

# THE AGE OF EXPLORATION

They came....they saw....they conquered!

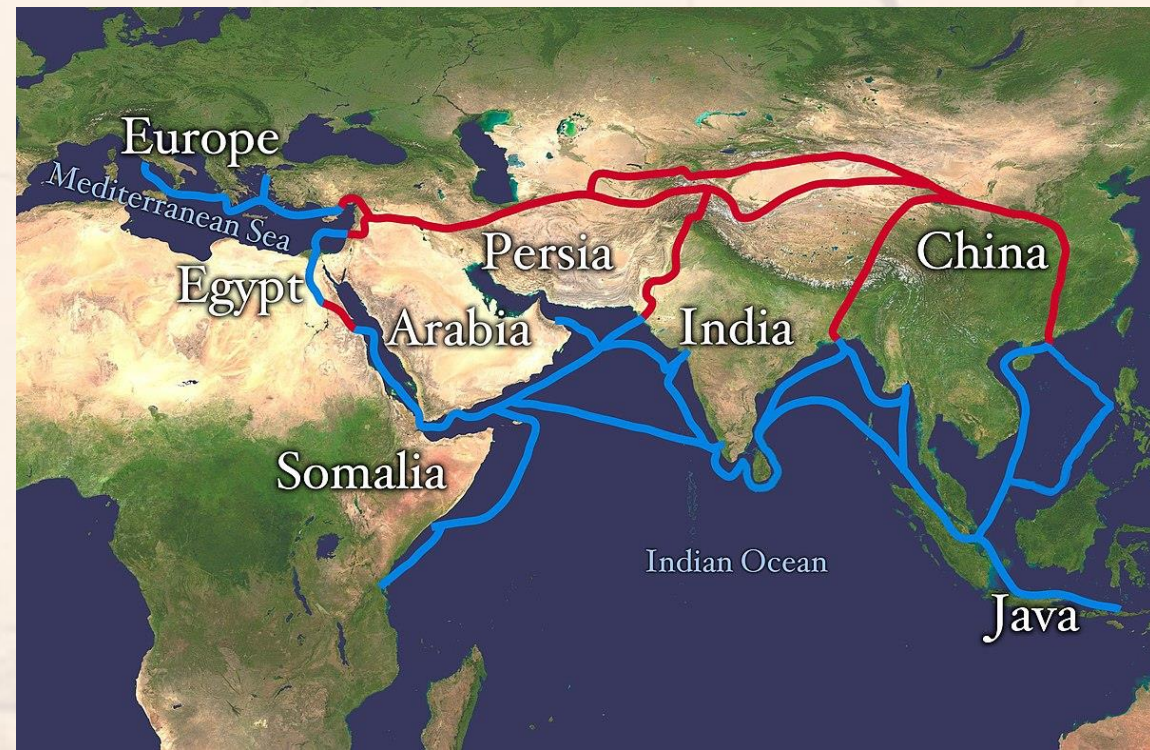


# The AGE of EXPLORATION

- Europeans paid high prices for goods like silk and spices. The only way to get them was from **Arabs and Berbers** who were people that trekked across Africa to collect goods to sell.
- Other traders travelled overland to India and China to collect goods.
- Traders used caravan routes and the **silk road**, which united China and the West.



Red – land routes of the Silk Road  
Blue – water routes of the Silk Road



# Exploration and Technology



- Luckily for Europeans, better maps and new technology changed navigation. These inventions came out of the **renaissance**, a period characterized by growing knowledge and innovations in technology.
- Examples of new technology:
  - Magnetic Compasses – Improved the safety and efficiency of ocean travel. Invented in China, compasses made determining direction simpler.
  - Astrolabes – Allowed sailors to figure out their location in the ocean by measuring distance of the sun and stars, like an ancient GPS!



# Trade developments in Europe

- The Crusades in the 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> centuries and Marco Polo's travels to China in the 13<sup>th</sup> century introduced Europeans to the **FOUR S's**

- **S – Spices**
- **S – Silk**
- **S – Scents (perfumes)**
- **S – Stones (gems and jewels)**

- These items could be found in the Middle East and Asia. As prosperity in Europe grew, so did the appetite for **Stuff!**



1. With your table, brainstorm some reasons as to why people would want to do whatever they could to reach the 4 S's.

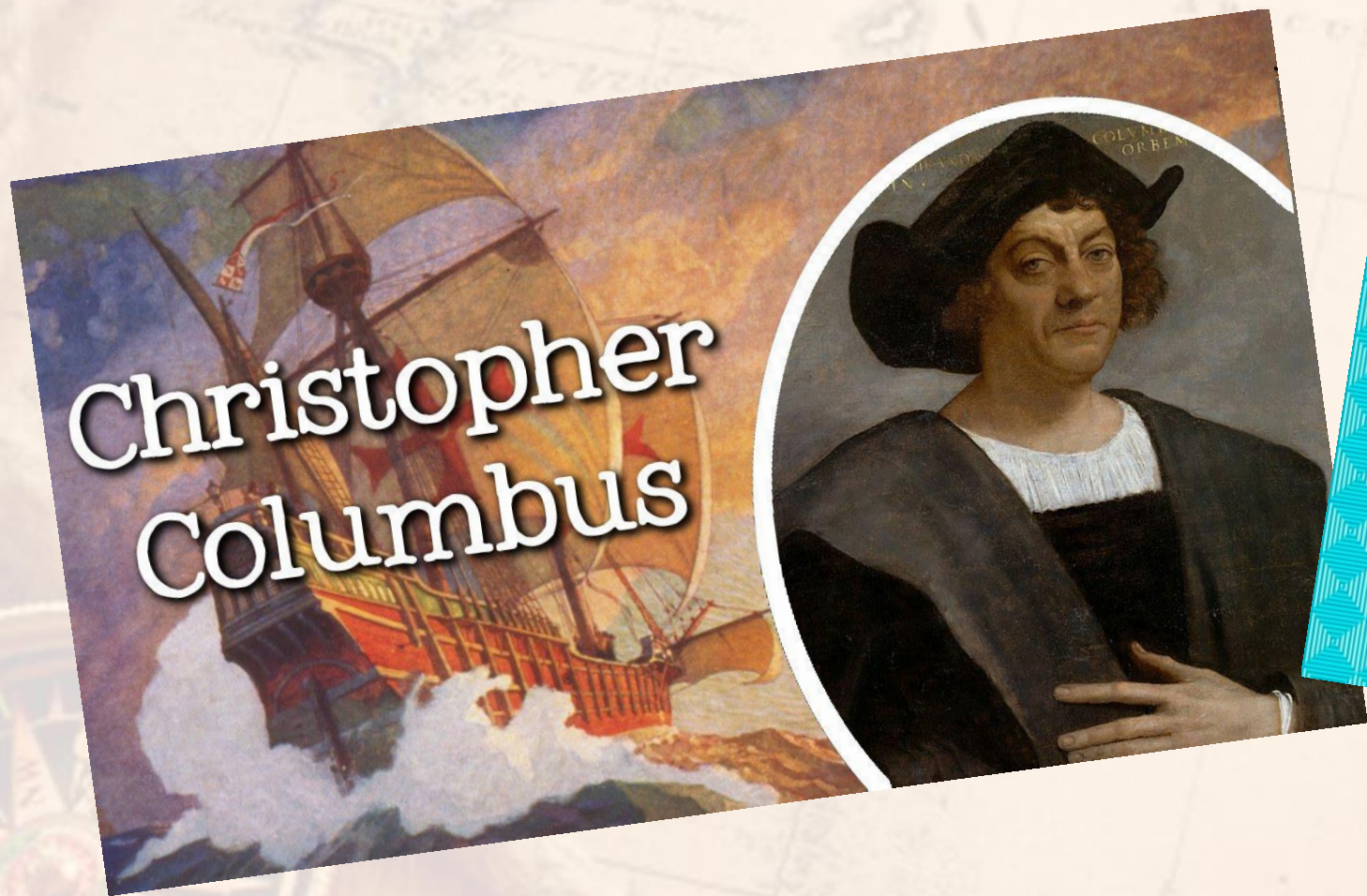
2. Are these items still important to people today? With your group, provide examples of the 4 S's that are still used in 2018.



# The Slave Trade

- The 4 S's weren't the only things being traded – unfortunately, **human beings were also part of the trade system** as early as the 1400's.
- West Africa saw significant conflict as it was no longer ruled by the major kingdoms of the past. It was broken up into many small kingdoms warring over land and trade.
- Enslaving captured enemies was already an established practice by many Arab Muslim traders as early as the 600s.
- By the time the Europeans arrived in the 1480s, the African slave trade was a big (terrible) business.

Enter the man...the myth...the legend....



He was actually a really terrible person....we'll get to that later.

# Columbus

- **Christopher Columbus**, a sailor from Genoa, Italy.
- Columbus was convinced that he could reach Asia by sailing west across the Atlantic Ocean.
- Columbus asked Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand of Spain to pay for an expedition across the Atlantic.
- He promised them riches and new territory if they funded his trip.
- He truly believed he was going to find a new and quicker route to India.

When you are Christopher Columbus





In 3 months, Columbus and his crew sailed across the rough Atlantic seas.

They went ashore in the Bahamas, on an island they named **San Salvador**, or “**Holy Savior**.”

Over the next few years, Columbus made three more voyages in search of gold and tobacco in the New World he had helped discover for the Europeans.

The lands he explored are known today as Cuba, Jamaica, and Haiti.



# Native American Contact

- Remember, Columbus thought he had found a new route to **India**. He believed the people he met were Indian, but that is **FALSE!** We will refer to those who he made contact with as Natives or Native Americans.
- Though many of the natives living in these islands were friendly to Columbus and his men when they arrived, the European settlers were more interested in gold and tobacco than friendship. In general, they enslaved and cruelly treated the native people.





- Diseases from the New World were transferred to the Natives. They did not have **immunities** (their bodies did not have protection against new viruses). Many Natives succumbed to diseases brought by the new visitors.
- In some cases, Europeans purposefully infected Natives in order to steal their belongings.

Read the following excerpts from Columbus's Journal and discuss with your tables. Be prepared to share your responses.

### Tables, 1, 3, and 5

"They ought to make good slaves for they are of quick intelligence since I notice that they are quick to repeat what is said to them, and I believe that they could very easily become Christians, for it seemed to me that they had no religion of their own. God willing, when I come to leave I will bring six of them to Your Highnesses so that they may learn to speak?"

What is Columbus's view of Natives?

What do you think about the casual way he mentions enslaving them?

### Tables, 2, 4, and 6

"In order to win their good will, I gave some of them red hats and glass beads that they put round their necks, and many other things of little value, with which they were very pleased and became so friendly that it was a wonder to see. It seemed to me that they were a people who were very poor in everything."

What is Columbus's goal of giving the Native gifts?  
What does he hope to get in return?

Why do you think he perceives the Natives as poor?  
Do you agree that they must have been poor?

# Impact of Columbus's Voyage

- Columbus's voyage resulted in a variety of changes in the world.
  - There was now a new era of interaction between Europe and the Americas – a variety of trade would take place, the trade of different food types as well as illnesses.
    - This was called the **Columbian Exchange**.
    - Many items were passed between the continents – examples include corn, potatoes, tobacco, and cocoa. These new items were highly prized.
    - Europeans also transferred diseases to the Native people who lived in America.
  - There was also significant conflict that resulted because of the discovery of the new world.
    - Many European nations, like Portugal and Spain, wanted the newly discovered lands for themselves.

# The Columbian Exchange



What do you think life would look like without some of the items that were exchanged after Columbus's voyage?

# Other Explorers Set Sail

- A variety of other explorers would set sail for the New World.
  - Ferdinand Magellan – a Portuguese navigator, set sail with a Spanish fleet to sail down the east coast of South America. After sailing past the southern tip of the continent, Magellan continued into the Pacific even though it was dangerous.
  - He ended up setting sail around the world. Unfortunately, he died before he could complete the trip, but 18 of his original crew survived to complete the trip, becoming the first crew to **circumnavigate (go all the way around) the globe**.

# And with that....

- Pieces were set into motion!
- The New World had opened to the Old and through conflict and development of new world powers, the Americas were on their way to being colonized.

