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It's perfect for those times when I'm stuck on something and need quick help. I can always find a tutor, regardless of what time of day it is. Science Earth Science, Geologic Time & Fossils Portuguese: Ferno de Magalhes Spanish: Fernando de Magallanes or Hernando de Magallanes Born: 1480, Sabrosa or Porto?, Portugal Ferdinand Magellan (born 1480, Sabrosa or Porto?, Portugaldied April 27, 1521, Mactan, Philippines) was a Portuguese navigator and explorer who sailed under the flags of both Portugal (150513) and Spain (151921). From Spain, he sailed around South America, discovering the Strait of Magellan, and across the Pacific. Though he was killed in the Philippines, one of his ships continued westward to Spain, accomplishing the first circumnavigation of Earth. The voyage was successfully terminated by the Basque navigator Juan Sebastin del Cano. Magellan was the son of Rui de Magalhes and Alda de Mesquita, members of the Portuguese nobility. 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A Historical Bio Quiz The explorer died on a Philippines beach in April 1521, joining the scores who perished in Spain's quest to circumnavigate the globe.At the southernmost tip of South America lies a perilous strait linking the Atlantic with the Pacific that bears Magellans name. When the expedition spent a month cautiously navigating these waters in November 1520, the fleet had been reduced from five to three ships. Colored woodcut, 1880.20 min readAs it moored under Sevilles imposing skyline on September 8, 1522, the Victoriamay not have stood out as anything exceptional among the bustle of Spanish ships arriving from the Americas. When 18 men stepped off board, leaner than old, worn-out nags, as one of them later recalled, they stepped into the history books as the first people to have sailed entirely around the world.It had been a brutal voyage, led by the brilliant, if ruthless, Portuguese navigator Ferdinand Magellan. When they set out from Seville, three years before in summer 1519, they were a crew of 240 manning five ships. A series of blowsincluding starvation, illness, mutiny, executions, and the death of their leaderdecimated their numbers and their fleet before returning to Spain.These men had, however, completed their global journey, despite the violence and greed that marred it from the outset. The venture would be remembered for the skill and endurance of many of its members. As the first Europeans to enter the eastern Pacific, the expedition radically altered Europes understanding of the world, while posterity would lionize Magellan for an accomplishment that he never lived to see.Despite the aura of heroism that has formed around Magellan, his voyage was not driven by geographic curiosity, but by trade and Spains struggle to surpass Portugal. Following Christopher Columbuss voyages of the 1490s and the discovery of a landmass to the west, the two premier naval powers competed to control the new vistas opening before them. In 1493 Pope Alexander VI drew a line from north to south down the Atlantic, decreeing that Spain could exploit the new continent to the west. The papal bull did not specify, however, that Portugal could exploit the territory to the east of the line.Portugal cried foul, pointing out that the pope, a Borgia of Spanish descent, was not an impartial arbiter. To avoid a war, direct talks opened between Portugal and Spain and the line was moved farther west in the 1494 Treaty of Tordesillas. This allowed Portugal more room to maneuver down the eastern coastline of Africa. Happily for the Portuguese, Pedro Alvares Cabrals 1500 discovery of the eastern coastline of South America fell on Portugals side of the 1494 line.Portugal had already bested Spain in the exploration race, when in 1497 Vasco de Gama was the first European to discover a sea route to India around Africa. While this period of global exploration is often associated with the Americas, both powers were also seeking riches in the Asia-Pacific. It was there that Magellan gained experience vital to his later expedition. (Was Magellan the first to sail around the world? Think again.)A sea changeBorn Fernao de Magalhaes in northern Portugal in 1480, Magellan grew up in a noble family. At age 10 he was sent to Lisbon to train as a page in the court of Queen Leonora. He came of age as Europe began shaking off its medieval sensibilities and looking outward. The few sources on his early life suggest he became fascinated with maps and charts, an interest that may have coincided with the news, at age 13, of the Spanish expedition under Columbus that had made landfall in the Americas.Portuguese eastward expansion began to move rapidly after Vasco de Gama rounded the Cape of Good Hope in 1497. By 1505 the 25-year-old Magellan was with the Portuguese fleet heading around the Cape, and up the other side, to East Africa. The aim of King Manuel of Portugal was to wrest control of the entire Indian Ocean from the Arabs so as to control trade with India.In 1507 Magellan participated in a naval battle that consolidated Portuguese power over the Indian Ocean. More Portuguese victories followed in Goa (western India), and in 1511 the Portuguese seized Malacca on the Malay Peninsula. The city overlooks the strait through which the spices from modern-day Indonesia were funneled westward. By controlling Malacca, Portugal could exert control over the spice trade.An older relative (and possible cousin) of Magellan, Francisco Serrao, had also forged a dramatic career as a sailor and took part in the seizure of Malacca before going on an expedition to the Moluccas, or Spice Islands, in 1512. His venture would later inspire Magellans own goal to reach them by sailing west from Europe.Magellan took part in the battle for Malacca and honed his navigational skills during Portugals eastern victories. After returning to Europe, in 1514 he entered into a bitter dispute with King Manuel over the kings refusal to reward him. Having used up all his appeals, Magellan rejected his native land and traveled to the Spanish court at Valladolid in 1517 to offer his services to the Spanish king Charles I (who would become Holy Roman Emperor Charles V in June 1519). From that day, Fernao de Magalhaes would be known by his Spanish name, Fernando de Magallanes.By offering his services to Spain, Magellan was not engaging in any truly scandalous behavior. Seafaring expertise often crossed borders, and crews were drawn from different nations. Columbus too, a Genoan from northern Italy, had offered himself to the Spanish crown after initially working for the Portuguese. Magellans plan was strikingly similar to Columbuss from nearly 30 years earlier: to sail west to bring back spices from the Moluccas, the Spice Islands of Indonesia.(Discover the secrets hidden in a 500-year-old map used by Columbus.)Citing the theories of other navigators at the time, Magellan postulated that a strait cut through the Americas to a sea whose eastern shore was first glimpsed by Spanish explorer Vasco Nunez de Balboa in 1513. If he could find it, this passage would allow Spain a kind of back-door access to the Moluccas, bypassing Portugals Cape route. Magellans reputation as a sailor and his knowledge of the east convinced Charles, and the expedition received royal assent.Not all were happy that this Portuguese interloper had gained such favor with the king. The nobility and the Casa de Contratacion (the state body that controlled such expeditions) took every opportunity to obstruct Magellans preparations. Under two-thirds of the crew were Spaniards; of the foreigners, 24 were Portuguese and 27 were Italian.Marvels and mutinyAmong the crew was a young Venetian nobleman named Antonio Pigafetta, a student of astronomy and geography. Pigafettas lively journal became historys principal written source for detailed information on the entire voyage.On Monday, August 10, St. Lawrences day, the fleet, having been supplied with all the things necessary for the sea, made ready to leave the harbor of Seville, Pigafetta recorded in his log. Five ships in totalthe San Antonio,the Concepcion,the Victoria,the Santiago, and the flagship, the Trinidadstruck out west from Spain via the Canary Islands. Pigafettas observations were not solely nautical. He took a lively interest in geography and zoology and science, noting different kinds of birds and wildlife.While Pigafetta wrote his log, Magellan was deeply concerned about his authority. He was officially the supreme commander, but prior to departure, pressure from the Spanish authorities had forced him to accept a nobleman, Juan de Cartagena, as the voyages second-in-command. This decision led to violent power struggles during the voyage. Early on, Magellan was forced to arrest and demote Cartagena for insubordination. As a royal appointee, he was otherwise untouchable, but his resentful presence would prove nearly catastrophic for Magellan later.The coast of modern-day Brazil, which Europeans had only been aware of for 20 years, was a source of wonder. But it was its inhabitants that captured Pigafettas attention most. He recorded in his journal that some of the people of Verdin (as he called it)live a hundred, or a hundred and twenty, or a hundred and forty years, and more; they go naked, both men and women. Their dwellings are houses that are rather long . . . [and] in each of these houses . . . there dwells a family of a hundred persons, who make a great noise. In this place they have boats, which are made of a tree, all in one piece, which they call canoo. These are not made with iron instruments, for they have not got any . . . Into these thirty or forty men enter.Pigafettas writings revealed a condescending attitude toward the indigenous peoples. His descriptions of the peoples he meets in Patagonia, the Pacific Islands, and lands in Asia are centered on the amount of clothing worn, physical traits including skin color, height, and build, and whether they could be converted to Christianity. He recorded certain words from their languages, many of which related to commodities that could be of use to colonial Spain. (See a shipwreck from explorer Vasco da Gama's fleet.)The small armada sailed south, scanning for any strait or opening in the great landmass to starboard. A great inlet in early 1520 aroused much excitement. Once it had been ascertained it was not the longed-for strait, but a river mouth (the Rio de la Plata), the fleet continued south to San Julian, where, in April, surrounded on all sides by the frozen expanse of Patagonia, a full-scale mutiny was launched against Magellan by the captains of the four other ships.Played out across five vessels, the scenes were chaotic and confusing, but Magellan prevailed. In the ensuing skirmishes, the rebellious captains of the Victoria and the Concepcion were arrested and executed. One of the leaders of the revolt was the demoted and resentful Juan de Cartagena. Magellan opted to maroon him on an island, thus avoiding shedding the blood of a powerful nobleman, while also ridding himself of an incompetent troublemaker. Cartagenas fate is unknown, but other mutineers were pardoned, including one of the officers, Juan Sebastian Elcano.Shortly after the failed mutiny, as resentments still simmered, Magellan lost the Santiagoin a storm. Unbowed, the reduced fleet continued south until glacial conditions forced a halt for two months to provision; then it set out once more. Finally, as Pigafetta records on the day of the feast of the eleven thousand virgins, St. Ursulas Day which falls on October 21, they sighted a strait surrounded by lofty mountains laden with snow... Had it not been for the captain-general, we would not have found that strait, for we all thought that it was closed on all sides.For over a month, buffeted by storms and currents, the fleet ventured down the strait that Charles V would later name for Magellan. The commander named an archipelago they saw on the south side Tierra del Fuego (land of fire) in reference to the many bonfires lit there by its indigenous hunter-gatherer peoples, who had occupied this tip of South America for millennia.In the course of this passage, another ship disappeared: the San Antonio. Pigafetta records it had been believed lost; in fact, it had deserted and was returning to Spain. Equipped now with only three vessels, Magellan and his men on Wednesday, November 28, 1520, . . . debouched from that strait, engulfing . . . in the Pacific Sea. They were the first Europeans to enter that vast ocean from its eastern shore.Hard crossingAfter being borne northward along what is today the Chilean coast, Magellans fleet finally struck out northwest in search of land beyond. Magellan knew that the Malay archipelago he had visited years before must lie somewhere to the west. To find it, the limping expedition had to sail through rough seas for over three months.Hunger and disease stalked the crossing. Pigafetta records how he and his crewmates ate sawdust, ox hides, and biscuit, which was no longer biscuit, but powder of biscuits swarming with worms, and which stank strongly of the urine of rats. General privation, the lack of food, and illness greatly reduced their numbers. Perhaps the most devastating was scurvy, the distinctive symptoms of which Pigafetta captured: [I]t was that the upper and lower gums of most of our men grew so much that they could not eat, and in this way so many suffered, that nineteen died. (Scurvy killed more people than the American Civil War.)While crossing the Pacific, Pigafetta recorded how many of Magellans crew seemed to waste away from a horrific illness: Their gums bled, their limbs ulcerated, and delirium addled their minds. Scurvy and its symptoms, which are caused by a lack of vitamin C, would ravage many European expeditions. The captain who completed the Magellan expedition, Juan Sebastin Elcano, succumbed to scurvy on a later voyage, and it killed an estimated two million sailors between the 15th and 18th centuries. The medical properties of vitamin C were not discovered until the 1920s, but it became common wisdom in the 1700s that citrus fruit could be a preventative, a remedy that was resisted by some in the British Navy. It was not until the 1790s that fruit was distributed routinely among crews.On March 6, 1521, after 100 days in Pacific waters, the exhausted armada finally was able to make landfall in the Mariana Islands where they restocked the ships and then continued west. Days later, they reached an archipelago (later christened the Philippines by another Spanish explorer) of many inhabited islands that Magellan would attempt to claim for Spain. The crew celebrated mass on the island of Limasawa in late March and then converted the rulers of Cebu Island to Christianity.Magellan heard that rivals of the Becu who lived on the nearby island of Mactan refused to convert and submit to Spain. Magellan tried to claim their land for Spain and their souls for the church, but the occupants of Mactan Island, led by the chieftain known traditionally as Lapulapu, stood firm in the face of Spanish guns and swords. On April 27, 1521, Magellan led 60 men to the island with an ultimatum to surrender. The islanders refused, and a fierce battle ensued, which Pigafetta recounted:When we reached land we found the islanders fifteen hundred in number . . . they came down upon us with terrible shouts . . . seeing that the shots of our guns did them little or no harm [they] would not retire, but shouted more loudly, and . . . at the same time drew nearer to us, throwing arrows, javelins, spears hardened in fire, stones, and even mud, so that we could hardly defend ourselves.Pigafetta reported that Magellan was killed by Lapulapu and his warriors on the shore. Despite Spanish firepower, the islanders quickly overcame the invaders with their numbers and bravery and drove them back. The Europeans retreated, leaving their commander to die on the beach; Magellans body was never recovered. Later, the king of Cebu would turn against the Europeans, too, and kill 26 of them. The remaining Europeans soon departed.Their numbers dwindling, the surviving crew, under the command of Juan Sebastian Elcano, did finally reach the Moluccas in November 1521. They were able to stock up the ships with spices and goods to bring back to Spain. Having been forced to abandon two of their three remaining ships, the crew would return to Spain in a fleet of onethe Victoria. Ten months later, the ship and its bedraggled crew of 18, including Pigafetta, entered Sevilles harbor. (Who really discovered Antarctica?)Final frontierThe first continuous circumnavigation of the world was complete. It took almost exactly three years and, surprisingly, turned a profit. The 381 sacks of cloves brought back by the Victoriawere worth more than all five ships that had set out on the voyage. Despite the hopes and funds invested, it did not translate into immediate meaningful economic benefits for Spain. The treacherous course around the tip of South America was never a practical route for trade with the Moluccas.Despite the death and destruction brought on by the voyage, many historians believe Magellans expedition was a worthy accomplishment. The careful records kept by Pigafetta and others dramatically expanded Europes knowledge of the world beyond the Atlantic, giving cartographers a firm sense of the worlds actual size and future navigators intelligence on the conditions and currents of the Pacific Ocean. Europeans had known of the eastern shore of the Pacific since 1513, but Magellan revealed its sheer size and power, knowledge that transformed Europeans understanding of the extent of the globe. Share copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format for any purpose, even commercially. Adapt remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially. The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms. 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Our experts explainhow.Learn MoreThe Motorsport Images Collections captures events from 1895 to todays most recentcoverage.Discover The CollectionCurated, compelling, and worth your time. Explore our latest gallery of EditorsPicks.Browse Editors' FavoritesKing Ferdinand sent explorers to the "new land" in order to find new trade routes, resources, and potential territories to expand Spanish influence and power. Additionally, he hoped to spread Christianity and convert the indigenous populations to Catholicism. Science Earth Science, Geologic Time & Fossils Portuguese: Ferno de Magalhes Spanish: Fernando de Magallanes or Hernando de Magallanes Born: 1480, Sabrosa or Porto?, Portugal Ferdinand Magellan (born 1480, Sabrosa or Porto?, Portugaldied April 27, 1521, Mactan, Philippines) was a Portuguese navigator and explorer who sailed under the flags of both Portugal (150513) and Spain (151921). From Spain, he sailed around South America, discovering the Strait of Magellan, and across the Pacific. Though he was killed in the Philippines, one of his ships continued westward to Spain, accomplishing the first circumnavigation of Earth. The voyage was successfully terminated by the Basque navigator Juan Sebastin del Cano. Magellan was the son of Rui de Magalhes and Alda de Mesquita, members of the Portuguese nobility. At an early age he became a page to Queen Leonor, wife of John II (reigned 148195) and sister of Manuel I (reigned 14951521), in Lisbon. In early 1505 he enlisted in the fleet of Francisco de Almeida, first viceroy of Portuguese India, whose expedition King Manuel sent to check Muslim sea power along the African and Indian coasts and to establish a strong Portuguese presence in the Indian Ocean. During a naval engagement at Cannanore (now Kannur) on the Malabar Coast of India, Magellan is said by the chronicler Gaspar Correia (also spelled Corra) to have been wounded. Though Correia states that during this early period of his Indian service, Magellan acquired considerable knowledge of navigation, little is known of Magellans first years in the East until he appears among those sailing in November 1506 with Nuno Vaz Pereira to Sofala on the Mozambique coast, where the Portuguese had established a fort. By 1507 Magellan was back in India. He took part, on February 23, 1509, in the great Battle of Diu, in which the Portuguese defeated a Muslim fleet and thereby gained supremacy over most of the Indian Ocean. Reaching Cochin (now Kochi, India) in the fleet of Diogo Lopes de Sequeira, he subsequently left for the Malay city-state of Malacca (now Melaka, Malaysia). Magellan is mentioned as being sent to warn the commander of the Portuguese ships in Malaccas waters of impending attack by Malays. During the subsequent fighting he saved the life of a Portuguese explorer, his close friend Francisco Serro. (Serro, possibly a relative of Magellans, had sailed with Magellan to India in 1505.) Magellan attempted to return to Portugal afterward but was unsuccessful. At a council held at Cochin on October 10, 1510, to decide on plans for retaking Goawhich the Portuguese had captured earlier in the year but then losthe advised against taking large ships at that season. Nevertheless, the new Portuguese governor in India, Afonso de Albuquerque, did so, and the city fell to the Portuguese on November 24. Magellans name does not appear among those who fought. The Portuguese victories off the eastern coast of Africa and the western coast of India had broken Muslim power in the Indian Ocean, and the purpose of Almeidas expeditionto wrest from the Arabs the key points of sea tradewas almost accomplished. Yet without control of Malacca, their achievement was incomplete. At the end of June 1511, therefore, a fleet under Albuquerque left for Malacca, which fell after six weeks. This event, in which Magellan took part, was the crowning Portuguese victory in the Orient. Through Malacca passed the wealth of the East to the harbours of the West, and in command of the Malacca Strait the Portuguese held the key to the seas and ports of Malaysia. It remained only to explore the wealth-giving Moluccas (now part of Indonesia), the islands of spice. Accordingly, early in December 1511 they sailed on a voyage of reconnaissance, and after reaching Banda they returned with spice in 1512. The claim made by some that Magellan went on this voyage rests on unproven statements by Italian geographer Giovanni Battista Ramusio and Spanish historian Leonardo de Argensola, and the want of evidence argues against its acceptance. However, it is known that Magellans friend Serro was in command of one of the ships and that he later sent Magellan helpful information from the Moluccas about those islands. By mid-1513 Magellan was back in Lisbon, but he soon joined the forces sent against the Moroccan stronghold of Azamor (Azemmour). In a skirmish that August he sustained a leg wound that caused him to limp for the rest of his life. Returning to Lisbon in November 1514, he asked King Manuel for a token increase in his pension as a reward. But unfounded reports of irregular conduct on his part had reached the king: after the siege of Azamor, Magellan was accused of having sold a portion of the war spoils back to the enemy. Refusing Magellans request for a reward, Manuel ordered him back to Morocco. Early in 1516 Magellan renewed his petition; the king, refusing once more, told him he might offer his services elsewhere. Who Did That? A Historical Bio Quiz Featured Explorers She was a French botanist and explorer. She unknowingly became the first woman to sail around the entire globe. He became the first European to land on and establish a settlement in North America. He is also credited for bringing Christianity to Greenland. Oceanographer and geologist who helped create the first map of the ocean floor, proving that it was not just the flat surface most people believed it to be. Chinese explorer who commanded several treasure fleets Chinese ships that explored and traded across Asia and Africa. His expeditions greatly expanded Chinas trade. More Vocabulary The Mariners' Educational Programs Bibliography Ferdinand Magellan This Portuguese-born navigator was one of the great explorers of his era - the first European to cross the Pacific Ocean, he also played a crucial role in the first circumnavigation of the world. Ferdinand Magellan was born in 1480 into a noble Portuguese family. His parents died when he was still a boy and he became a court page in Lisbon. In 1505, he enlisted in the fleet of the Portuguese viceroy to the Indies, and spent the following years involved in a series of Portuguese expeditions in India and Africa. In 1511, he was with the fleet that conquered Malacca (on the Malay Peninsula), thus gaining control of the most important trade routes in the region. He also explored the islands of present-day Indonesia as far east as the Moluccas (also known as the Spice Islands). In 1512, Magellan returned to Lisbon, and the following year, he was wounded during an expedition to Morocco, which left him with a permanent limp. After a disagreement with the Portuguese king, in 1517 Magellan went to Spain to try and enlist the Spanish king's support for an expedition to reach the Moluccas by sailing westwards. The Spanish wanted a share in the valuable spice trade from the Moluccas, but the Portuguese controlled the eastwards route round southern Africa. Magellan was successful and in September 1519 set out with a fleet of five vessels. In spite of a mutinous crew, rough weather, scurvy, a desperate lack of provisions and unknown waters, Magellan managed to cross the Atlantic and navigate through the straits at the southern point of South America which were later named after him. Now with only three ships, Magellan sailed on into the Pacific with rapidly diminishing supplies, which led to many of the crew dying of starvation and scurvy. After around 14 weeks they reached an island, probably Guam, in the western Pacific. They then sailed on to the Philippines. On 27 April 1521, Magellan was killed there after becoming involved in a battle between two rival local chieftains. One ship from the fleet eventually reached Spain in September 1522, having completed the first ever circumnavigation of the globe. Universal Art Archive/Alamy (14801521). In the 16th century, Portuguese navigator and explorer Ferdinand Magellan was the first European to sail across the Pacific Ocean. He was the first person to discover a route by which ships could sail a complete circle around the world. Sailing for the king of Spain, Magellan proved in his explorations that Earth is round. He also established a new route from Europe to the riches of the East Indies, a route that involved sailing to the west. The Strait of Magellan is named for the explorer. This strait, located at the southern tip of South America, proved to be the long-sought connection between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. Ferno de Magalhes was born in 1480, probably in Sabrosa or Porto, Portugal. (Ferdinand Magellan is the English spelling of his name.) Magellan was the son of Portuguese nobles. At an early age he served Queen Leonor, the wife of King John II.In 1505 Magellan began serving with distinction in naval campaigns in the East Indies and Morocco. After several years, he sought support for an expedition to the East Indies. The Portuguese king refused. Magellan therefore gave up his nationality and offered his services to the Spanish king Charles I (later Holy Roman Emperor Charles V) in 1517.Encyclopdia Britannica, Inc. The Portuguese claimed that all the islands of the East Indies lay in the portion of Earth that Pope Alexander VI assigned to Portugal. Magellan claimed that many of them, including the rich Spice Islands (or Moluccas, now in Indonesia), actually lay in Spains territory. He planned to reach the Spice Islands by sailing westward through a strait that he hoped to find at the southern tip of the Americas. The Spanish king finally accepted Magellans proposal.North Wind Picture Archives/Alamy On September 20, 1519, Magellan set sail from Sanlcar de Barrameda, in southwestern Spain. He had under his command five small ships. He sailed across the Atlantic Ocean and down the coast of South America. In March 1520 Magellan reached Port Saint Julian (now San Julin, Argentina). There he had to put down a mutiny by force. Shortly afterward one of his ships was wrecked while surveying the area.After waiting out storms in the port, the expedition set sail again in August 1520. On October 21 Magellan sighted what he guessed to be the sought-for strait. For more than a month he battled his way through the stormy 350-mile (560-kilometer) passage that now bears his name. One ship deserted, sailing back to Spain. Nevertheless, the remaining three ships continued. On November 28 Magellan reached another ocean. Because it then looked so calm, Magellan named it the Pacific, which means peaceful.G. Dagli Orti/DeA Picture Library At first the voyage on the Pacific went well. After a month of sailing, however, terrible hardships struck the fleet. Food and water ran low, and the sailors were reduced to eating the leather fittings of the ship. Many of the crew died of scurvy (a vitamin C deficiency). The fleet sailed about 100 days before arriving at the island of Guam. There they were able to obtain fresh food.The ships soon left Guam and reached the islands that are now called the Philippines. At Limasawa Island Magellan negotiated Spains first alliance in the Pacific. At Cebu Island he converted the king and his chief followers to Christianity. Magellan sailed from Cebu to the neighboring island of Mactan. There he and his men became involved in a fight with islanders. Magellan was killed on April 27, 1521.Under the leadership of Juan Sebastin del Cano, the sailors burned one of the three remaining ships. It was damaged, and there werent enough men to sail it. Instead, the men sailed the other two ships to the Spice Islands. One of those needed repairs and was abandoned. The last remaining ship, the Victoria, commanded by Cano, set out for home. Leaky but filled with valuable spices, the Victoria rounded the Cape of Good Hope at Africas southern tip. It reached Spain on September 6, 1522. After a voyage of slightly more than three years, it had circled the globe.Read these articles to find out more information: Pacific Ocean Charles V early exploration of the Americas Ferdinand Magellan, or Ferno de Magalhes (c. 1480-1521), was a Portuguese mariner whose expedition was the first to circumnavigate the globe in 1519-22 in the service of Spain. Magellan was killed on the voyage in what is today the Philippines, and only 22 of the original 270 crew members made it back to Europe. Discovering what became known as the Straits of Magellan in southern Patagonia and a passage from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean, the voyage achieved its goal of showing that a route to Asia could be found by sailing west from Europe. The voyage was full of achievements, notable firsts, and a lifetimes worth of new sights and experiences. There were also tremendous hardships and a major mutiny. The only ship of the original fleet of five to complete the voyage around the world was the Victoria, commanded by Juan Sebastian Elcano and packed full of precious spices. The round trip had taken three years and covered 60,000 miles. Not for nothing has this first circumnavigation been described as the greatest voyage of exploration ever undertaken. Early Career Ferdinand Magellan was born into a family of the minor Portuguese nobility in Villa Real in Tras os Montes around 1480. Ferdinands father was the sheriff of the port of Aveiro, and his mother was called Alda de Mesquita. Aged 12, Ferdinand was sent to Lisbon to become a page in the royal household, serving first the queen and then Manuel I of Portugal (r. 1495-1521). At court, Ferdinand received an excellent education which included mathematics, astronomy, and navigation. Reaching maturity, Magellan served the Portuguese military in western India from 1505, and expeditions took him to Sofala and Kilwa in East Africa. In 1509 he participated in the war between the Portuguese and Gujarati-Egyptian alliance in Diu, western India. In 1510, Magellan assisted in the conquest of Portuguese Goa, and in 1511, Malacca in Malaysia. In 1513 he sailed home to Portugal and then served the Crown in the expeditionary force that attacked Azemmour in Morroco. It was here that he received a serious knee wound, which left him with a permanent limp. Portrait of Ferdinand Magellan By his mid-thirties, then, Magellan had acquired considerable military and sailing experience. However, in 1517, he switched his allegiance to Spain. This may have been a result of rumours that he had participated in private looting in Azemmour (although officially the charges had been dismissed). Magellan made petitions to the Portuguese court to advance his career, but these were all rejected, perhaps due to those rumours. Whatever the real reason, it was to be in the service of Charles I of Spain (r. 1516-1556) that would make his name. Magellan renounced himself as a subject of Manuel I and moved to Seville in 1517. He adopted a new version of his name: Hernando de Magallanes. By the end of 1517, he had married Beatriz, the daughter of another Portuguese, the wealthy and influential merchant Diogo Barbosa, who also resided in Seville. Magellans son Rodrigo was born in 1518. The Portuguese & Spanish Empires European explorers like Christopher Columbus (1451-1506) and Vasco da Gama (c. 1469-1524) had been sent to find a maritime route from Europe to Asia in order to gain direct access to the immensely lucrative Eastern spice trade, find new agricultural lands, and possibly find Christian allies against the Islamic caliphates of the Middle East. Columbus route was blocked by the continent of America, but da Gama did round the Cape of Good Hope and cross the Indian Ocean to reach India in 1498. Portugal established colonies there such as Portuguese Cochin (1503) and Goa (1510). The source of many rare spices was in Indonesia, and a route was opened up by the Portuguese navigator Francisco Serro, who sailed to the Spice Islands (aka the Maluku Islands or the Moluccas) in 1512. Charles I of Spain could bolster his claim to the Spice Islands if he gained access to the archipelago from the east. The Spanish and Portuguese monarchies had audaciously carved up the entire world into two spheres of influence and prospective colonies in the Treaty of Tordesillas in 1494. Spain had the Americas and Portugal the coasts of Africa (and then India and East Asia). It was not important to these two royal houses that people already lived in these places or that a highly successful trade network had long been established there. The two kings were not entirely in agreement as to where each others empires ended and began, largely because neither had really started building an empire yet in physical terms. By 1518, though, things had moved along, and Portugal was making an excellent job of creating a string of trade entrepts from Africa to Asia. Charles I did not wish to be left behind, certainly not now that he was about to become Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor (r. 1519-1556). Charles hoped to prove that the lucrative Spice Islands were in his half of the world - everyone's geographical knowledge of where exactly these islands were was a little shaky at this point in history. There were even rumours that some Portuguese cartographers were deliberately misplacing the islands in Portugals half. Further, Charles could bolster his claim no end if he gained access to the archipelago from the east (via South America and across the Pacific), that is through the Spanish half of the world. Ferdinand Magellan, after corresponding with various fellow mariners like Serro and with the support of expert cartographers and astronomers like Ruy Faleiro, provided the king with a convincing plan to do just that. Magellan also brought with him extensive inside knowledge of Portugals empire and sea routes, effectively, state secrets. Charles formally accepted the proposal in March 1518. Magellan was made a commander of the Order of Santiago for good measure. Portuguese Colonial Empire in the Age of Exploration In addition to cutting out the Portuguese, a maritime route sailing west from Europe to Malaysia could perhaps save a great deal of time and hardship for ships rather than going via Africa. The seas and lands east of Malaysia were not then known to Europeans, but at least it had been understood that the trade winds of the Atlantic and Indian Oceans could be used to great advantage if caught in the right place at the right time. For this reason, the maritime route thought most likely to succeed was to sail from Europe across the Atlantic to South America, across the Pacific, and into East Asia, from there ships could stock up on spices and cross the Indian Ocean, round the Cape of Good Hope, and sail up the eastern Atlantic back to Europe. This is the route Magellan proposed to the Holy Roman Emperor. Nobody had ever done it, and nobody had ever circumnavigated the globe. The Pacific Ocean had only been sighted by a European in 1513 when Vasco Nez de Balboa (1475-1519) crossed the Isthmus of Panama. No European knew its currents, its potential for storms, or how long it might take to cross it. The risks for Magellan and his crews were high and the hardships certain. The potential gains were enormous, with Magellan himself promised a percentage of the lands and wealth he claimed for the Spanish Crown. Magellans Fleet Magellan was given command of a five-ship fleet with the rather grand name of the Armada de Molucca. It was one of the best-equipped expeditions of the Age of Exploration. Magellans flagship was the 100-ton Trinidad. There was the San Antonio (120 tons), Concepcin (90 tons), Victoria (85 tons), and Santiago (75 tons). All the ships were three-masted and carried the latest lateen sails. Both Magellan and Faleiro were given the titles of captain, a usual precaution in case something happened to Magellan. Another layer of authority was Juan de Cartagena, who was appointed by Charles as inspector general to oversee all financial matters and, perhaps, too, to make sure the two Portuguese captains remained loyal to the Spanish Crown. As it turned out, Faleiros mental instability led to him being dismissed from the expedition. Fortunately for Magellan, he retained all of Faleiros invaluable charts and navigational instruments. Unfortunately for the future of the expedition, this meant that Cartagena saw himself as co-leader. Cartagena did have vague authority from Charles, he was the highest-paid member of the expedition, and he was captain of the San Antonio, but Magellan was in no doubt that he was the admiral of the five-ship fleet. To make matters worse, the Spanish captains of Victoria (Luis de Mendoza) and Concepcin (Gaspar de Quesada) considered themselves superior to their Portuguese leader. The Portuguese explorer left Seville on 10 August 1519 with a multinational crew of 260-70 men who came from across Europe. The fleet of ships landed and restocked at the Canary Islands, leaving on 3 October. It was here that Magellan received news that two Portuguese fleets were in hot pursuit, determined not to allow Spain access to their secretive empire in the east. Magellan sailed past the Cape Verde islands and down the coast of West Africa. The logbook of the expedition has not survived, but there is a detailed account by one of its participants, the Venetian scholar and diplomat Antonio Pigafetta, who had been given the task by Magellan of recording all aspects of the expedition for posterity. First Mutiny This was a stormy and difficult stretch, and many of the captains and crew wondered why they were not taking the more usual route of directly crossing the Atlantic. Their admiral was attempting to evade his Portuguese pursuers. As the ships battered their way to the equator and then found themselves becalmed, food rations were reduced. Cartagena, in particular, was already showing signs of disrespect for Magellan and refusing to address him with his proper titles. As the winds abandoned the fleet, Cartagena refused to take any orders from Magellan and threatened to stab him. Magellan responded by putting the inspector general in the stocks. This was a fate reserved only for common sailors, and both de Mendoza and de Quesada, the other two Spanish captains, successfully pleaded for Cartagenas release. Instead, Cartagena was confined to the Victoria, and Antonio de Coca was given command of the San Antonio. Map of Ferdinand Magellan's Circumnavigation In November, favourable winds, at last, swept the ships across the Atlantic, then called the Ocean Sea. They intended to land at Rio de Janeiro, but the South Equatorial Current took them to Cape Saint Augustine. They restocked the ships and then followed the coast to arrive at the River of January in mid-December 1519. Although claimed as part of the Portuguese Empire, there were as yet no permanent colonial settlements in Brazil and, more importantly for Magellan, no Portuguese ships in the harbour of Rio. It was here that Magellan carried out sentence on a crewman found guilty of sodomy, the penalty being death by strangulation. This was a normal maritime occurrence, which some captains ignored and others punished to the letter of the law, but it, nevertheless, fuelled resentment of Magellan from the ordinary men. To make matters worse, the cabin boy who had been the elder mans partner threw himself overboard. Then Magellan added one more man to his ever-growing list of enemies. Antonio de Coca was replaced by Alvaro de Mesquita as captain of the San Antonio. De Mesquita was not particularly qualified except that he was Magellans cousin, a point noted with some bitterness by de Coca and the other Spanish captains. The fleet departed Rio on 27 December and sailed down the long and unfamiliar coast of South America. The men settled down for another tortuous spell at sea, a situation whose discomforts are here summarised by the historian L. Bergreen: At sea, sleep became the ultimate luxury, a solace impossible to come byHammocks had yet to be introduced on board shipsThe men never became accustomed to the foul odors brewing aboard their shipsPests were ubiquitous, an inescapable fact of life at seaRats and mice infested every shipthe men of the Armada de Molucca were plagued with all manner of lice, bedbugs and cockroaches. When conditions turned hot and humid, the insects infested the clothing, the sails, the food supply, and even the rigging. (106) In January, the River Plate was explored, just in case this emergence of two rivers might provide a route to the Pacific Ocean. In February, after finding the inland waters too shallow, the fleet sailed on southwards. Magellan had the ships lower anchor at night so that no possible straits were missed in the darkness. Storms raged. The ships backtracked now and then to make sure of the geography. Strange animals were spotted like sea lions or sea elephants, described as sea wolves by Pigafetta; several were killed for the fresh meat. The waters were now noticeably colder and a steelier blue, but the explorers were no nearer to discovering the end of the continent. Second Mutiny On 31 March 1520, eight months into the voyage and with the summer season ending, Magellan stopped at San Julin Bay in southern Argentina. The ships stocked up on fresh meat and fish, but other stores had to be rationed for the winter, an unpopular move with the men. Many of the crew no longer believed their leader that a strait to the Pacific existed. The Spanish captains were again conspiring for a takeover of the expedition, and this time they went so far as to take over the San Antonio, Concepcin, and Victoria. The Santiago remained neutral while Magellan, already prepared, awaited developments on the Trinidad. In the first days of April, the action began. The mutineers sent word by longboat to Magellan that they were in control of the three ships and intended to sail back to Spain. Seizing the longboat, Magellan pretended to send a party of men to discuss terms on the Victoria. This party stabbed the Victorias captain and took over the ship. The Santiago, now loyal to Magellan, positioned itself alongside the Victoria and Trinidad with all three ships blocking the two mutineer-controlled vessels. Magellan then sent a man under the cover of darkness to cut the anchor of the Concepcin. As the Concepcin drifted closer, the Trinidad fired its cannons, and the Victoria attacked from the opposite side. The ship was boarded and the mutineers apprehended. The San Antonio surrendered, and Magellan was back in control of his fleet. Luis de Mendoza, the leader of the mutiny had been killed in the action, but Magellan had the corpse ripped into

four pieces anyway. A two-week investigation and trial found 40 of the expedition guilty of treason, and they were sentenced to death. Two men were tortured, and Gaspar de Quesada was beheaded. The rest had their sentence commuted to hard labour - Magellan did, after all, need these men to crew the fleet. The whole point of this trial was to reestablish Magellans authority and remind the men that, as on any other expedition at sea, they had good cause to fear their captain more than anything nature could throw at them. The strategy was effective except on Cartagena who, incredibly, still conspired to organize a mutiny, this time with the priest Pedro Snchez. Both men would be marooned at San Julin Bay as the fleet sailed on. In the meantime, Magellan had all his ships overhauled ready for the next stage of the voyage, most of the dirty work being done by the men convicted of hard labour. It was now that Magellan discovered that the stores loaded in the Canary Islands were only a third of what they should have been. It was now or never and at the beginning of May, the Santiago was sent on ahead to find the straits to the Pacific Ocean. Unfortunately, the lone ship met the worst storm of the voyage and was wrecked on the rocky shores. The surviving crew made the arduous trek back to the fleet which now awaited spring and calmer weather. Peaceful contact (at first) was made with the Tehuelche Indians who lived in the area. As these peoples wore elaborate boots, Magellan called them big feet or patacones, and the region became known as Patagonia. On 24 August the fleet sailed south. Sign up for our free weekly email newsletter! The Straits of Magellan More storms swept the southern Atlantic, and Magellan was obliged to land for six weeks and await calmer weather. In mid-October, he set off yet again. The foul weather continued but, at last, the landscape changed, fragmented, and formed into what seemed to be a cape. There, leading westwards was a strait. Magellan sailed through the straits of southern Patagonia which would ever-after bear his name between 21 October and 28 November. The straits were as difficult to navigate as they had been to find. High tides, strong currents, and a mix of great depths and lethal shallows clogged up with seaweed all conspired to present a formidable obstacle. The region seemed to constantly attract storms, too, as fierce and unpredictable winds sped in from the two converging oceans. The landscape was awe-inspiring with snow-topped mountains and huge glaciers, but it was the peculiar fires at night which captured the sailors' imaginations. Most likely, these fires were caused by lightning strikes, although the ever-suspicious mariners thought they were natives waiting to attack the ships. Consequently, Magellan called this land Tierra del Fuego or Land of Fire. It seemed a magical land inhabited by strange beasts like sea elephants and giant condors. Truly, this was the end of the world, but the stars remained familiar, and these, no doubt, reassured Magellan that he was on the right course to finally arrive at the Spice Islands. What the captain did not realise was just how far across the Pacific his goal really was. Crossing the Pacific During the difficult 38-day crossing of the straits, there had been another mutiny, this time a peaceful one, and in November the San Antonio returned home via the Atlantic Ocean (the ship arrived in Seville on 21 May 1521), and the crew set about blackening Magellans name with the authorities. They were subsequently absolved of any blame for returning home early). This was a serious blow to the expedition as the San Antonio had a significant proportion of the entire fleets stores. The fleet of three ships sailed into the Pacific Ocean on 28 November 1520. They turned north and headed up the coast of Chile. On December 18, roughly opposite what is today Santiago, the ships turned westwards. To everyones astonishment, the ships now made excellent progress across an unbelievably calm sea and with a strong and steady wind at their backs. The explorers had hit the trade winds. No land was spotted as the ships missed islands like Tahiti and Bikini. This might have been providential since coral reefs and 16th-century ships would not have made good maritime companions. However, the lack of fresh food and water was significant. The stores of the ships turned putrid in the tropical heat. Scurvy now appeared and relentlessly claimed its victims. Magellan and the officers were unaffected as 30 men died of the disease and countless more suffered its horrors. The reason was the officers were served quince jelly on their superior dinner tables. Unbeknown to everyone, quince was a potent source of vitamin C, the deficiency of which causes scurvy. Death of Ferdinand Magellan No storms came as they crossed the Pacific, and the first land sighted was an island they called San Pablo, seen on 24 January 1521. On 4 February, Micronesia was reached, but they could not land on an island because of their protective reefs. Magellan was exasperated. Where were the Spice Islands, or indeed any large landmass? The Portuguese explorer threw his charts into the sea in frustration. Then, on 6 March, they reached the island of Guam in the Marianas group. The explorers had taken 98 days to cross the Pacific and sailed 7,000 miles. It was the longest unbroken sea voyage then recorded. The inhabitants of Guam welcomed the Europeans and revived them with fresh food and water. Unfortunately for Magellan, this island paradise was still thousands of miles from his goal. Also, unfortunately, and not untypically, the initially friendly relations between indigenous peoples and Europeans soon descended into violence following misunderstandings over the exchange of goods and what was considered private property. Sailing on, the fleet reached what is today the Philippine Islands on 7 April. Once again the Europeans were welcomed and fed by the islands inhabitants. Making his way through the Philippines, Magellan stopped at Cebu. Once again, the Europeans met hospitality and refreshment. It was here, on Cebu and the very brink of success, that Magellan was killed on 27 April 1521. The Portuguese mariner was first hit by a poisoned arrow and then butchered by a mob when he unwisely interceded in the battle of Mactan between rival chiefs. The fleet and their devastated crews sailed on, certainly, they could not go back the way they had come. Juan del Cano (aka Juan Sebastian Elcano) was nominated the new leader of the expedition. In May, the Concepcin was burned; the ships hull was riddled with worms, and there were simply not enough men left to sail three ships anyway. The fleet was down to two ships and a reshuffle of personnel led to the pilot Joo Lopes Carvalho being voted the new overall leader. In July they reached Brunei and experienced such wonders as East Asian sailing junks, elephants, and rice wine. Alas, much to their impatience, the ships were leaking badly, and there was nothing for it but to stop at Cimbonbon in the Philipines for 42 days to overhaul them. On 27 September they set sail again. On 8 November 1521, first alerted by the smell of cloves and cinnamon that drifted across the sea, they finally reached Tidore in the volcanic Spice Islands group. Magellan had been right. There was a route from west to east. Within days, the ships were filled with spices, traded for rolls of cloth, simple glass cups, caps, bells, and metal tools like hatchets, knives, and scissors brought around the world for that purpose. On 21 December, the spice-laden Victoria, commanded by Elcano, sailed on westwards while vital repairs had to be made to the Trinidad, which was again leaking badly. The Victoria sailed to Timor in Indonesia, and from there to the Cape of Good Hope, which took several attempts to round. They then sailed up the coast of Africa and landed at the Cape Verde islands in July where the men were surprised to find out they were a day behind in their meticulous records. The circumnavigators were the first to demonstrate that going around the world from east to west added 24 hours to ones journey. After sailing the 10,000 miles from the Spice Islands and dodging ships with orders from the Portuguese king to apprehend them, the Victoria finally reached Spain on 6 September 1522. Only 18 men had survived from the 60 who had left the Spice Islands. The 18 circumnavigators had sailed an incredible 60,000 miles. The Spanish king and the backers of Magellans improbable expedition did extremely well out of the cargo of spices the Victoria had brought back. Meanwhile, on 6 April, the Trinidad finally left the Spice Islands with a fortune - some 50 tons - of spices. Unfortunately, the captain was Gonzalo Gmez de Espinosa, and he lacked the skills required to sail the ship safely home. Veering wildly off course and with his men dying from scurvy, de Espinosa was obliged, after seven months at sea, to return to the Spice Islands. The Trinidad was then captured by a Portuguese fleet sent to pursue Magellan. In October 1522, the Trinidad was smashed to pieces in a storm while at anchor. Magellans flagship - and more importantly for posterity, his logbook - were lost. The captured crew were left to rot in a Portuguese fortress on Ternate, one of the Spice Islands. Only four of these men made it back to Europe and so, of the perhaps 270 original expedition members who had left Spain over three years before, only 22 ever came home. Legacy Magellan had proved not only that South America could be rounded and that ships could sail around the globe on a western sea route, but also that trade winds and currents in the Pacific could be used just as they were closer to home to a ships advantage. It had also been shown that the Pacific Ocean was huge - the world was 7,000 miles further around than cartographers had thought. As the historian L. Bergreen puts it, "In terms of prestige and political might, the achievement was the Renaissance equivalent of winning the space race" (391). The Straits of Magellan were not an easy route, nor were they a speedy one, and many subsequent mariners failed to find their proper entrance in the maze of islands at the southern tip of the Americas. Some explorers even claimed the Straits no longer existed and a landfall must have blocked the route, such was the difficulty in navigating these islands. On top of that, the ferocious storms that gathered around Cape Horn were another formidable challenge. Between 1577 and 1580 the English navigator Francis Drake (c. 1540-1596 CE) did find his way through the straits on his own circumnavigation of the globe, for the first time attacking Spanish colonies on the western coast of the Americas and plundering Spanish ships for loot. Charles V used Magellans voyage to support Spains claim over the Spice Islands and followed it up with an armed fleet. Portugal and Spain again tried to thrash out a division of the world and Portugal ended up paying Spain a large quantity of gold to maintain control of the Spice Islands. As it turned out, Magellan had been wrong: the islands had been in the Portuguese half of the world as they saw it. Finally, the great navigators name lives on in the very stars which were so important to his crossing the unknown seas. The two dwarf galaxies he spotted in the South Pacific are now called the Magellan Clouds.Page 2 Le navire de Magellan, la caraque Victoria Fernand de Magellan, ou Ferno de Magalhes (c. 1480-1521), tait un marin portugais dont l'expdition fut la premire faire le tour du globe en 1519-1522 au service de l'Espagne. Magellan fut tu lors de ce voyage dans ce qui est aujourd'hui les Philippines, et seuls 22 des 270 membres d'quipage originaux rentrrent en Europe. Dcouvrant ce qui est aujourd'hui connu sous le nom de dtroit de Magellan dans le sud de la Patagonie et un passage de l'Atlantique l'ocan Pacifique, le voyage atteignit son objectif en dmontrant qu'une route vers l'Asie pouvait tre trouve en naviguant vers l'ouest depuis l'Europe. Le voyage fut rempli de ralisations, de premires remarquables de nouveaux paysages et de nouvelles expriences. Il y eut galement d'normes difficults et une mutinerie d'envergure. Le seul navire de la flotte originale de cinq avoir achev le voyage autour du monde fut le Victoria, command par Juan Sebastian Elcano et rempli d'pices prcieuses. Le voyage aller-retour dura trois ans et parcourut des milliers de milles nautiques. Ce n'est pas pour rien que cette premire circumnavigation ait t dcrite comme le plus grand voyage d'exploration jamais entrepris. Dbut de carrire Fernand de Magellan naquit dans une famille de la petite noblesse portugaise Villa Real Trs-os-Montes vers 1480. Le pre de Fernand tait le gouverneur du port d'Aveiro, et sa mre s'appelait Alda de Mesquita. g de 12 ans, Fernand fut envoy Lisbonne pour devenir page de la famille royale, au service de la reine puis de Manuel Ier du Portugal (r. 1495-1521). la cour, Fernand reut une excellente formation comprenant les mathmatiques, l'astronomie et la navigation. sa maturit, Magellan servit l'arme portugaise dans l'ouest de l'Inde partir de 1505, et les expditions l'emmenrent Sofala et Kilwa en Afrique de l'Est. En 1509, il participa la guerre entre le Portugal et l'alliance gujarati-gyptienne Diu, dans l'ouest de l'Inde. En 1510, Magellan participa la conqute de Goa et, en 1511, de Malacca en Malaisie. En 1513, il rentra chez lui au Portugal, puis servit la Couronne dans le corps expditionnaire qui attaqua Azemmour au Maroc. C'est l qu'il reut une grave blessure au genou qui le fit boiter pour le reste de ces jours. Portrait de Fernand de Magellan Au milieu de la trentaine, Magellan avait alors acquis une exprience militaire et de navigation considrables. Cependant, en 1517, il prta allgeance l'Espagne. Cela pourrait tre le rsultat de rumeurs selon lesquelles il aurait particip des pillages privs Azemmour (bien que officiellement les accusations aient t rejetes). Magellan adressa des ptitions la cour portugaise pour faire progresser sa carrire, mais celles-ci furent toutes rejetes, peut-tre en raison de ces rumeurs. Quelle que soit la raison relle, c'est au service de Charles Ier d'Espagne (r. 1516-1556) qu'il se ferait un nom. Magellan renona tre sujet de Manuel Ier et s'installea Sville en 1517. Il adopta mme une nouvelle version de son nom: Hernando de Magallanes. Fin 1517, il avait pous Beatriz, la fille d'un autre Portugais, le riche et influent marchand Diogo Barbosa, qui rsidait galement Sville. Rodrigo, le fils de Magellan, naquit en 1518. Les empires portugais et espagnols Des explorateurs europens comme Christophe Colomb (1451-1506) et Vasco de Gama (c. 1469-1524) avaient t envoys pour trouver une route maritime entre l'Europe et l'Asie afin d'accder directement au commerce extrmement lucratif des pices orientales, de trouver de nouvelles terres agricoles et ventuellement de trouver des allis chrtiens contre l'Islamique califat du Moyen-Orient. La route de Colomb fut bloque par le continent amricain, mais de Gama fit le tour du Cap de Bonne-Esprance et traversa l'ocan Indien pour atteindre l'Inde en 1498. Le Portugal y tablit des colonies telles que Cochin (1503) et Goa (1510). La source de nombreuses pices rares tait en Indonsie, et un itinraire fut ouvert par le navigateur portugais Francisco Serro, qui navigua vers les les aux pices (alias les Moluques) en 1512. Charles Ier d'Espagne pourrait renforcer sa revendication des les aux pices s'il obtenait un accs l'archipel depuis l'est. Les monarchies espagnoles et portugaises avaient audacieusement sculpt le monde entier en deux sphres d'influence et de futures colonies dans le Trait de Tordesillas en 1494. L'Espagne prit les Amriques et le Portugal les ctes africaines (puis l'Inde et l'Asie de l'Est). Il n'tait pas important pour ces deux maisons royales que des gens vivaient dj dans ces lieux ou qu'un rseau commercial trs prospre y avait t tabli depuis longtemps. Les deux rois n'taient pas tout fait d'accord sur les limites gographiques de leurs empires respectifs, en grande partie parce que ni l'un ni l'autre n'avait encore vraiment commenc construire un empire en termes concrets. En 1518, cependant, les choses avaient volu et le Portugal faisait un excellent travail pour crer une srie de ports de commerce depuis l'Afrique jusqu'en Asie. Charles Ier ne souhaitait pas tre laiss pour compte, certainement pas maintenant qu'il allait devenir Charles Quint, Saint Empereur romain (r. 1519-1556). Charles esprait prouver que les lucratives les aux pices taient dans sa moiti du globe - la connaissance gographique de chacun d'o se trouvaient exactement ces les tait un peu bancale ce stade de l'histoire. Il y eut mme des rumeurs selon lesquelles certains cartographes portugais auraient dlibrment "dplac" les les dans la moiti appartenant au Portugal. En outre, Charles pourrait renforcer sa revendication sans fin s'il obtenait un accs l'archipel depuis l'est (via l'Amrique du Sud et de l'autre ct du Pacifique), c'est--dire travers la moiti espagnole du monde. Fernand de Magellan, aprs avoir correspondu avec divers autres marins comme Serro et avec le soutien de cartographes et d'astronomes experts comme Ruy Faleiro, fournit au roi un plan convaincant pour ce faire. Magellan apporta galement avec lui une connaissance approfondie de l'empire et des routes maritimes du Portugal, connaissances qui n'taient autres que des secrets d'tat. Charles accepta officiellement sa proposition en mars 1518. Pour complter le tout, Magellan fut aussi nomm commandant de l'Ordre de Santiago. L'Empire Colonial Portugais I' poque des Grandes Dcouvertes En plus de court-circuiter les Portugais, une route maritime de l'ouest de l'Europe vers la Malaisie pourrait peut-tre conomiser beaucoup de temps et de difficults pour les navires plutt que de passer par l'Afrique. Les mers et les terres situes l'est de la Malaisie n'taient pas connues des Europens, mais au moins il avait compris que les alizs des ocans Atlantique et Indien pouvaient tre utiliss favorablement s'ils taient pris au bon endroit au bon moment. Pour cette raison, la route maritime que l'on croyait la plus susceptible de russir tait de naviguer depuis l'Europe travers l'Atlantique jusqu'en Amrique du Sud, traverser le Pacifique et vers l'Asie de l'Est. De l, les navires pouvaient s'approvisionner en pices et traverser l'ocan Indien, faire le tour du cap de Bonne-Esprance, et remonter l'Atlantique jusqu'en Europe. C'est la route propose par Magellan au Saint-Empereur romain. Personne ne l'avait jamais fait, et personne n'avait jamais fait le tour du globe. L'ocan Pacifique n'avait t vu par un Europen qu'en 1513 lorsque Vasco Nez de Balboa (1475-1519) traversa l'isthme du Panama. Aucun Europen ne connaissait ses courants, son potentiel de tempte ou le temps qu'il faudrait pour le traverser. Les risques pour Magellan et son quipage taient levs et les difficults taient certaines mais les gains potentiels normes, Magellan lui-mme devait recevoir un pourcentage des terres et des richesses qu'il revendiquerait au nom de la Couronne espagnole. La flotte de Magellan Magellan reut le commandement d'une flotte de cinq navires portant le nom plutt grandiose d'Armada de Molucca. C'tait l'une des expditions les mieux quipes de l're des Grandes Dcouvertes. Le fleuron de Magellan tait le Trinidad de 100 tonnes. Il y avait le San Antonio (120 tonnes), le Concepcin (90 tonnes), le Victoria (85 tonnes) et le Santiago (75 tonnes). Tous les navires taient trois mts et transportaient les toutes dernires voiles latines. Magellan et Faleiro reurent tous deux les titres de capitaine, une prcaution habituelle au cas o quelque chose arrivait Magellan. Un autre niveau d'autorit tait Juan de Cartagena, nomm par Charles comme inspecteur gnral pour superviser toutes les questions financires et, peut-tre aussi, pour s'assurer que les deux capitaines portugais resteraient fidles la Couronne espagnole. Il s'avra que l'instabilit mentale de Faleiro le conduisit tre renvoy de l'expdition. Heureusement pour Magellan, il garda toutes les cartes et instruments de navigation inestimables de Faleiro. Malheureusement pour l'avenir de l'expdition, cela signifiait que Cartagena se considrait maintenant co-chef. Cartagena avait bel et bien une vague autorit de la part de Charles, il tait le membre le mieux pay de l'expdition, et il tait capitaine du San Antonio, mais Magellan n'avait aucun doute sur son propre rle en tant qu'amiral de la flotte de cinq navires. Pour aggraver les choses, les capitaines espagnols du Victoria (Luis de Mendoza) et du Concepcin (Gaspar de Quesada) se jugeaient suprieurs leur leader portugais. L'explorateur portugais quitta Sville le 10 aot 1519 avec un quipage international de 260 - 270 hommes venus de toute l'Europe. La flotte de navires dbarqua et fit le plein de provisions aux les Canaries, les quittant le 3 octobre. C'est l que Magellan apprit que deux flottes portugaises taient leurs trousses, dtermines ne pas permettre l'Espagne d'accder leur empire oriental secret. Magellan passa prs des les du Cap-Vert et le long des ctes de l'Afrique de l'Ouest. Le journal de bord de l'expdition n'a pas survcu, mais il existe un rcit crit par l'un des participants, le savant et diplomate vnitien Antonio Pigafetta, qui Magellan avait confi la tche d'enregistrer pour la postrit tous les aspects de l'expdition. Premire mutinerie C'tait un tronon orageux et difficile, et bon nombre des capitaines et des hommes d'quipage se demandaient pourquoi ils n'avaient pas pris la route habituelle en traversant directement l'Atlantique. Leur amiral tentait d'chapper ses poursuivants portugais. Alors que les navires avaient affront vents et temptes jusqu' l'quateur et ils se retrouvrent encalmins et les rations alimentaires furent rduites. Cartagena, en particulier, montrait dj des signes d'irrespect pour Magellan et refusait de s'adresser lui avec d respect et titres appropris. Alors que les vents abandonnrent la flotte, Cartagena refusa d'obir aux ordres de Magellan et menaa de le poignarder. Magellan riposta en mettant l'inspecteur gnral au pilori. C'tait ordinairement un destin uniquement rserv aux marins ordinaires, et de Mendoza et de Quesada, les deux autres capitaines espagnols, plaidrent avec succs la libration de Cartagena. Au lieu de cela, Cartagena fut confin sur le Victoria, et Antonio de Coca reut le commandement du San Antonio. Carte de la circumnavigation de Magella En novembre, des vents favorables propulsrent enfin les navires travers l'Atlantique, alors appel la mer Ocan. Ils avaient l'intention de dbarquer Rio de Janeiro, mais le courant quatorial Sud les amena au Cap Saint Augustin. Ils rapprovisionnrent les navires puis suivirent la cte pour arriver la rivire de janvier la mi-dcembre 1519. Bien que revendiqu par la Couronne portugaise, il n'y avait pas encore de colonies permanentes au Brsil et, surtout pour Magellan, aucun navire portugais dans le port de Rio. C'est l que Magellan condamna un homme d'quipage reconnu coupable de sodomie, la peine tant la mort par tranglement. Il s'agissait d'un vnement maritime normal, que certains capitaines ignoraient et d'autres punissaient comme il le fallait, mais cela alimenta nanmoins un ressentiment grandissant envers Magellan de la part des hommes ordinaires. Pour aggraver les choses, le garon de cabine qui avait t le partenaire de l'an se jeta par-dessus bord. Puis Magellan ajouta un autre homme sa liste toujours croissante d'ennemis. Antonio de Coca fut remplac par Alvaro de Mesquita en tant que capitaine du San Antonio. De Mesquita n'tait pas particulirement qualifi sauf qu'il tait le cousin de Magellan, point not avec une certaine amertume par de Coca et les autres capitaines espagnols. La flotte quitta Rio le 27 dcembre et navigua le long de l'interminable cte inconnue de l'Amrique du Sud. Les hommes se prparaient pour un autre passage tempestueux en mer, une situation dont les dsagrments sont rsums ici par l'historien L. Bergreen : En mer, le sommeil tait devenu le luxe ultime, un rconfort impossible trouver... Les hamacs n'avaient pas encore t introduits bord des navires... Les hommes ne s'habiturent jamais aux mauvaises odeurs brasses bord de leurs navires... Les parasites taient omniprsents, un fait incontournable de la vie en mer... Les rats et les souris infestaient tous les navires... les hommes de L'Armada de Molucca tait en proie toutes sortes de poux, de punaises de lit et de cafards. Lorsque les conditions climatiques devinrent chaudes et humides, les insectes infestrent les vtements, les voiles, la nourriture et mme le grement (106). En janvier, ils explorrent le rio de la Plata, juste au cas o cette mergence de deux rivires pourrait fournir une route vers l'ocan Pacifique. En fvrier, aprs avoir trouv les eaux intrieures trop peu profondes, la flotte navigua nouveau vers le sud. Magellan jetait l'ancre la nuit, de sorte qu'ils ne rateraient aucun dtroit possible dans l'obscurit. Les temptes faisaient rage. Les navires firent marche arrire de temps en temps pour s'assurer de la gographie des lieux. Des animaux tranges furent repr s comme des otaries ou des lphants de mer, dcrits comme des loups de mer par Pigafetta; plusieurs furent tus pour leur viande frache. Les eaux taient maintenant nettement plus froides et d'un bleu d'acier, mais les explorateurs n'taient toujours pas prs de dcouvrir la fin du continent. Abonnez-vous notre newsletter hebdomadaire gratuite! Deuxime mutinerie Le 31 mars 1520, huit mois aprs leur dpart et la saison estivale arrivant son terme, Magellan s'arrta dans la baie de San Julin, dans le sud de l'Argentine. Les navires s'approvisionnrent en viande et en poisson frais, mais d'autres vivres durent tre rationnes pour l'hiver, ce qui fut extrmement impopulaire auprs des hommes. Beaucoup de membres d'quipage ne croyaient plus en leur chef qui insistait sur l'existence d'un dtroit vers le Pacifique. Les capitaines espagnols conspirrent de nouveau pour prendre le contrle de l'expdition, et cette fois, ils allrent jusqu' prendre le contrle du San Antonio, du Concepcin et du Victoria. Le Santiago resta neutre tandis que Magellan, fin prt, attendait de voir l'volution de la situation sur le Trinidad. Au cours des premiers jours d'avril, ils passrent l'action. Les mutins envoyrent un message par bateau Magellan lui communiquant qu'ils contrlaient les trois navires et avaient l'intention de retourner en Espagne. S'emparant du canot, Magellan fit semblant d'envoyer un groupe d'hommes pour discuter des conditions du Victoria. Ce groupe poignarda le capitaine du Victoria et reprit le navire. Le Santiago, dsormais fidle Magellan, se positionna aux cts du Victoria et du Trinidad, les trois navires bloquant les deux navires contrls par les mutins. Magellan envoya ensuite un homme sous le couvert des tnbres pour couper l'ancre du Concepcin. Alors que le Concepcin s'approchait, le Trinidad ouvrit le feu de ses canons, et le Victoria attaqua du ct oppos. Le navire fut arraisonn et les mutins apprhends. Le San Antonio capitula, et Magellan reprit le contrle de sa flotte. Luis de Mendoza, le chef de la mutinerie, avait t tu dans l'action, mais Magellan fit quand mme carteler son cadavre en quatre morceaux. Une enqute et un procs de deux semaines firent le constat suivant: 40 membres de l'expdition taient coupables de trahison et ils furent condamns mort. Deux hommes furent torturs et Gaspar de Quesada fut dcapit. Les autres virent leur peine commue en travaux forcs. Aprs tout, Magellan avait besoin de ces hommes pour sa flotte. L'objectif de ce procs tait de rtablir l'autorit de Magellan et de rappeler aux hommes que, comme dans toute autre expdition en mer, ils avaient de bonnes raisons de craindre leur capitaine plus que tout ce que la nature pouvait leur faire subir. La stratgie fut efficace sauf sur Cartagena qui, incroyablement, conspira encore pour organiser une nime mutinerie, cette fois avec le prtre Pedro Snchez. Les deux hommes seraient abandonns dans la baie de San Julin alors que la flotte reprit la mer. Entre-temps, Magellan avait fait remettre tous ses navires en tat pour la prochaine tape du voyage, la sale partie du sale boulot ayant t confie aux hommes condamns aux travaux forcs. C'est alors que Magellan dcouvrit que les rserves charges aux les Canaries ne reprsentaient qu'un tiers de ce qu'elles auraient d tre. C'tait alors maintenant ou jamais et au dbut du mois de mai, le Santiago fut envoy en avant pour trouver le dtroit vers l'ocan Pacifique. Malheureusement, le navire solitaire affronta la pire tempte du voyage et fit naufrage sur les rives rocheuses. L'quipage survivant entreprit un priple ardu pour rejoindre la flotte qui attendait maintenant le printemps et un temps plus clment. Un contact pacifique (au dbut) fut tabli avec les Indiens Tehuelche qui vivaient dans la rgion. Comme ces peuples portaient des chausses labores, Magellan les appela gros pieds ou patacones, et la rgion est dsormais connue sous le nom de Patagonie. Le 24 aot, la flotte navigua vers le sud. Le dtroit de Magellan De nombreuses autres temptes balayrent le sud de l'Atlantique, et Magellan dut dbarquer pendant six semaines et attendre un temps plus clment. la mi-octobre, il repartit. Le mauvais temps s'acharna sur eux mais, enfin, le paysage changea, se fragmenta et se transforma en ce qui semblait tre un cap. L, vers l'ouest se trouvait un dtroit. Magellan navigua dans le dtroit du sud de la Patagonie, qui portera son nom jamais, entre le 21 octobre et le 28 novembre. Les dtroits taient aussi difficiles naviguer qu'ils l'taient tre trouvs. Les mares hautes, les forts courants et un mlange de grandes profondeurs et de hauts-fonds mortels obstrus par des algues, le tout reprsentait un obstacle redoutable. La rgion semblait galement attirer les temptes, et des vents violents et imprvisibles soufflaient violemment depuis les deux ocans convergents. Le paysage tait impressionnant avec des montagnes enneiges et d'immenses glaciers, mais c'taient les feux tranges qui capturrent l'imagination des marins la nuit. Ces incendies taient trs probablement causs par la foudre, mme si les marins toujours suspects pensaient qu'il s'agissait d'indignes prts attaquer les navires. Par consquent, Magellan appela cette terre Tierra del Fuego ou Terre de feu. C'tait une terre magique peuple de btes tranges comme les lphants de mer et les condors gants. Vraiment, c'tait la fin du monde, seules les toiles leur taient familires, et celles-ci, sans doute, rassurrent Magellan sur le fait qu'il tait sur la bonne voie pour enfin arriver aux Moluques. Ce que le capitaine n'avait pas ralis tait la distance de son but travers le Pacifique. Traverse du Pacifique Au cours de la difficile traverse du dtroit qui dura 38 jours, il y eut une autre mutinerie, cette fois paisible et en novembre, le San Antonio fit demi-tour pour rentrer en Espagne (le navire arriva Sville le 21 mai 1521), et l'quipage ne perdit pas une minute pour salir le nom de Magellan auprs des autorits la suite de quoi ils furent exonrs de toute sanction pour tre rentrs chez eux plus tt que prvu). Ce fut un srieux coup dur pour l'expdition, car le San Antonio possdait une proportion importante de l'ensemble des rserves de la flotte. La flotte de trois navires entra dans l'ocan Pacifique le 28 novembre 1520. Ils prirent la direction du nord et remontrent la cte chilienne. Le 18 dcembre, peu prs en face de ce qui est aujourd'hui Santiago, les navires tournrent vers l'ouest. la grande surprise de tous, les navires faisaient maintenant d'excellents progrs travers une mer incroyablement calme et avec un vent fort et constant dans le dos. Les explorateurs avaient touch les alizs. Aucune terre ne fut repre car les navires ratrent des les comme Tahiti et les les Bikini. Cela aurait pu tre providentiel puisque les rcifs coralliens et les navires du XVIe sicle n'auraient pas fait de bons amis. Toutefois, le manque de nourriture frache et d'eau tait important. Les rserves des navires devinrent putrides sous la chaleur tropicale. Le scorbut fit son apparition et fit de nombreuses victimes. Magellan et les officiers ne furent pas touchs mais 30 hommes moururent de la maladie et d'innombrables autres en souffrirent horriblement. La raison est que les officiers avaient de la gele de coing sur leurs tables au dner. Personne ne savait l'poque que le coing tait une source puissante de vitamine C dont la carence est responsable du scorbut. Mort de Fernand de Magellan Il n'y eut aucune tempte lors de leur traverse du Pacifique, et la premire terre observe fut une le qu'ils baptisrent San Pablo, aperue le 24 janvier 1521. Le 4 fvrier, ils atteignirent la Micronsie, mais ils ne purent dbarquer en raison des rcifs protecteurs. Magellan tait exaspr. O se trouvaient les les Moluques, ou mme n'importe quelle autre masse terrestre importante? L'explorateur portugais, frustr, en jeta ses cartes dans la mer. Puis, le 6 mars, ils atteignirent l'le de Guam dans le groupe des les Mariannes. Les explorateurs avaient mis 98 jours pour traverser le Pacifique et avaient navigu 7 000 milles. C'tait l'poque le plus long voyage en mer ininterrompu que l'on ait jamais enregistr. Les habitants de Guam accueillirent les Europens et les revigorrent avec de la nourriture frache et de l'eau. Malheureusement pour Magellan, cette le paradisiaque tait encore des milliers de kilomtres de son but final. De plus, malheureusement, encore une fois, les relations initialement amicales entre les peuples autochtones et les Europens sombrrent rapidement dans la violence la suite de malentendus concernant l'change de biens et ce qui tait considr proprit prive. Poussant plus loin, la flotte atteignit le 7 avril ce qui est aujourd'hui les Philippines. Une fois de plus, les Europens furent accueillis et nourris par les habitants de l'le. Poursuivant son chemin travers les Philippines, Magellan s'arrta Cebu. Une fois de plus, les Europens rencontrrent hospitalit et restauration. C'est l, Cebu et deux doigts du succs, que Magellan fut tu le 27 avril 1521. Le marin portugais fut d'abord touch par une flche empoisonne puis massacr par une foule lorsqu'il intercda tort dans la bataille de Mactan entre chefs rivaux. La flotte et les quipages dvasts reprirent le large, ils ne pouvaient certainement pas revenir en arrire par o ils taient arrivs. Juan del Cano (alias Juan Sebastian Elcano) fut nomm nouveau chef de l'expdition. En mai, le Concepcin fut brl; la coque du navire tait crible de vers, et il n'y avait tout simplement pas assez d'hommes pour naviguer sur trois navires. La flotte rpartiet sur deux navires et un remaniement des effectifs conduisit le pilote Joo Lopes Carvalho tre lu nouveau leader d'expdition. En juillet, ils atteignirent Bruni et dcouvrirent des merveilles telles que les jonques voile d'Asie de l'Est, les lphants et l'alcool de riz. Hlas, leur grand dam, les navires fuyaient dangeureusement, et il n'y eut rien d'autre faire que de s'arrter Balabac aux Philippines pendant 42 jours afin de les rparer. Le 27 septembre, ils reprirent la mer. Le 8 novembre 1521, alerts pour la premire fois par l'odeur de clous de girofle et de cannelle qui flottait travers la mer, ils atteignirent finalement Tidore dans le groupe volcanique de les Moluques. Magellan avait raison. Il y avait une route d'ouest en est. En quelques jours, les navires furent remplis d'pices changes contre des rouleaux de tissu, de simples gobelets en verre, des casquettes, des cloches et des outils mtalliques comme des haches de guerre, des couteaux et des ciseaux apports depuis le bout du monde cette fin prcise. Le 21 dcembre, le Victoria charg d'pices et command par Elcano, navigua de nouveau vers l'ouest, tandis que des rparations vitales taient effectues sur le Trinit, qui fuyait encore une fois. Le Victoria se rendit au Timor en Indonsie, puis au Cap de Bonne-Esprance, et il fallut plusieurs tentatives pour faire le contourner. Ils remontrent ensuite la cte africaine et dbarqurent dans les les du Cap-Vert en juillet, o les hommes furent surpris d'apprendre que leurs mticuleux documents de bord avaient un jour de dcalage. Les circumnavigateurs furent les premiers dmontrer que faire le tour du monde d'est en ouest ajoutait 24 heures un voyage. Aprs avoir parcouru les 10 000 milles depuis les Moluques et avoir esquiver les navires qui avaient l'ordre du roi portugais de les apprhender, le Victoria arriva finalement en Espagne le 6 septembre 1522. Seuls 18 hommes avaient survcu sur les 60 qui avaient quitt les les Moluques. Les 18 circumnavigateurs avaient parcouru udes milliers de mille nautiques. Le roi d'Espagne et les promoteurs de l'improbable expdition de Magellan s'en sortirent trs bien grce la cargaison d'pices que le Victoria avait ramene. Pendant ce temps, le 6 avril, le Trinidad quitta finalement les les Moluques avec une fortune en pices ; prs de 50 tonnes. Malheureusement, le capitaine tait Gonzalo Gmez de Espinosa, et il n'avait pas les comptences ncessaires pour aprhender le retour en toute scurit. Ayant brutalement vir de cap et ayant perdu de nombreux hommes du scorbut, de Espinosa fut oblig, aprs sept mois en mer, de retourner aux les Molusques. Le Trinidad fut ensuite captur par une flotte portugaise envoye la poursuite de Magellan. En octobre 1522, le Trinit fut compltement dtruit par une tempte alors qu'il tait au mouillage. Le fnavire amiral de Magellan - et plus important encore pour la postrit, son carnet de bord - furent perdus tout jamais. L'quipage captur finit par croupir dans une forteresse portugaise de Ternate, l'une des les Moluques. Seuls quatre de ces hommes revinrent en Europe et, sur les 270 membres originaux de l'expdition qui avaient quitt l'Espagne plus de trois ans auparavant, seuls 22 rentrrent chez eux. Hritage Magellan avait prouv non seulement que l'Amrique du Sud pouvait tre contourne et que les navires pouvaient naviguer dans le monde entier sur une route maritime occidentale, mais aussi que les alizs et les courants dans le Pacifique pouvaient tre utiliss favorablement tout comme l'taient les courants et les vents prs de chez eux. Il fut galement dmontr que l'ocan Pacifique tait norme - le monde tait plus grand que ne le pensaient les cartographes. Comme le dit l'historien L. Bergreen, En termes de prestige et de puissance politique, russir cet exploit cette poque tait quivalent remporter la conqute spatiale (391). Le dtroit de Magellan n'tait pas une route facile, ni rapide, et de nombreux navigateurs subsquents ne trouvrent jamais la bonne entre dans le ddale des les la pointe sud des Amriques. Certains explorateurs affirmrent mme que le dtroit n'existait plus et qu'une chute de terre avait d bloquer la route, telle tait la difficult de naviguer dans ces les. De plus, les temptes froces qui se rassemblaient autour du Cap Horn constituaient un autre dfi formidable. Entre 1577 et 1580, le navigateur anglais Francis Drake (c.1540-1596) trouva son chemin travers le dtroit lors de sa propre circumnavigation du globe, attaquant pour la premire fois des colonies espagnoles sur la cte ouest des Amriques et pillant des navires espagnols des fins de butin. Charles V utilisa le voyage de Magellan pour soutenir la revendication de l'Espagne sur les les Moluques et y envoya une flotte arme. Le Portugal et l'Espagne tentrent de nouveau de s'accorder sur une division du monde et le Portugal finit par verser l'Espagne une grande quantit d'or pour garder le contrle des les Moluques. Il s'avra que Magellan s'tait tromp: les les se trouvaient bel et bien dans la moiti portugaise du monde tel que ces deux puissances l'envisageait. Enfin, le nom du grand navigateur demeure jamais dans les toiles qui furent si importantes pour traverser les mers inconnues. Les deux galaxies naines qu'il repra dans le Pacifique Sud s'appellent dsormais les Nuages de Magellan. Ferdinand Magellan is a towering figure in the history of exploration, not so much for his scientific contributions but for the transformative voyages he undertook. For example, historian Laurence Bergreen hailed his journey as the greatest sea voyage ever undertaken, and the most significant.Without a shred of doubt, Magellans expeditions paved the way for future explorations, and he was the first European to navigate the Strait of Magellan and reach the Philippine archipelago. This exploration greatly expanded the European geographical horizon and understanding of the world.While Magellans life was fraught with danger and ended tragically, Magellans legacy as a pioneer explorer who expanded the geographical knowledge of his time continues to inspire adventurers and scholars alike.In the article below, World History Edu delves into the life of the famed Portuguese explorer as well as some of the major details of his circumnavigation of the globe.Family and Early LifeBorn in Sabrosa, Portugal, to Rui de Magalhes and Alda de Masquita, Ferdinand Magellan came from a family of Portuguese nobility. His early years at the court of Queen Eleanor of Portugal exposed him to the intense rivalry between Portugal and Spain over maritime exploration. These formative years at court ignited his passion for adventure and exploration, setting the stage for his future endeavors on the high seas.First Expedition: The Beginning of a Mariners TaleMagellans maritime career began in earnest when he joined the Portuguese military fleet under Francisco de Almeida in 1505. His eight years of voyages across India and Africa were marked by fierce battles and significant Portuguese conquests in the Indian Ocean. These experiences not only toughened Magellan but also deepened his understanding of naval strategy and logistics, crucial for his later expeditions.The Strait of Magellan: A Perilous DiscoveryThe peak of the spice trade in the 15th century saw Europes mariners desperate for faster routes to Asias riches. Magellan, now a seasoned navigator, proposed a bold plan to reach Asia by sailing west through the Atlantic.After repeated rejections from the Portuguese crown, a frustrated Magellan renounced his Portuguese citizenship and moved to Spain. Supported by Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor, Magellan embarked on his most famous voyage in 1519 with five ships and 270 men.In 1520, after a hazardous journey, he discovered the strait that now bears his name, providing a passage through South America to the Pacific Ocean, which he named for its deceptive calmness.What is Magellans Passage? History & Major FactsHow Magellans journey was rocked by two mutiniesMagellan faced significant resistance from his mostly Spanish crew, who were uneasy about serving under a Portuguese captain. This discontent led to two mutinies before reaching the Pacific. The first mutiny was quickly quelled, but the second, in April 1520, was more serious, with three of the five ships revolting. Magellan, determined and resourceful, managed to suppress this rebellion, punishing conspirators and even marooning two plotters to prevent a third mutiny. Despite these efforts, discontent persisted, culminating in the desertion of the San Antonio, which abandoned the expedition and returned to Spain, further straining the already embattled voyage.Mar PacificoAfter enduring severe storms and losing a ship near southern South America, Magellan navigated into the waters now known as the Strait of Magellan in November 1520. Upon entering a tranquil ocean, he named it Mar Pacifico, meaning peaceful sea in Portuguese, reflecting the stark contrast to the rough seas he had just experienced. Optimistic about a swift journey to the Spice Islands, Magellan and his strained fleet unexpectedly faced a grueling 98-day voyage across the Pacific Ocean before finally encountering any habitable land, testing the limits of human endurance and navigation skills.Magellan named the tranquil waters he encountered Mar Pacifico, meaning peaceful sea in Portuguese. Image: Magellans PassageHow Magellans obsession with converting the locals led to his tragic Demise at the Battle of MactanWhile not officially part of his mission, Ferdinand Magellan zealously sought to convert the indigenous peoples he encountered to Christianity. This endeavor was most prominent in April 1521 in the Philippines, where he baptized King Humabon of Cebu and thousands of his followers.The Portuguese explorers intense commitment to spreading Christianity led him to threaten death to local chieftains who resisted conversion, a tactic that ultimately contributed to his demise.In a significant clash, after a king named Lapu-Lapu refused to convert, Magellans forces moved in and burned their village on the island of Mactan.Persisting in his efforts, Magellan returned to Mactan with 49 men, demanding that Lapu-Lapu submit to his authority. The kings steadfast refusal led to a fierce battle where Magellan was fatally injured, first struck by a spear, then killed by multiple blows from the islanders cutlasses and scimitars.To solidify his relationship with King Humabon of Cebu, Magellan attacked Mactan on April 27, 1521, with a small force. In the ensuing battle, he was initially wounded by a metal-tipped rattan spear and ultimately killed by surrounding warriors using various weapons. Image: Mactan Shrine, the site of the Battle of Mactan, in present-day Lapu-Lapu City. the PhilippinesPersonal LifeMagellans personal life saw him marrying Maria Caldera Beatriz Barbosa, through whom he had familial connections that helped him secure support for his voyages. The couple had two children who died young, adding personal tragedies to Magellans storied life.Enrique Ferdinand Magellans personal slaveOne of the pivotal yet often overlooked figures in Magellans historic circumnavigation was his personal slave, Enrique of Malacca. Acquired by Magellan during a previous expedition to Malacca in 1511, Enrique was originally from the East Indies and proved indispensable as the expeditions interpreter, especially in the Philippines, due to his fluency in a Malay dialect. This linguistic skill was critical as it facilitated communication with various local populations throughout the voyage.The narrative of Enrique takes on additional historical significance due to his possible geographical origins. Many historians suggest that if Enrique was indeed from the region around the Philippines or Malacca, he might have completed a full circumnavigation of the globe by the time the expedition reached the Philippine archipelago. This scenario arises from the fact that Magellans route from Spain to the Philippines involved traveling westward, potentially returning Enrique to his native region.If this interpretation holds true, then Enrique would preempt the European mariners as the first person to circumnavigate the globe, a remarkable feat particularly given his status as a slave. This aspect of the voyage highlights the complex interplay of exploration, colonization, and the personal stories of individuals like Enrique, who played crucial roles in these monumental historical events yet whose contributions are often overshadowed by their European counterparts.Lasting Accomplishments and LegacyMagellans voyages had profound implications. He demonstrated empirically that the world was larger than previously conceived and affirmed its spherical shape against prevalent flat Earth beliefs of earlier times.His discovery of the western route to Southeast Asia opened new avenues for trade and exploration. Despite not surviving the journey, Magellan is credited with the first circumnavigation of the globe, which fundamentally altered European strategies in global exploration and colonization.His arrival in the Philippines paved the way for subsequent Spanish influence and the spread of Christianity, intertwining his legacy with the cultural and historical fabric of the region.Today, Ferdinand Magellan is remembered not only as a pivotal figure in the Age of Exploration but also as a symbol of the relentless pursuit of knowledge and the human spirits capacity to overcome daunting challenges.Who were the 10 Most Influential Explorers of the Age of Discovery?Major facts about Magellans Circumnavigation of the worldMagellans Spanish expedition was culturally diverse, with a majority of Spanish and Portuguese sailors, but also included crew members from England, Greece, Sicily, France, Germany, and even North Africa.Ferdinand Magellan, originally Portuguese, received sponsorship from Spains King Charles I for his voyage, angering Portugals King Manuel I. In response, Manuel I tried to sabotage Magellans preparations, vandalized his family properties, and may have attempted assassination. After Magellans departure, an infuriated Manuel I dispatched Portuguese ships to capture and forcibly return him to Portugal.Magellans expedition sought a western route to the spice-rich Moluccas in Indonesia due to the Treaty of Tordesillas, which granted the practical eastern route to the Portuguese. This decree forced Spain to explore a new passage by navigating west around South America.The Treaty of Tordesillas (1494) was a papal decree dividing newly discovered lands outside Europe between Spain and Portugal along a demarcated line. Image: Original page from the Tratado de Tordesilhas. Ferdinand Magellans endeavors not only reshaped the European outlook on the world but also demonstrated the profound impact of exploration on human understanding and global interaction. Image: Effigy of Ferdinand Magellan in the Monument of the Discoveries, in Lisbon, PortugalHere are some questions and answers about Ferdinand Magellan and his expedition:Why is Ferdinand Magellan significant in the history of maritime exploration?Ferdinand Magellan was a Portuguese explorer renowned for orchestrating the first expedition to circumnavigate the globe. Although he did not complete the voyage himself, his journey significantly expanded European geographical knowledge and demonstrated the vastness of the Earth.What early experiences influenced Magellans career in exploration?Magellans early life at the court of Queen Leonora in Portugal exposed him to the exciting world of maritime exploration and the lucrative spice trade. His participation in military and exploration expeditions in India, Southeast Asia, and Africa provided him with essential nautical and combat experience.Why was the spice trade important in the 15th century, and how did it compare to modern commodities?In the 15th century, spices like cinnamon, clove, nutmeg, and black pepper were critical for food preservation, medicine, and culinary use, much like how oil is vital in todays economy. Europes inability to cultivate these spices led to the intense competition to find a direct sea route to the Spice Islands.What led Magellan to renounce his Portuguese nationality and move to Spain? After King Manuel of Portugal repeatedly rejected his proposals for a westward expedition to the Spice Islands, Magellan renounced his Portuguese nationality and moved to Spain in 1517 to seek support for his venture, which he eventually received from King Charles I.What were the major challenges faced by Magellans fleet during their voyage? Magellan set sail from Spain on August 10, 1519, with a fleet of five ships: Trinidad, San Antonio, Conception, Victoria, and Santiago. This marked the beginning of a challenging three-year odyssey aimed at finding a westward sea route to the Spice Islands.The expedition faced numerous challenges, including a mutiny which Magellan suppressed, the treacherous passage through the newly discovered Strait of Magellan, and the arduous crossing of the Pacific Ocean marked by hunger, scurvy, and extreme weather conditions.How did Magellans journey end, and what was the outcome for his fleet?Magellan was killed during the Battle of Mactan in the Philippines in April 1521. Despite his death, the expedition continued under new leadership, eventually reaching the Spice Islands and returning to Spain with just one ship, the Victoria, and 18 survivors of the original 270 crew members.When the Victoria docked in Spain in September 1522, only 18 of the original 260 crew members had survived, underlining the monumental challenge of the first global circumnavigation initiated by Magellan. Image: The Victoria, Detail from a map by Ortelius, 1590.Who were the giants Magellan encountered on his journey?While anchored near what is now Argentina, Magellans crew encountered unusually tall individuals on the beaches of Patagonia, whom they described as giants.After becoming friends with these giants, Magellan allegedly lured one aboard his ship and took him captive. This captive was baptized and given the name Paul, but unfortunately, he died during the arduous journey across the Pacific Ocean.Many historians believe these so-called giants were actually members of the Tehuelche tribe, natives to southern Chile and Argentina, known for their above-average height. While the crew likely exaggerated their stature, the legend of the Patagonian giants persisted in European lore for many years.What were the broader implications of Magellans circumnavigation of the globe?Ferdinand Magellans journey provided concrete proof that the Earth could be circumnavigated by sea, which discredited the medieval view of the worlds geography and expanded European geographical horizons. It paved the way for future maritime exploration and the establishment of global trade routes.As Magellan died in Mactan, can he actually be credited for circumnavigating the globe?Ferdinand Magellan is frequently credited as the first person to circumnavigate the globe, but this claim doesnt hold up to scrutiny. While he was instrumental in organizing and leading the expedition that aimed to find a western route to the Spice Islands, Magellan did not complete the journey. He successfully navigated through the now-named Strait of Magellan and across the vast Pacific Ocean, yet he met his demise in the Philippines, far short of the journeys conclusion.The accolade of completing the first circumnavigation rightfully belongs to Juan Sebastian Elcano, a Basque mariner. After Magellans death, leadership of the expedition fell to Elcano, who took command of the Victoria, the sole remaining ship of the original fleet. Under his guidance, the Victoria continued from the Spice Islands across the Indian Ocean, around the Cape of Good Hope, and northward along the west coast of Africa, finally returning to Spain in September 1522.Elcanos leadership and navigational skill were crucial in completing the circumnavigation, successfully bringing the ship and a diminished crew back to Spain. Thus, while Magellan planned and initiated this monumental voyage, it was Elcano who completed it, and he shares a significant portion of the historical credit for this achievement in maritime exploration.Magellan was killed by a poison arrow at the Battle of Mactan on April 27, 1521. His death marked a poignant end to his direct leadership of his expedition, but his crew continued, eventually completing the first circumnavigation of the Earth. Image: A depiction of the Battle of Mactan in the Magellan shrineHow has Magellans legacy influenced contemporary views of global exploration?Magellans legacy has highlighted the potential of westward sea travel and underscored the transformative power of human curiosity and ambition. His journey demonstrated the relentless human pursuit of knowledge and the desire to explore the unknown, fundamentally changing European strategic interests and approaches to global exploration. During his time in the Philippines, Ferdinand Magellan successfully converted over 2,000 locals, including King Rajah Humabon of Cebu, to Christianity.Among the few lucky people to make it back to Seville, Spain with the Victoria was Antonio Pigafetta, an Italian scholar and explorer. Pigafetta kept a detailed journal of the voyage. His accounts provide invaluable insights into the early interactions with the diverse cultures and lands encountered during the expedition, serving as a crucial record for future generations.In the Philippines, Magellan is often remembered more as a tyrant than a hero, and the Battle of Mactan is vividly reenacted every April 27, with a prominent Filipino actor portraying the defiant Lapu-Lapu, celebrating his resistance against foreign domination.The difficulty in Ferdinand Magellans circumnavigation of the globe at the time was further underscored by the fact that it took almost six decades before it was repeated. In 1577, English navigator Sir Francis Drake embarked on the second circumnavigation, following a route similar to Magellans. Much like Magellans fleet, Drakes voyage also endured severe hardships, culminating in only his flagship, the Golden Hind, successfully returning to England in 1580.

What place did ferdinand magellan discover. What did ferdinand magellan discover on his voyage. What year did ferdinand magellan discovered the philippines. What discoveries did ferdinand magellan make. What did ferdinand magellan discover. What did ferdinand magellan want to discover. What ocean did ferdinand magellan discover. What islands did ferdinand magellan discover. What land did ferdinand magellan discover. What did ferdinand cohn discover. What route did ferdinand magellan want to discover. What countries did ferdinand magellan discover. What did ferdinand magellan discover in the philippines. What did ferdinand magellan discover tagalog. Ferdinand magellan what did he discover.