

15th century Mariners

John Green compares and contrasts 15th century marines in his short video. As he analysed in the video, **Christopher Columbus** was an Italian explorer, master navigator and admiral whose 3 transatlantic voyages opened the way for European exploration, exploitation, and colonization of the Americas. He has long been called the “discoverer” of the New World, although Vikings such as Leif Eriksson had visited North America five centuries earlier. Columbus made his transatlantic voyages under the sponsorship of Ferdinand II and Isabella I, the Catholic Monarchs of Aragon, Castile, and Leon in Spain. He was at first full of hope and ambition, an ambition partly gratified by his title “Admiral of the Ocean Sea,” awarded to him in April 1492, and by the grants enrolled in the Book of Privileges (a record of his titles and claims). However, he died a disappointed man. **Zheng He** was a Chinese explorer, admiral and diplomat who helped to extend the maritime and commercial influence of China throughout the regions bordering the Indian Ocean. He commanded seven naval expeditions almost a century before the Portuguese reached India by sailing around the southern tip of Africa. **Vasco de Gama** was a Portuguese navigator whose voyages to India opened up the sea route from western Europe to the East by way of the Cape of Good Hope.

Zheng He was a Muslim. Zhen He went on seven voyages in the Indian Ocean. The primary purpose or goal of Zheng He's voyages was to spread China's prestige, explore new lands, and establish trade relationships. While Columbus had three voyages on his first time. Columbus' goals was to explore Asia and bring back gold, spices, and silk to the Spanish crown and spread Christianity to these far parts of the world. San Salvador was the first island Columbus landed on. Columbus used the Dead Reckoning method to navigate. And he uses three pieces of information to find your position in dead reckoning, that is direction you're going, your speed, and the time. Columbus asks Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain to fund his adventures. And Ferdinand and Isabella were zealous of having a crusade.

On the other hand Vasco de Gama was from Portugal. He made 2 voyages in India. Vasco de Gama introduced Europeans to the Indian Ocean Trade Network. Vasco da Gama's ultimate goal was to discover the route from Europe to India by traveling around the Cape of Good Hope, which is the tip of Africa. He is best known for being the first European to India by sea. But Portugal was poor in resources. The big difference between Columbus's voyages and Zheng He's is Zheng He had a lot more ships; and bigger ships. Columbus over-estimate the size of Asia and he underestimated the size of the oceans. The main reason for Zheng He's voyages is to get people impressed with China. The Great Wall of China was built under the Ming Dynasty. The reason why the Chinese voyages decrease/end was because of the death of Zheng He; and new emperors less interested in the voyages. According to the video, it said that Pope Alexander VI divided the world into two to settle disputes between two countries; Spain and Portugal.

Based on Green's video, I can say that Columbus wasn't the greatest Marine in the 15th century. I agree with John Green's view that Zheng He was the greatest marine in the 15th century because he was a brilliant man. His seven total voyages were diplomatic, military, and trading ventures.

