

Facts to Know

Vasco da Gama	<i>Portuguese explorer who sailed eastward to India</i>
King Manuel	<i>king of Portugal who sponsored expedition to India</i>
Bartholomew Diaz	<i>navigator who discovered the southern tip of Africa</i>
Cape of Good Hope	<i>southern tip of Africa originally named 'Cape of Storms' by Diaz</i>

"Sire, we give you this sword in the name of our king and promise to maintain peace and friendship with you forever."

Vasco da Gama

Vocabulary

1.	expedition	<u>journey with a specific objective</u>
2.	schooner	<u>sailing vessel with at least two masts</u>
3.	soothsayer	<u>one who predicts the future; a seer</u>
4.	royal standard	<u>flag, banner, or ensign of a ruler</u>
5.	conspiracy	<u>agreement to perform together an illegal, wrongful, or subversive act</u>
6.	mutineer	<u>one who takes part in open rebellion against superior officers</u>
7.	shoal	<u>a shallow place in a body of water</u>
8.	feign	<u>to deceive or pretend; to represent falsely</u>

Vasco da Gama

Comprehension Questions

1. What was King Manuel's goal in sending da Gama on an exploration voyage?

Manuel had heard that Columbus had found a successful route to India by sailing westward, so he was determined to see if there was also an eastward way by sea to get to India.

2. How did da Gama know that there was an end to the continent of Africa?

Da Gama knew of Bartholomew Diaz's discovery of the tip of Africa, called the 'Cape of Storms,' so he knew that the African continent did not extend entirely across the sea.

3. Why is the southeast coast of Africa called Natal?

Da Gama named the southeast coast of Africa Natal because it is Portuguese for Christmas day and he sailed past it on that day.

4. How was da Gama treated in Mozambique and Mombasa?

Da Gama was treated poorly in Mozambique and Mombasa. He and his men were tricked into thinking the natives were helping them when their real intention was to drive their ships upon the shoals so they would wreck.

5. How was da Gama treated in Melinda? Why was he treated differently here?

Da Gama was treated well in Melinda. A soothsayer had told the king of Melinda that the Portugues would someday be lords of India, so the king thought it in his best interests to cooperate with da Gama and treat him well. Da Gama erected a statue dedicated to the king before he left Melinda, and the king gave the Portuguese a large boatload of supplies to take with them on their voyage.

6. What did da Gama find at the end of his voyage? How did this discovery affect Portugal?

Da Gama landed on the shore of Calicut in India, establishing a Portuguese sea route from Europe to India. This made Portugal the sovereign of the eastern seas and the greatest commercial nation of Europe for the next 100 years.

Activities

1. Chart da Gama's eastward route on a map (map on p. 26).

2. Locate on a map: Lisbon, Portugal
(p. 26) Mozambique, Africa
Mombasa, Kenya
Cape of Good Hope, Africa

3. Add to your timeline: 1488 – Bartholomew Diaz rounds the southern tip of Africa
1498 – Vasco da Gama finds eastward route to India