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World Civilization I

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15th century Mariners

In this week's crash course response we looked at a video about the 15th century Mariners.

In the video, John Green presents several different Mariners from different countries, with their goals and discoveries.

- 1) First up we got Prince Henry the Navigator from Portugal: He was very motivated to spread Christianity and also to discover new trading routes to Africa and Asia. He also founded a navigation school in Portugal, where young discoverers were trained. Places his explorers discovered included: Madeira and Azores islands, the Cape of Good Hope and the African Coast.
- 2) Next up we got Christopher Columbus from Spain: He was definitely one of the most famous discoverers and is still well known today. He was looking for new trading routes to Asia but instead of finding new ways there, he discovered the Caribbean islands in 1492. He made a total of 4 journeys to find a new western route to Asia, but instead of finding that, he discovered America.
- 3) The third one we will look at is Ferdinand Magellan who is also from Spain: His goal was similar to Columbus, because he wanted to find a western route to the so called Spice Islands, which is known as Indonesia today, and wanted to claim them for Spain. He led the first expedition to sail around the world, but he died in the Philippines and only one ship with a few of the sailors completed the journey.
- 4) The last one we will look at is Vasco da Gama who was from Portugal: He's mission given to him by King Manuel I of Portugal and it was to find a sea route to India and establish trade relations with its rulers. He took the route around Africa's Cape of Good Hope and was able to reach India in 1498. He was also able to establish trading posts and opened up new trading routes between Europe and Asia.

Similarities: All these Mariners mentioned above had similar intentions, as they were seeking new trading routes and opportunities for their respective countries. All of them were also driven by a sense of adventure and discovery, as they were trying to discover new lands and also expand their own knowledge of the world. Lastly they also had in common that they were supported and sponsored by their respective governments and rulers.

Differences: When looking at the differences, Prince Henry for example was driven by his desire to spread Christianity, while the others were all driven by economic interests.

Columbus for example found the New World by accident, while Magellan and da Gama both were specifically searching for what they found. The last difference is that while all of them were able to make significant discoveries, only Magellan's expedition was able to complete the trip around the entire globe.

Overall speaking, Mariners from Spain and Portugal were able to make remarkable discoveries and contributions to the world history by finding new trading routes and new countries.