

THE AGE OF DISCOVERY

The Castilian expeditions

Santillana

Cristobal Colón and the discovery of America

He was a sailor from Genoa in Italy. He believed that the Earth was round, and that he could reach Asia by crossing the Atlantic Ocean. His expeditions were financed by the **Reyes Católicos**.

He left Huelva with three ships and reached the 'new land' in October, 1492.

Along his life, he did 4 expeditions to this land, that he always thought it was Asia. He never knew he had discovered a continent.

Treaty of Tordesillas

Castilla and Portugal wanted to control the territories discovered by their expeditions. To avoid conflict, they accepted the mediation of the Pope.

The Treaty of Tordesillas (1494) established that the line of division between Castilian and Portuguese territories would be along a meridian about 2,000 km west of the Azores.

All the territories east of this meridian belonged to Portugal. All the land west of this line belonged to Castilla.

Fernando de Magallanes and Juan Sebastián Elcano

In 1519 Fernando de Magallanes initiated an expedition through the Atlantic to the Maluku Islands, in the Pacific Ocean. Those islands were an strategic point in the spice trade.

Magallanes died before the returning trip, so his second-in-command, Juan Sebastián Elcano, was in charge for the return journey.

The Magallanes expedition, completed by Elcano (1519-1522) was the first journey around the world, proving that the Earth was round.