Exploration, European- Part 1: Introduction **[1]**

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Exploration, European

by John Hairr, 2006

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Part 1: Introduction; Part 2: Initial European Expeditions [9]; Part 3: Sir Walter Raleigh and the Arrival of the English [10]; Part 4: Seventeenth-Century Explorers [11]; Part 5: References [12]

Part 1: Introduction

[12]Beginning in the fifteenth century, the European powers of France, Spain, Portugal, and England launched several voyages to explore the New World, including the region that would become North Carolina. Their initial motivation was primarily economic: after the "discovery" of America by Christopher Columbus [13] in 1492, several navigators followed in his wake searching for the riches of the Orient. National rivalries soon began to fuel the quest to discover and acquire the treasures of new lands and create colonies that would serve as financial boons to the mother country. Spain and France became early leaders in the race to explore and colonize the New World. England, by contrast, did not develop a significant interest in exploration and settlement until the reign of Queen Elizabeth I [14] in the second half of the sixteenth century.

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Additional Resources:

The Columbian Exchange, Learn NC: http://www.learnnc.org/lp/pages/1866 [15]

Image Credit:

"Landing of Christopher Columbus in America, at San Salvador, October 12th A.D. 1492." Image courtesy of Library of Congress, reproduction #: LC-DIG-pga-02023. Available from http://www.loc.gov/pictures/resource/pga.02023/ [12] (accessed August 10, 2012).

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