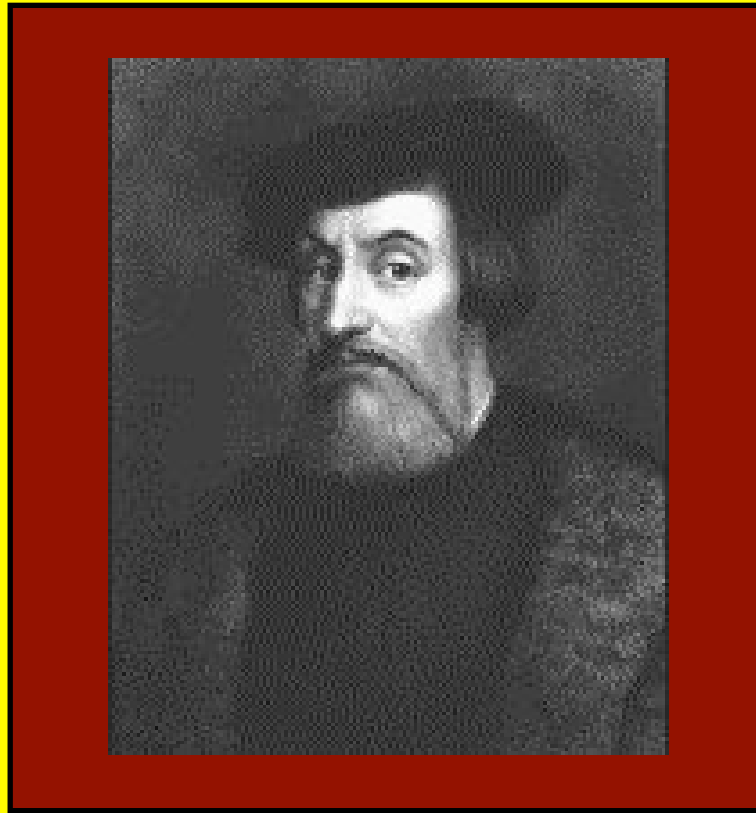




Hernando Cortez



1485- December 2, 1547



Spanish Conquistador



Fun Explorer Facts

- * Hernando Cortez is famous for conquering the Aztec Empire and its famous ruler Montezuma in 1519 for the Spanish.
- * He was an only child and the second cousin of famous Explorer Francisco Pizarro.
- * When Cortez arrived in the new world in 1502 he first landed in Hispaniola and Cuba.
- * He was known as Hernando or Fernando Cortez during his lifetime and signed all his letters Fernan Cortez.

Obscure Fact



- * When Cortez first arrived at the Aztec capital Tenochtitlan the Aztecs believed that Cortez was a god. Ironically Cortez matched the description of the God. Cortez played along with this idea helping him to win favor with the Aztec citizens.



Francisco Pizarro



1475 - June 26, 1541



Spanish Conquistador



Fun Explorer Facts

- * Francisco Pizarro is famous for conquering the Inca Empire in 1532.
- * He was an illegitimate son and was the second cousin of Hernando Cortez.
- * He sailed for the New World in 1502 and made other ventures in neighboring areas such as Nicaragua and Panama.
- * Pizarro conquered the Incas by holding the Inca King for ransom. When the ransom was paid he still slaughtered the Inca King Athalupa. With their King dead it was easy for Pizarro to take over the civilization.
- * He died on June 26, 1541 after he was assassinated by his supporters following the battle of Almagro.

Obscure Fact

- * Despite his numerous accomplishments in exploration Pizarro was illiterate.



◆ *Ferdinand Magellan* ◆

1480- April 27, 1521



◆ *Spanish Conquistador* ◆

Fun Explorer Facts

- * Ferdinand Magellan is famous for supposedly circumnavigating the globe.
- * Ironically Magellan died in the Philippines after natives killed him while attempting to circumnavigate the globe. He never made it back to Spain. Even though he technically did not travel across the whole Earth he is still credited with this feat.
- * Magellan was a page at the age of 12 for King John II and Queen Eleanor.
- * His crew was the first to observe the need for an international dateline.

Obscure Fact

- * Magellan has a crater on the moon, a strait in South America, and two neighboring galaxies called the Magellanic Clouds named after him.



◆ *Hernando De Soto* ◆

1496- May 21, 1542



◆ *Spanish Conquistador* ◆

Fun Explorer Facts

- * Hernando De Soto is famous for becoming the first European explorer to explore Florida and to see the east side of the Pacific Ocean.
- * When De Soto first landed in the new world he lived in Nicaragua for awhile.
- * De Soto while exploring the new world joined forces with Francisco Pizarro and together they explored Peru in 1532.
- * He became the governor of Cuba in 1537.
- * He made the first exploration of Florida on May 30, 1539.

Obscure Fact

- * He and his men discovered the city of Cajas in Peru where his men allegedly raped the sacred virgins in the Temple of the Sun.

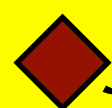




Vasco Nunez de Balboa



1475-January 21, 1519



Spanish Conquistador



Fun Explorer Facts

- * Vasco Nunez de Balboa is famous for crossing the Isthmus of Panama in 1513.
- * While exploring the new world Francisco met up with other Spanish explorer Francisco Pizarro on the way to San Sebastian.
- * He was arrested in the jungle by Francisco Pizarro after being framed and accused of treason. He was tried and found guilty and as a result he was publicly beheaded.

Obscure Fact

- * Balboa married the daughter of a local Indian chief on San Sebastian.



Astrolabe



*Celestial Navigation
Tool*

Awesome Exploring Tool Tidbits

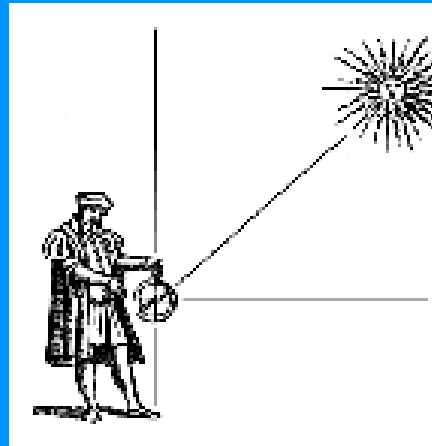
* The astrolabe is a historical astronomical instrument often used for navigation purposes.

* The astrolabe also has many other jobs such as finding and predicting the positions of the stars and the sun, determining local time given local longitude, and surveying and triangulation.

* Hipparchus is credited with its invention. Hipparchus was from Hypatia of Alexandria in 2nd century B.C.

* Explorers used it primarily to figure out their location latitudinally using the horizon and the stars as points of reference.

* This picture shows a man using the astrolabe. The picture clearly shows him using the sun as a reference point for the astrolabe.



◆ *Cross-Staff* ◆



Celestial
◆ *Navigation tool* ◆

Awesome Exploring Tool Tidbits

- * The cross-staff is another instrument that allowed early explorers to find their latitude.
- * Early versions of the cross-staff only had one scale. Over time the amount of scales increased.
- * The cross-staff worked similar to the astrolabe using celestial and horizon points of reference.

* This picture shows a man using the cross-staff. The picture clearly shows him using the sun as a reference point for the cross-staff.

