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Crash Course Response

Compare and Contrast Mariners

Zheng He was a Chinese mariner who lived during the Ming dynasty. He commanded a series of expeditions that took place between 1405 and 1433, which saw him travel as far west as Africa. His voyages were intended to establish Chinese trade and diplomatic relations with foreign powers, and were also intended to demonstrate Chinese naval power. Zheng He's goals were primarily diplomatic and commercial, and his voyages were largely peaceful in nature. He discovered new lands and cultures, and brought back exotic goods like spices, ivory, and ostriches to China.

Vasco da Gama was a Portuguese explorer who lived during the late 15th and early 16th centuries. He is best known for his voyage to India in 1498, which established a direct sea route from Europe to Asia. Da Gama's goal was primarily to find a sea route to India that would allow Portugal to establish a lucrative trade in spices and other goods. His discovery of this route had significant commercial implications, and led to the establishment of Portuguese colonies in India and other parts of Asia.

Christopher Columbus was an Italian explorer who lived during the late 15th and early 16th centuries. He is best known for his voyages to the Americas, which took place in 1492 and subsequent years. Columbus's goal was primarily to find a westward sea route to Asia, which would allow Spain to establish a lucrative trade in spices and other goods. Although Columbus

did not find the route he was looking for, his discovery of the Americas had significant historical implications, leading to the colonization of the New World by European powers and the establishment of new trade networks.

All three Mariners had very similar intentions. The goal was either to find new routes, to trade or to find and claim new land. Mostly a combination of all.

Although the intentions were very similar, they were successful in different areas. Also, the preconditions varied extremely as Zhang He for example led about 300 ships while Columbus had only 3. Even though you might argue that Zhang He and Vasco da Gama were the greater mariners, in the end, Columbus had the biggest influence on our world today, which makes him the most important to us.