

SS6H6 The student analyze the impact of European exploration and colonization on various world regions.

a. Identify the causes of European exploration and colonization; include religion, natural resources, a market of goods, and the contributions of Prince Henry the Navigator.

THE CAUSES OF EUROPEAN EXPLORATION AND COLONIZATION

Portugal is a small country on the Atlantic coast in southern Europe. During the fifteenth century, Portugal led the world in sea exploration. Beginning in 1415, and for nearly one hundred years, Portugal explored the western coast of Africa.

The Portuguese wanted to find a route around Africa into the Indian Ocean. Goods brought over land from China and India were expensive. Europeans wanted Asian silks and spices, but they wanted to find a way to get them at a lower cost. The Portuguese believed that they could make a lot of money as traders if they could get Asian goods for a cheaper price. There were religious reasons to explore too. The Portuguese wanted to spread Christianity along Africa's west coast.

Prince Henry the Navigator was the son of the Portuguese king. He fought in a battle that helped capture Ceuta, a city on the coast of North Africa. The Moors had controlled Ceuta for hundreds of years. This gave Portugal an important outpost from which to explore Africa. Prince Henry became governor of Portugal's southernmost coasts. He sent more than fifty expeditions down from the west coast of Africa. Henry wanted to establish colonies and break the Muslim hold on trade routes.

Henry studied navigation and mapmaking. He established a naval observatory. Students there learned navigation, astronomy, and **cartography** (mapmaking). Henry's efforts advanced what Europeans knew about these sciences.

Henry was unable to make money trading in gold, so he tried creating sugar cane plantations. One of his expeditions discovered the island of Madeira. The climate there was good for growing sugar cane, and he knew that it was a very profitable crop. It also required lots of labor. Henry imported slaves from Africa to work the fields. This plan became successful and was later copied in the New World. In fact, the expansion of the sugar cane economy encouraged a slave trade that lasted another four hundred years.

The Portuguese also gained access to the Spice Islands. By 1513, Portuguese trade extended to China and Japan.

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b. Trace the empires of Portugal, Spain, England, and France in Asia, Africa, and the Americas.

THE EMPIRES OF PORTUGAL, SPAIN, ENGLAND, AND FRANCE IN ASIA, AFRICA, AND THE AMERICAS

The **Crusades** (1096 to 1272) were military expeditions sent by different **Popes** (leaders of the Roman Catholic Church) to capture the Holy Land from the Muslim Turks. Though the Crusades were not successful, one positive result was the people of Western Europe learned how to draw better maps and build better ships. The Crusades also exposed the European Crusaders to desirable products of the East. Europeans and Asians created trade routes to bring products from the East to Europe. These benefits of the Crusades later contributed to the expansion of Portugal, Spain, England, and France.

By the fifteenth century, the major trade routes from the East to Europe went to two Italian cities, Venice and Genoa. The Italian merchants marked up the prices on spices, precious jewels, fragrances, woods, and finished goods and sold them throughout Europe.

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Europe's Historical Influence

Standards: SS6H6 a,b,c,d

Portugal, Spain, France, and England resented the huge profits made by Venice and Genoa. Since Venice and Genoa controlled the trade routes through the Mediterranean Sea, the jealous European countries looked for another way to India, China, and the Spice Islands.

The Empire of Portugal

Portugal established the earliest of the modern European colonial empires. The Portuguese empire lasted for centuries. It started with Prince Henry, the son of the king of Portugal. Henry sent Portuguese ships down the west coast of Africa. He wanted to find a route around the continent to Indian and China.

Bartolomeu Dias reached the southern tip of Africa and discovered the Cap of Good Hope and the Indian Ocean. Vasco da Gama, another Portuguese explorer, later sailed around the cape. He continued on to India.

Over the following decades, Portuguese sailors continued to explore the coasts and islands of East Asia, establishing forts and trading posts. By 1571, a string of outposts connected Portugal with Africa, India, the south Pacific islands, and Japan.

Portugal grew wealthy from its trade route around Africa to Asia. Its most profitable **colony** was Brazil in South America. Brazil was a Portuguese colony until 1822.

The empire of Spain

Other explorers from Spain, France, and England searched for a route through or around North America and South America. They hoped to find a route that would lead them to the riches of the East. In the late 1490s, Christopher Columbus, an Italian, was given ships and men to try to find a passage across the Atlantic Ocean to Asia. It was later learned that Columbus had found entire continents that were unknown to the Europeans. Exploration and colonization of this "New World" gave Spain enormous wealth.

The Spanish empire was one of the largest empires in history. Spanish conquistadors conquered the Inca and Aztec civilizations in the 1500s and brought home the wealth of these people. Spain claimed huge areas of North and South America and ruled parts of them for over three hundred years. Their empire stretched to Asia, where they controlled the Philippines until almost the twentieth century.

The Empire of England

At one time, England was one of three countries (England, Scotland, and Wales) that shared an island. By the early 1700s, the three united as **Great Britain**. The British Empire was the largest in history. At its peak, Great Britain controlled Canada, Australia, India, much of eastern Africa, and numerous islands across the world.

North America came under the control of England and France during the eighteenth century. Great Britain won out over its European rivals- the Dutch, France, and Spain- in gaining control of North America. However, Great Britain lost its American colonies. The United States became an independent country after a war that began in 1776. Great Britain maintained control over Canada, however, until the twentieth century.

Great Britain colonized the continent of Australia, including many islands along the trading routes. During the nineteenth century and into the early twentieth century, Great Britain's influence increased.

The Empire of France

From the 1600s to the 1900s, France was one of the world's dominant empires. The French possessed colonies around the world. During the reign of Napoleon I, France dominated much of the European continent. By 1812, France controlled much Germany, Italy, and Spain.

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Other parts of the French empire were originally established during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. This included islands in the Caribbean, the Indian Ocean, the South Pacific, the North Pacific, and the North Atlantic. France maintained influence in parts of Canada, South America, Southeast Asia, and Northwest Africa. In the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, only the British Empire was larger than the empire of France.

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c. Trace the colonization of Australia by the United Kingdom.

THE COLONIZATION OF AUSTRALIA BY THE UNITED KINGDOM

The first Europeans to sail into Australian waters arrived in 1606. To reach Australia from Europe, ships sailed south along the west African coast to the Cape of Good Hope and then turned east across the Indian Ocean. For nearly two hundred years, ships from several European nations sailed to the continent.

In 1770, Captain James Cook charted the eastern Australian coast in his ship *Endeavour*. Following orders from British King George III, Cook claimed the east coast for Great Britain. Cook named eastern Australia "New South Wales." The British mapped the coast of Australia, including the island of Tasmania.

The independence of the thirteen American colonies led the British to colonize Australia in 1778. Before American independence, the British sent prisoners to be colonists in the Georgia colony in America. Britain created a new **penal** (prison) colony by shipping prisoners from Great Britain to Australia.

There were four main reasons for the British to colonize Australia. First, the British wanted to colonize Australia to relieve overcrowding in Great Britain's jails. Second, the British government recognized the importance of having its navy stationed in Australia in the southern hemisphere. The British viewed Australia as an economic base to expand trade. Finally, the British government did not want its rivals, especially the French, to start a colony on the Australian continent.