Chapter 4
Exploration and Encounter

People
Prince Henry the Navigator: Portuguese ruler sponsoring expeditions to Africa and a school to train mariners.
Vasco da Gama: he opened a sea route to India around Africa; returned with valuable cargo.
Christopher Columbus: he sailed west from Spain and explored Americas en route to Asia.
Hernán Cortés: Spaniard who conquered Aztec Empire in only three years and destroyed it.
Francisco Pizarro: conquistador who set up a Spanish government in Peru, after conquering the Incan Empire.
Juan Ginés de Sepúlveda: royal historian who argued the civilized Spaniards should rule over barbarian natives.
Bartolomé de Las Casas: a Dominican monk who argued for fairer treatment of the indigenous American peoples.
John Cabot: a Venetian who sailed for England to find a northerly trade route westward to Asia.
Jacques Cartier: gave the French a claim in North America by exploring the St. Lawrence.
Ferdinand Magellan: led the first expedition to cross the Pacific and circumnavigate the globe.

Terms
Prester John: a legend about Christians in Africa, ruled by a Prester John, cut off from other Christians by Muslim conquests.
caravel: a tri-masted sailing ship which manoeuvred easily and held more cargo than earlier ships and therefore gave Europeans a better ability to sail, trade, and fight.
Enterprise of the Indies: Columbus’s name for the first attempt to sail west and open a trade route with East Asia. He landed in San Salvador, and thought he was on one of the Japanese outer islands.
New World: European name for lands on the west side of the Atlantic, unknown to them previously.
papal bull: an official document or order of the Catholic Church issued by the pope.
Black Legend: stories told about cruel and bloodthirsty Spanish conquerors, including those about conquests in the New World and the horrors of the Inquisition.
encomienda: the system in South America in which a parcel of land gave the owner the right to use forced labour.
Northwest Passage: an alternative trade route to Asia sought by French, Dutch and English.
1. Vespucci was an Italian explorer who sailed the Atlantic and named the lands in the Western Hemisphere as the “Americas.”
   - He mistakenly thought that the indigenous people he met had no laws, religion, or government. He believed they lived more “naturally.”

2. Muslim conquest of the Middle East inspired Europeans to find new trade routes to Asia.
   - The Portuguese made forays along the African coastline and succeeded in reaching India.
   - They fought Arabs for control of trade in the Indian Ocean.
   - Portugal became the centre of routes connecting Europe and Asia by sea.

3. A mistake in calculating circumference of the earth led Columbus to attempt to sail westward to India.
   - Sighting land, he thought he had reached Asia. Thus, these islands were called the “West Indies.”
   - The people, thought to be from India, were called “Indians.”

4. Spain and Portugal were competing to claim the “discovered” lands.
   - The Pope wanted to avoid conflict between two Christian nations so he ordered a division. The result was the Treaty of Tordesillas, 1494.

5. On the one side arguments include:
   - He was a great and daring explorer.
   - He opened the New World to the West.
   - He began the world’s Europeanization.
   - His voyage is among the world’s all-time biggest events.
   - On the other side, arguments include:
     - He represents the beginning of Western domination of others.
     - He started exploitation, enslavement, culture destruction, spread of diseases, and damage to the environment.
     - His voyage was not an act of human progress.
6. • By small forces, but with the advantage of guns and horses.
   • Cortés captured Aztec Emperor, Montezuma II, and Pizarro executed Incan Emperor, Atahualpa.
   • Aztecs initially viewed Spaniards as gods who fulfilled their prophecies.
   • Spaniards took control of the rich silver mines.

7. • Spanish colonists initially used forced labour of indigenous people. But ill treatment, starvation, and new diseases caused much suffering.
   • So Black slavery was introduced to stabilize the labour supply.

8. • John Cabot was sent by England’s King Henry VII to find a Northwest Passage to Asia.
   • He explored Newfoundland and east coast of the United States of America.
   • Sebastian Cabot (John’s son) continued searching the Arctic, and also South America.
   • They hoped to find a competitive trade route.

9. • Ferdinand Magellan, Portuguese but sailing for Spain, sought a route westward to the Indies, the first voyage around southern tip of Americas.
   • He reached and named the Pacific, and crossed it to the Philippines.
   • He was killed in battle in the Philippines, but his crew continued the voyage, and were the first to circle the globe. It took three years.

10. • Las Casas:
    – Aboriginals as human as Europeans and should be treated as such.
    – He wrote stories of their mistreatment to publicize and protest it.
    – He did accept Spain’s right to rule and convert.

   • Sepúlveda:
    – He took the view of Aristotle, that some are “natural slaves.” Therefore, he believed it was right to enslave them.
    – He believed the indigenous people were barbarous, cruel, and wild – they needed to be civilized.