

Christopher Columbus



The king and queen of Spain sent Christopher Columbus on a voyage across the Atlantic Ocean. Columbus wanted to find a western sea route to the continent of Asia. He did not know that the continent of North America lay between Europe and Asia. When he landed at San Salvador, Columbus became the first European to discover a sea route to America. Because of this, many people say that Christopher Columbus discovered the "New World."

Juan Ponce de León



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Juan Ponce de León sailed for Spain. He wanted to discover riches and land to conquer. Ponce de León was the first European to land at St. Augustine in Florida. Because of Ponce de León, Spain was able to claim Florida.

Christopher Newport



Captain Christopher Newport sailed from England to Jamestown. Newport had three goals:

1. He wanted to discover riches.
2. He wanted to find a western sea route to the continent of Asia.
3. He also wanted to colonize Virginia.

He arrived in North America in 1607 and helped establish the Jamestown Colony. Over the years Newport made four more trips from England to Jamestown, each time bringing more settlers. Captain Newport was the first European to reach the Fall Line of the James River

Jacques Cartier



Jacques Cartier sailed for France. He wanted to colonize the New World. Cartier explored the St. Lawrence River Valley near Quebec, Canada. Because of Cartier, France was able to claim part of North America.