

### Compare & Contrast

Vasco da Gama, Zheng He, and Christopher Columbus were well-known explorers who had a significant impact on maritime history. Even though they had varied backgrounds and objectives, their travels resulted in significant findings. Zheng He was a Chinese explorer who lived during the Ming Dynasty. He oversaw several important expeditions that the Chinese Emperor ordered during the years 1405 and 1433. Expeditions Zheng led He wanted to strengthen diplomatic and commercial ties with other nations while also making China the dominating power in the Indian Ocean. With his massive fleets, which included thousands of crew members and hundreds of ships, he journeyed as far as East Africa, India, and Arabia. However, Zheng He's expeditions were shelved after his death as China drew inward.

Christopher Columbus, an intrepid Italian, sailed for Spain. He set out on his legendary trip across the Atlantic Ocean in 1492 in pursuit of a western route to Asia. He thus began European contact with the New World and explored the Americas, particularly the Caribbean islands. With Columbus' expeditions, the era of European exploration and colonization in the Americas began, leading to significant cultural exchanges, colonization, and historical events. Vasco da Gama, a Portuguese explorer, was in charge of the initial ship-based journey from Europe to India. In 1498, he arrived in Calicut, India, effectively opening a direct shipping route between Europe and Asia. Vasco da Gama's mission had a significant impact on European trade and paved the way for Portuguese colonialism and domination of the Indian Ocean by opening up lucrative trading channels with the East.

Now some similarities between them are that all three, Zheng He, Christopher Columbus, and Vasco da Gama were three well-known explorers who traveled by water during the Age of Discovery. When it came down the ones that sponsored and supported them were different

people but had the same intentions as the Chinese emperor supported Zheng He, the Spanish monarchs, and lastly, the Portuguese king supported Vasco de Gama who all helped them when they were carrying out their journeys. Their explorations changed the course of world history by creating new trade routes, fostering cultural interactions, and establishing colonies. And now onto the differences between the three, Zheng He was from China, Vasco da Gama was from Portugal, and Columbus was from Italy but traveled to Spain. Zheng He's expeditions focused on the Indian Ocean and East Africa, Columbus's voyages were to the Americas known to be the Caribbean, and Vasco da Gama's voyage was to India and the Indian Ocean region kind of close by where Zheng He focused on. Vasco da Gama's trip sought to develop a direct maritime commercial route to India and access to the lucrative spice trade, while Zheng He's expeditions sought to advance Chinese trade and diplomatic connections. Columbus's expeditions looked for a western route to Asia as well as gold and spices. Vasco da Gama and Christopher Columbus led smaller missions with fewer ships and crew members, whereas Zheng He's fleets were enormous, consisting of hundreds of ships and thousands of crew people. After Zheng He's passing, his expeditions came to an end, and China turned its attention inside. The discovery of the Americas by Europeans as a result of Columbus's explorations paved the way for colonization and substantial cultural interactions. Through the establishment of a direct commercial route between Europe and India by Vasco da Gama's expedition, European trade and colonization of the Indian Ocean region increased. In conclusion, although Zheng He, Christopher Columbus, and Vasco da Gama were all explorers during the Age of Exploration, there were differences between them in terms of their nations of origin, geographic focus, mission goals, size, and the results of their travels.