The Age of Exploration

The Age of Exploration, also known as the Age of Discovery, was a period in history when European nations explored the world, beginning in the 1400s and lasting through the 1600s. The most important achievements from this time include the discovery of the Americas, finding a water route to Asia from Europe, and making the first journey around the world.

Directions: Match the explorer to his accomplishment.

Christopher Columbus
The first explorer to sail around the Cape of Good Hope in 1488, located at the Southern tip of Africa.

Marco Polo
Sailed from Portugal down the east coast of South America from 1501-1502.

Prince Henry the Navigator
Sailed from Greenland to Canada around the year 1000 A.D. and established the Vinland settlement.

Bartholomeu Dias
Traveled from Venice, Italy all the way across Asia in from 1271 to 1295, and visited Persia, China, and India.

Vasco da Gama
A 15th century Portuguese prince who trained sailors in navigation, and organized over 50 voyages of exploration. He searched for a water route to Asia by traveling around Africa.

Amerigo Vespucci
Traveled from Spain to the New World, arriving in the Bahamas in 1492. He led a total of 4 voyages to the New World, from 1492 to 1504.

Leif Ericson
Traveled around the Cape of Good Hope and reached India from 1497 to 1499, and succeeded in finding a sea route to Africa.

Ferdinand Magellan
Led the first expedition around the world, traveling west from Portugal, from 1519-1522.

Vasco Núñez de Balboa
Crossed the Isthmus of Panama to the Pacific Ocean in 1513.