



# Explorers/Adventurers Pathfinder

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This pathfinder will be useful in finding information about explorers and the areas each explorer conquered.

For an introduction to the topic, see:

- World Book Web: World Book Student – Search for “Exploration.”

The article that appears first will give you an idea of which explorers were important in which area of the world. This will help you to decide which explorer you would like to focus on.

## Key Resources at a Glance:

- *The Age of Exploration* by Sarah Flowers (1999). Discusses the discoveries of several notable explorers active between 1492 and 1522, including Columbus, Da Gama, Drake, and Magellan.
- *The Explorers and Settlers: A Sourcebook on Colonial America* by Carter Smith (1991). American albums from the collections of the Library of Congress. Describes and illustrates the first discoveries and settlements in North America through a variety of images produced at that time.

## Reference Background

- World Book Encyclopedia “Exploration.” This article is the same article listed as an introduction to the topic. You may choose to use this to help gain more background information as well.
- *The Atlas of Westward Expansion* by Alan Wexler (1995) Provides an overview of the West from early trails blazed by explorers to human mass exoduses to the frontier by wagon train.
- *Explorers & Discoverers: from Alexander the Great to Sally Ride* by Peggy Saari (1995)—4 volumes. Tells the stories of world explorers, from Delia Akeley to Jacques Cartier, who ventured forth to discover remote lands and to increase human knowledge of the world and universe.

## Resources

### Books

- *Christopher Columbus, Mariner* by Samuel Eliot Morison (1970)
- *Ferdinand Magellan and the Discovery of the World* by Rebecca Stefoff (1990) – A biography of the Portuguese sea captain who commanded the first expedition that sailed around the world, thus providing the first positive proof that the earth is round.
- *Hernando de Soto and the Explorers of the American South* by Sylvia Whitman (1991) – An account of the exploration of the American South by Hernando de Soto, Ponce de Leon, and others.

## Search Aids

### Search Terms

(Use for computer searches)

- Explorers
- Adventurers
- Exploration
- Name of your explorer

### Subject Headings

(Use in card catalogs and print indexes)

- Explorers
- Exploration

### Call Number

- 910 (Dewey Decimal)
- 919
- 92 (Biography)
- 920 (Collective Biography)
- 970-977

### Indexes and Abstracts

- EBSCOHost (MAS Ultra, TOPICsearch, History Reference Center)
- World Book Online
- NetTrekker

### Library catalogs

- North Polk Catalog (Alexandria)
- ComCat

- *Junipero Serra* by Sean Dolan (1991) – Focuses on the achievements of the eighteenth-century Spanish missionary who was one of the early explorers of California.
- *La Salle and the Explorers of the Mississippi* by Tony Coulter – A history of the exploration of the Mississippi River, discussing the men who accomplished it.
- *Matthew Henson* by Michael Gilman (1988) – Follows the life of the black explorer who accompanied Robert Peary on the expedition to the North Pole.
- *Over the Top of the World: Explorer Will Steger's Trek Across the Arctic* by Will Steger (1997) – An account of explorer Will Steger's expedition from Russia to Canada by the way of the North Pole, traveling by dog sled and canoe.
- *The Remarkable Voyages of Captain Cook* by Rhoda Blumberg (1991).
- *The Sea King: Sir Francis Drake and His Times* by Albert Marrin (1995). Recounts the life and adventures of Sir Francis Drake, one of the greatest mariners, navigators, and commanders to ever explore the seas.
- *Sir Walter Raleigh and the Quest for El Dorado* by Marc Aronson (2000). Recounts the adventurous life of the English explorer and courtier, Walter Raleigh, who spelled his name "Raleigh" and led many expeditions to the new world.

## Web Pages and Web Portals

- **Explorers of the Millenium**  
<http://library.thinkquest.org/4034/>  
 This site includes a Hall of Fame, which provides biographies for 29 different explorers. It also has a timeline, and a list of several other explorer sites.
- **Adventurers & Explorers**  
<http://www.americaslibrary.gov/cgi-bin/page.cgi/aa/explorers>  
 This site provides information about Amelia Earhart and Lewis and Clark.
- **Explorers-MSN Encarta**  
[http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia\\_761586694/Explorers.html](http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia_761586694/Explorers.html)  
 This Encarta Encyclopedia provides articles about several different explorers.
- **Explorers**  
[http://www.mce.k12tn.net/explorers/explorers\\_start.htm](http://www.mce.k12tn.net/explorers/explorers_start.htm)  
 This is a great site to look at to figure out which explorers were involved with which area of the world, as well what time period they were involved with.
- **Discoverers Web**  
<http://www.win.tue.nl/~engels/discovery/>  
 This site gives a great overview of explorers in general, but also goes into great detail about many different explorers.
- **European Explorers Theme Page**  
<http://www.cdli.ca/CITE/explorer.htm>  
 This site is primarily focused on European Explorers, but there are links at the bottom of the page to other explorer sites as well.
- **NetTrekker**  
<http://elementary.nettrekker.com/subject/>  
 This is a web guide that will allow you to perform a search, and find multiple other websites on your explorer.

## Multimedia Resources

- The Explorers: The Dawning of the Era of Exploration, (Discovery Education, 2006) [Video-Discovery Streaming] Discover the factors that influenced transoceanic exploration during the 15th century. The navigation and shipbuilding advances made by the Spanish, Portuguese, and Chinese helped Europe find a trade route to Asia and the New World.
- Just the Facts Learning Series: America's Explorers and Pioneers, (Goldhill, 1999) [Video-Discovery Streaming]  
This video tells the stories of the first explorers in America, and continues to discuss explorers through the years, ending with the 20<sup>th</sup> century explorers.
- American Geography Close-Ups: The Midwest Volume II, (Discovery Channel School, 2005) [Video-Discovery Streaming]  
A significant portion of this video discusses the travels of Marquette and Joliet, Lewis and Clark, and the settlers on the Oregon Trail.
- Ponce de Leon: The First Conquistador (A & E Home Video, 1996) [VHS] – Most people recall Ponce de Leon and his futile search for the mythical Fountain of Youth, but there is far more to the life of this great explorer. Ponce de Leon gained fame when he voyaged to the Americas with Columbus in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. There he discovered Florida and served as governor of Puerto Rico.

**\*\* You can evaluate other resources using criteria at: [www.THEpathfinderproject.org/evaluate.html](http://www.THEpathfinderproject.org/evaluate.html) \*\***

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