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### Crash Course Response

Zheng He hailed from China and was a Muslim. He led several voyages across the Indian Ocean. He visited Africa, India, and the Middle East. Due to the abundance in China, Zheng He's expeditions mainly helped to restore prestige to China and establish it as an economic center ("Columbus, Vasco da Gama, and Zheng He - 15th Century Mariners: Crash Course World History #21" 3:00-3:05). In addition; the voyages helped Zheng He and China maintain the Chinese tribute system. Although Zheng He did not discover anything significant, his expeditions made China get numerous exotic animals, such as zebras and elephants.

On the contrary, Vasco Da Gama was from Portugal. Unlike China, Portugal was resource-poor and depended on trade for survival. Vasco Da Gama's voyage aimed at taking advantage of the lucrative spice trade along the major coastlines ("Columbus, Vasco da Gama, and Zheng He - 15th Century Mariners: Crash Course World History #21" 5:00-5:11). Besides the spice, Da Gama was also keen on accessing gold and spreading Christianity. His most significant discovery was establishing the "trading post empire." He also discovered various sea routes, including the one leading to India.

Christopher Columbus had his roots in Italy. Like Da Gama, Columbus was also interested in finding a sea route to the East, notably India, China, and the spicy islands. In

addition, the lucrative spice trade was a significant motivator for his voyage. Christopher's most critical discovery was the New World, also known as the Americas.

Work Cited

“Columbus, Vasco da Gama, and Zheng He - 15th Century Mariners: Crash Course World History #21.” YouTube, uploaded by CrashCourse, 15 June 2012,  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NjEGncridoQ>.