama and found the Pacific Ocean
1513	Juan Ponce de Leon	Spanish	Explored Florida looking for the Fountain of Youth
1520-1521	Ferdinand Magellan	Portuguese	Commanded first globe circling voyage
1519-1521	Hernando Cortez	Spanish	Conquered Aztecs in Mexico
1523	Giovanni da Verranzano	Italian	Searched for a Northwest Passage
1523-1535	Francisco Pizarro	Spanish	Conquered Peru
1534-1542	Jacques Cartier	French	Traveled St. Lawrence River
1539-1541	Hernando De Soto	Spanish	Explored American Southeast-Discovered the Mississippi River
1540-1542	Francisco Vazquez de Coronado	Spanish	Explored American Southwest
1577-1580	Sir Frances Drake	English	First English to sail around the world- Defeated the Spanish Armada- Claimed California for England
1603-1616	Samuel de Champlain	French	Explored eastern coast of North America and the coast of the St. Lawrence River to Lake Huron-Reached Lake Champlain
1609-1611	Henry Hudson	English	Explored Hudson Bay, Hudson River, and Hudson Strait
1672	Father Marquette and Louis Joliet	French	Explored Northern Mississippi River
1682	Robert LaSalle	French	Traveled to the mouth of the Mississippi River and claimed it for France