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World Civ 1

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### **Film Respons**

**As John Green notes in the beginning of the video posted above, compare and contrast is the standard way of viewing world history – SO – this week in your response, compare and contrast the mariners portrayed in the video: their countries, goals and discoveries.**

In the video, there were three different mariners with different experiences, goals, and also achievements. They have been through different stuff and different lives with different goals but nevertheless, there were still similarities between them.

Zheng He was a sailor from China between 1405 and 1433. On his trips, he visited Africa, India, and the Middle East. His life goal was to find people to come to China so they could gain respect for the county and go through the tribute system. Many people were actually willing to do that and they joined. Sometimes they brought exotic animals from Africa. Zheng He wasn't a special explorer, because most of the trade routes were already known by Chinese mariners.

Vasco de Gama was a sailor from Portugal and his job was to find a way to the Indian Ocean to get into the spice trade and find a mythical Christian king to live in Africa. He got this commission from Prince Henry. De Gama made it to Calicut in India. He told the people that he was searching for gold and Christians. The Portuguese were able to take over many coastal towns. They were able to control the trade and merchant ships by capturing them and forcing them to buy a permit.

Christopher Columbus was a Spanish navigator. He was on four big trips in his life. His most famous trip is the one where he discovered America. Because of this trip, he is also the most famous one of them. His first trips were actually not that successful. Columbus landed on smaller islands. Because of

that, he had to ask Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain for money so he could travel. He promised to find a rich place and the people he would find there he would convert to Christianity. Columbus almost seems less successful than the other two but his discovery was bigger.

Overall the three mariners had all differences and similarities. All of them were traveling for their country and not on their own behalf. But there traveled in different areas and had different goals. They found different things on their trips and had a different impact on history. Overall each sailor had a unique journey but in the end, everybody did something for their country.