Age of European Exploration

Beginning in 1420, Europeans began to explore the lands around the Atlantic Ocean. They hoped to to find new sources of wealth including a route to the Indies.

- Competing European powers developed new technologies in shipbuilding and navigation that allowed them to explore new routes to the Indies.

- Europeans encountered American, African, and Asian cultures they had never known before.

- Often the European power that first explored an area later returned to conquer it.

A New ships such as the caravel were faster and safer than earlier ships. This Japanese screen shows a Portuguese trading caravel. By the 1500s more goods were being moved by sea than by land.
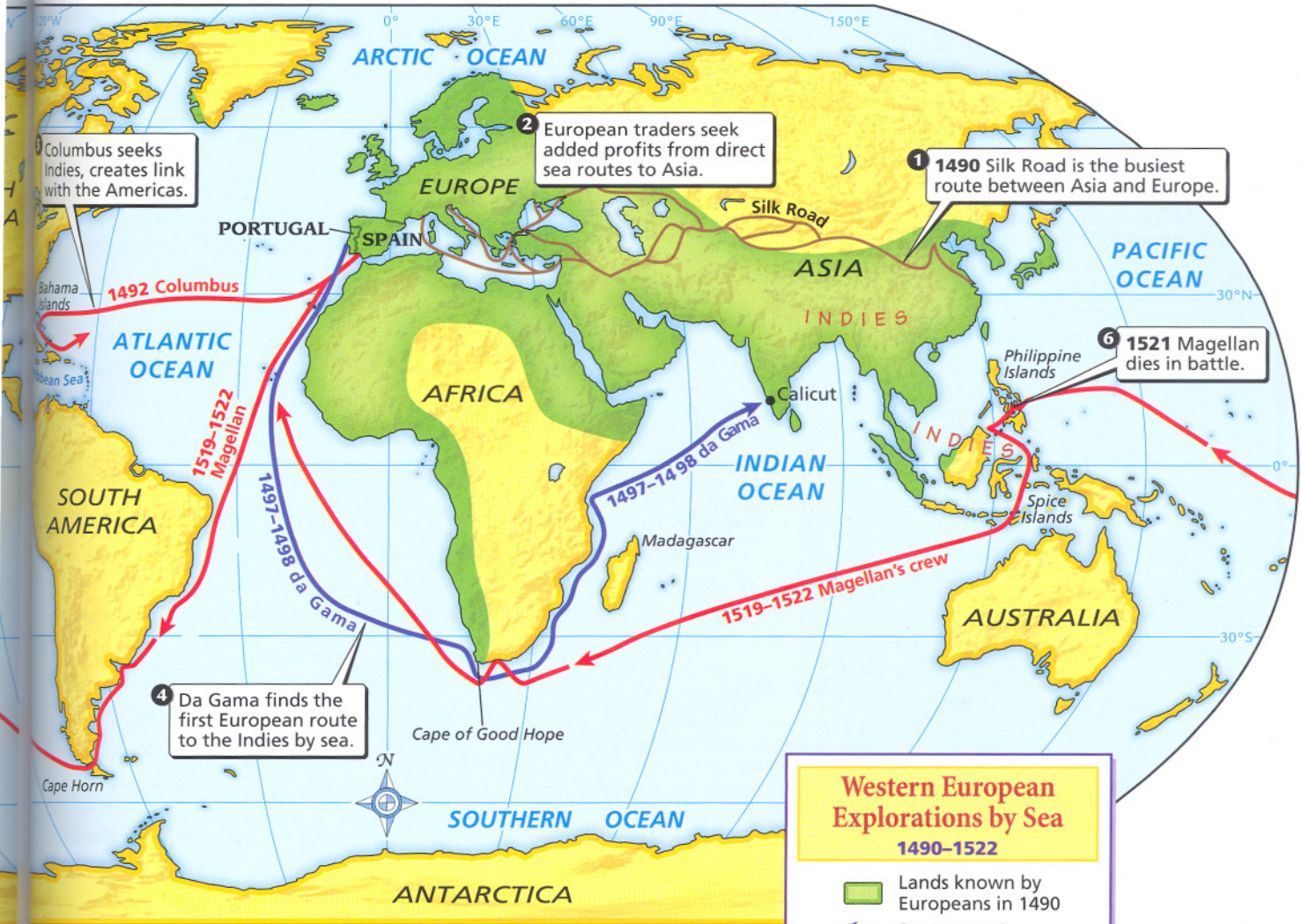
7 See page 82 for more about the Americas.

PACIFIC OCEAN

1519–1522 Magellan

5 **1519** Rejected by Portugal, Magellan seeks Spice Islands for Spain.

Where are we?

Inventions from Asia allowed Europeans to sail farther than ever before. The **compass**, from China, showed direction and the **astrolabe**, from the Middle East, showed latitude. The triangular **lanteen sail**, also from the Middle East, allowed ships to sail almost straight into the wind.

B From 1420 on, Prince Henry of Portugal (in black) sponsored expeditions along the African coast, urging his captains to "go back and go still further." Although he never sailed a ship, he is called "Henry the Navigator."

more at NWHatlas.com

2 European traders seek added profits from direct sea routes to Asia.

1 1490 Silk Road is the busiest route between Asia and Europe.

Columbus seeks Indies, creates link with the Americas.

ARCTIC OCEAN

EUROPE

Silk Road

PORTUGAL

SPAIN

ASIA

PACIFIC OCEAN

Bahama Islands

1492 Columbus

ATLANTIC OCEAN

INDIES

30°N

Caribbean Sea

1519–1522 Magellan

AFRICA

Calicut

6 1521 Magellan dies in battle.

Philippine Islands

INDIES

1497–1498 da Gama

INDIAN OCEAN

1497–1498 da Gama

SOUTH AMERICA

Madagascar

Spice Islands

0°

1519–1522 Magellan's crew

AUSTRALIA

30°S

Cape Horn

4 Da Gama finds the first European route to the Indies by sea.

Cape of Good Hope

SOUTHERN OCEAN

ANTARCTICA

C The map shows the key voyages of discovery that gave Europeans more complete knowledge of geography than ever before. Which countries explored which areas?

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Western European Explorations by Sea
1490–1522

- Lands known by Europeans in 1490
- → for Portugal
- → for Spain
- — Trade route

Scale at the Equator

0 — 1000 — 2000 miles

0 — 1000 — 2000 kilometers

Top 10 Cities, 1600

City Locations	Rank/City (Modern Country)	Population
	1 Beijing (China)	706,000
	2 Constantinople (Turkey)	700,000
	3 Agra (India)	500,000
	4 Osaka (Japan)	360,000
	5 Kyoto (Japan)	300,000
	6 Hangzhou (China)	270,000
	7 Paris (France)	245,000
	8 Naples (Italy)	224,000
	9 Cairo (Egypt)	200,000
	10 Bijapur (India)	200,000

D Most of the largest cities in 1600 were still in the Mediterranean, India, and East Asia. Western European cities remained smaller, but trade and colonies increased their wealth.