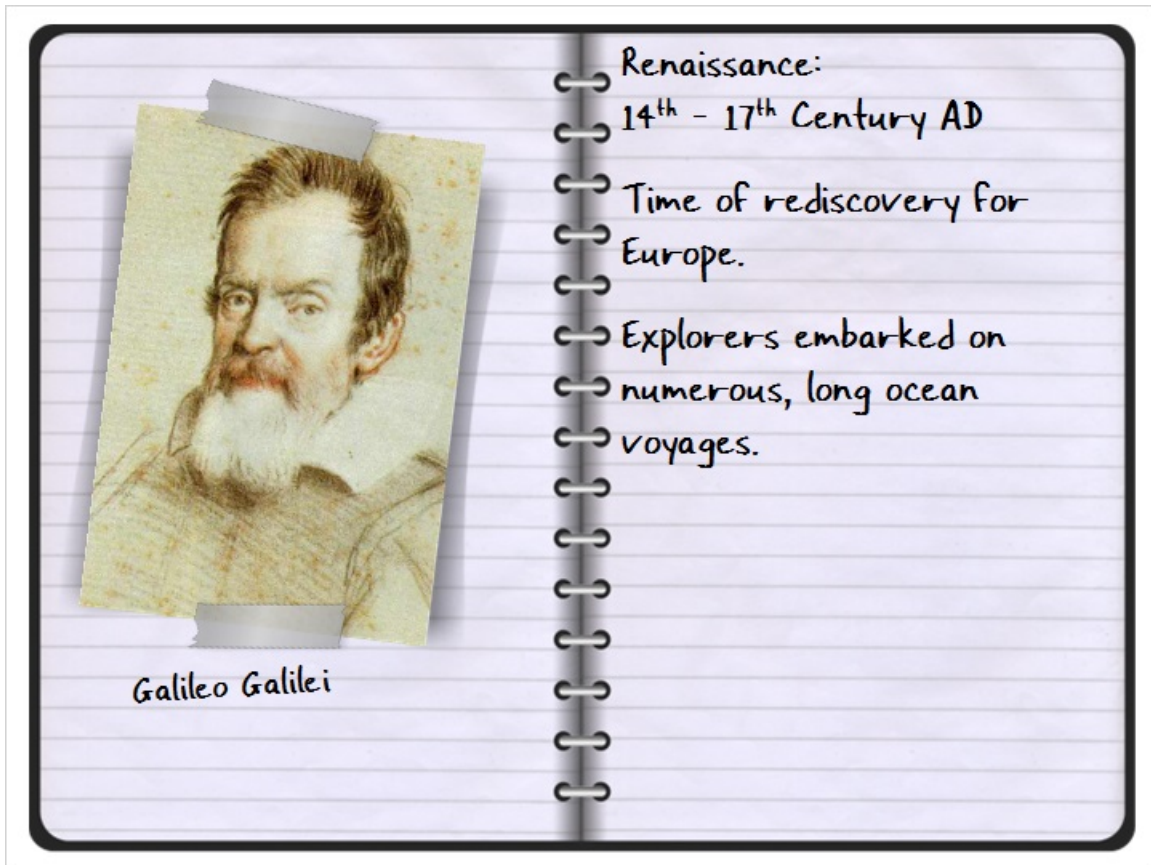


## Module 2: The History of Oceanography

### Topic 3 Content: Portuguese and the Voyages of Christopher Columbus Notes

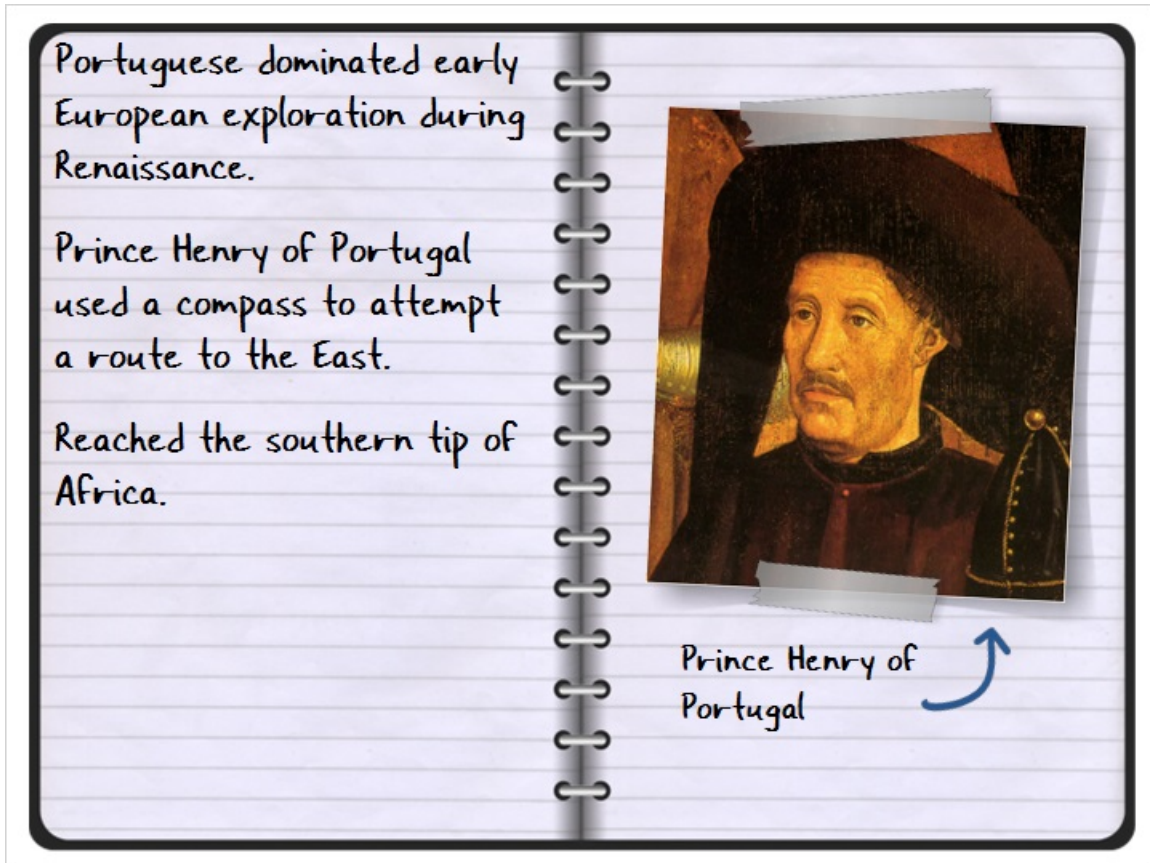


The Renaissance in the 1400s was a time of rediscovery for Europe, fueled by a renewed interest in astronomy, physics, mathematics, art, philosophy, and of course, long ocean expeditions. Although some historians believe that the Chinese had already explored and circumnavigated much of the world before the 1400s, this was unknown to the Renaissance-era Europeans. To them, every discovery beyond Europe was brand new and exciting!

Image Credit: Public Domain

## Module 2: The History of Oceanography


### Topic 3 Content: Portuguese and the Voyages of Christopher Columbus Notes



Portuguese dominated early European exploration during Renaissance.

Prince Henry of Portugal used a compass to attempt a route to the East.

Reached the southern tip of Africa.



Prince Henry of Portugal

The image shows a spiral-bound notebook with three lines of handwritten text on the left page. On the right page, there is a portrait of Prince Henry of Portugal, which is a reproduction of a painting. The portrait is partially obscured by a white rectangular sticker at the top. Below the portrait, the name 'Prince Henry of Portugal' is written in blue ink, with a blue arrow pointing from the text to the portrait. The notebook has a white background with light blue horizontal lines and a silver spiral binding on the left side.

The Portuguese dominated ocean explorations during the early Renaissance. Prince Henry of Portugal used a compass to attempt a route to the East, but stopped and returned home after reaching only the southern tip of Africa. Although Prince Henry never made it around Africa, his failure led to a lot new information and additional voyages by later explorers.

Image Credit: Public Domain

## Module 2: The History of Oceanography

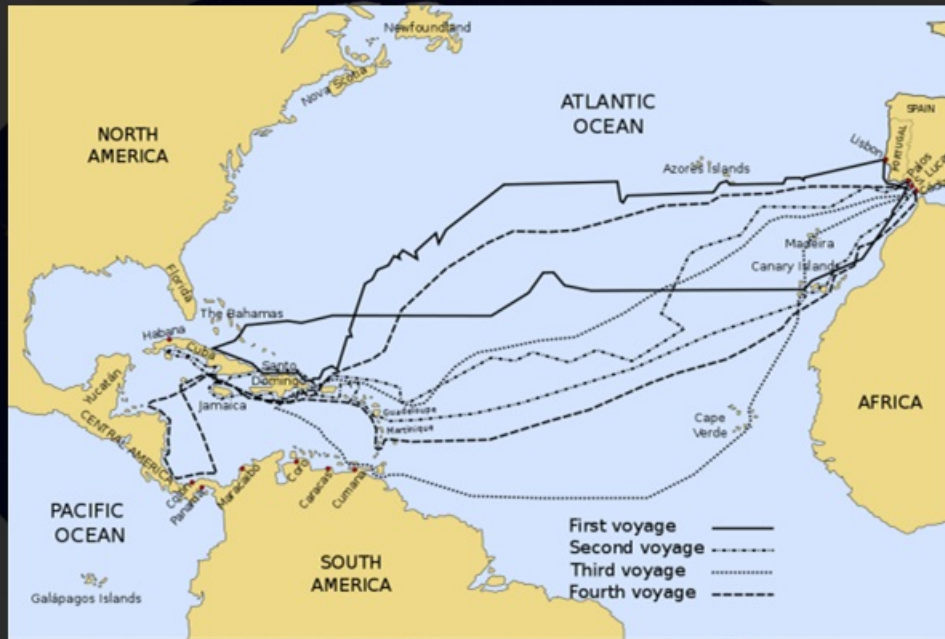
### Topic 3 Content: Portuguese and the Voyages of Christopher Columbus Notes



Twenty years after Prince Henry's voyage to the southern tip of Africa, Bartolomeu Dias followed a similar route and, in 1487, became the first European to complete the voyage around what is now known as the Cape of Good Hope. In 1497, another explorer, Vasco da Gama, set out and, by 1499, had made it all the way around the Cape of Good Hope and on to India.

## Module 2: The History of Oceanography

### Topic 3 Content: Portuguese and the Voyages of Christopher Columbus Notes



You've probably heard the famous rhyme, "In fourteen-hundred-and-ninety-two, Columbus sailed the ocean blue" in reference to the Italian Christopher Columbus's "discovery" of North America. However, did you know that, while Columbus made four major voyages, historians believe he only ever made it as far as the Caribbean Islands? Although Columbus may not have discovered North America, he is still given credit by many people. Columbus really didn't realize what he had "discovered"; actually, he thought he was somewhere in Asia! Nevertheless, Columbus and his brave crews did make four harrowing voyages across the Atlantic Ocean. This fact should not be forgotten.

Image Credit: Creative Commons

## Module 2: The History of Oceanography

### Topic 3 Content: Portuguese and the Voyages of Christopher Columbus Notes



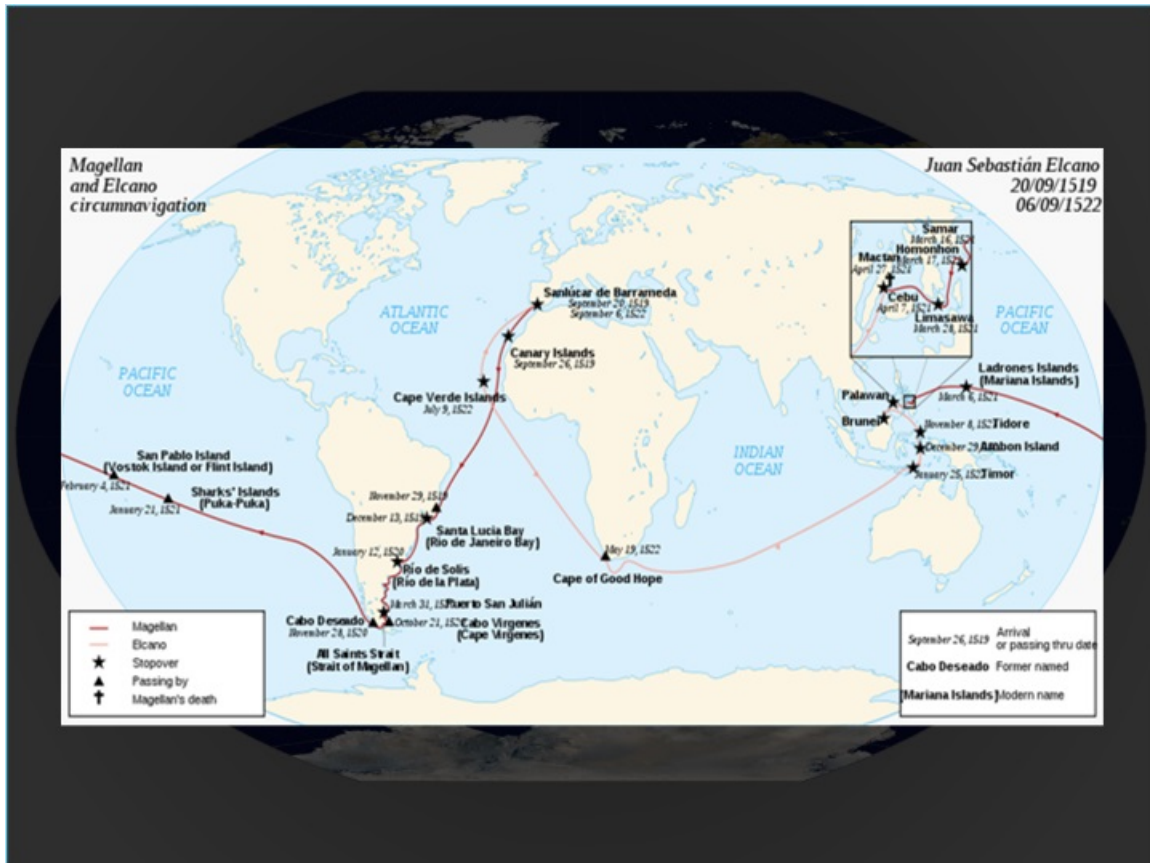
The European who did discover the landmass we now know as South America was Amerigo Vespucci, an explorer who sailed on behalf of both Spain and Portugal. Vespucci was the first European to reach this land, and while there, explored much of the Amazon River. In honor of Vespucci's achievements, a map made in 1507 labels this southern continent in the New World, South America.

Image Credit: Creative Commons



## Module 2: The History of Oceanography

### Topic 3 Content: Portuguese and the Voyages of Christopher Columbus Notes



When news spread of Vasco Nunez de Balboa's discovery of the Pacific Ocean, Spain financed five ships and 260 sailors to make the bold attempt of circumnavigating the world. Spain chose the Portuguese navigator Ferdinand Magellan to lead this dangerous voyage.

Magellan and his sailors went through many hardships including harsh weather, death, fatigue, and disease. In fact, while in the Philippines, the natives killed Magellan during a fight. Sadly, of the original 260 sailors, only 18 returned home, led by Juan Sebastián Elcano. As a result, Elcano would be the first navigator credited for circumnavigating the globe.

Image Credit: Creative Commons

## Module 2: The History of Oceanography

### Topic 3 Content: Portuguese and the Voyages of Christopher Columbus Notes



Stories of the tremendous hardships that took place during Magellan's voyage discouraged many navigators from attempting another circumnavigation of the world. Nevertheless, in 1577 Queen Elizabeth I of England dispatched ships led by the explorer Sir Francis Drake to travel around the globe and conquer Spanish settlements, including those along the Pacific coast of the Americas.

After rounding the tip of South America, Sir Francis Drake and his crew raided many of the Spanish settlements along the Pacific coast of the Americas, traveling as far north as California. Drake feared traveling back into the Atlantic knowing that the Spanish would be awaiting his return so he continued his voyage west through Indonesia, and then down around southern Africa at the Cape of Good Hope. After an amazing journey during which he lost numerous crewmembers and ships, Drake finally arrived back to England in 1580 to knighthood by Queen Elizabeth and riches for his journey!